

4K Early Learning News

NOVEMBER 2021

FROM THE DESK OF SP4K

Dear SPASD Families,

Our goal is to ensure that our students have access to in-person instruction this school year to the greatest extent possible. One of our key strategies to meet this goal is to increase access to vaccinations for our staff. We recently conducted a survey of our district staff and found that at least 700 employees planned to receive a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Due to the high level of interest, we have partnered with SSM Health / Dean Health Plan to provide booster doses to our staff.



Because of the substitute shortage and to minimize ongoing staffing disruptions due to side effects if our employees sought boosters individually, we have scheduled a staff vaccination clinic for Friday, November 5th. To accommodate this clinic, school will be canceled and district facilities will be closed to the public on Friday, November 5th, for all students in the Sun Prairie Area School District. After-school activities may continue and will be communicated by coaches and advisors.

We want to apologize for any inconvenience this causes your family. By scheduling this on one day before a weekend, we are attempting to minimize larger disruptions to in-person instruction than if employees sought individual booster shots and had to call in ill because of the side effects of the vaccination.

We will use a day from our inclement weather reserve to make up for the instructional minutes. If you have any questions, your school principal is the very best person to contact. Again, thank you for your cooperation and flexibility.

Sincerely,
Brad Saron, Superintendent

SUPPORTING FINE MOTOR SKILLS

* **Messy Medium letter play**- Students are provided with a tray and a medium that provides a new or different experience for increased touch processing while practicing letters. Teachers provide coaching and modeling of correct starting location, formation pathways and sizing. Students complete activities in the “messy medium” using their fingers, q-tips, toothpicks, skewer sticks or other items that can mimic the grip on a writing tool. Ideas of “messy medium” include but are not limited to salt, sand, shaving cream, whipping cream, slime or goop, and finger paint. These activities are perfect for the student who is not yet demonstrating consistent grasping patterns. This activity allows for practice with formation pathways without development of poor grasp patterns.

* **Playdough letter play**- Students are provided with opportunities to manipulate playdough in order to build and form letters. Through modeling and coaching teachers are able to demonstrate hand skills that are essential to further grasp development and motor planning abilities. Students roll, push and pull playdough in order to form lines and curves to build letters. Cards can be provided for models or more advanced students can begin to build the letters from memory. Utilize formation pathway and directionality language to reinforce hearing the patterns as students trace the forms they built.

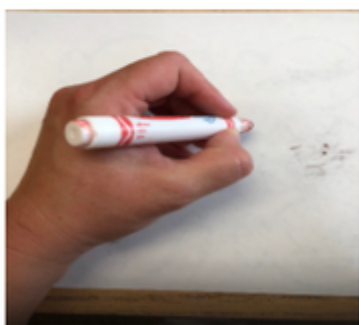
* **Resistance writing**- Students are provided with opportunities to use tools to write within a resistant material. Using a pencil, toothpick or skewer stick in playdough, foam, slime or other materials requires use of muscles that are not typically activated in writing allowing for additional learning and strengthening of formation pathways. Utilize formation pathway and directionality language to reinforce hearing the patterns.

* **Build a letter**- Students are provided with materials that allow them to manipulate and build letters. Given materials such as cooked or raw pasta, wikki sticks, straws, fuzzy sticks, or other items found in preschool classrooms students can manipulate and create the letters they have learned. Cards can be provided for models or more advanced students can begin to build the letters from memory. Utilize formation pathway and directionality language to reinforce hearing the patterns as students trace the forms they built.

* **Vertical surface play**- Students will be provided with a vertical surfaces to play or write on. Vertical surfaces can be hung on walls (oil drip pans are great magnet walls), in an easel or a three-inch binder at the table. Having a child lay on their stomach and use a binder replicates a greater vertical surface. Students can play, manipulate or write on these surfaces strengthening grasping patterns and shoulder stability necessary for writing over long periods of time.

Grip Visuals for Handwriting

Left Hand



Right Hand



What if instead of 'falling behind', this group of lockdown kids are actually ahead? Hear me out...

What if they have more empathy, enjoy family connection, can be more creative and entertain themselves, love to read, love to express themselves in writing?

What if they enjoy the simple things, like their own garden and sitting near a window in the quiet? What if they notice the birds and the dates the different flowers emerge, and the calming renewal of a gentle rain shower?

What if this generation are the ones to learn to cook, organise their space, do their laundry and keep a well-run home?

What if they learn to ride a bike, play a board game, do simple crafts, learn to bake, climb a tree, play without a screen?

What if they learn to understand the value of money, what's important and how to live with less? What if they learn to plan shopping trips and meals at home?

What if they learn the value of eating together as a family and finding the good to share in the small delights of the everyday?

What if they learn to just be: to be resilient, to be content?

What if they are the ones to place great value on our teachers and educational professionals, librarians, public servants and the previously invisible essential support workers?

What if, among these children, a great leader emerges who had the benefit of a slower pace and a simpler life to truly learn what really matters in this life?

What if they are AHEAD?

Via Buckden Primary

teachwire
YOUR LINK TO THE BEST IN EDUCATION



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

NO SCHOOL- Wednesday, Thursday, Friday- November 24, 25, 26.



INTRODUCING OUR HOME SCHOOL
CONNECTION PROGRAM- READY



ROSIE- [CLICK HERE FOR DETAILS](#)

REMINDER- THURSDAY IS EARLY RELEASE FOR 4K AFTERNOON CLASSES!!!

Please be aware that EVERY Thursday is Early Release for AFTERNOON 4K classes. (Morning class times do not change)



Please be ready to pick up our child or meet the bus at an earlier time...

AFTERNOON Classes Times on THURSDAYS:

- Token Springs and Creekside- 12:20-2:03
- All other Community Based sites- 11:50-1:33

COVID REMINDERS

SP4K-EC COVID Protocols

In addition to site specific policies and procedures the Sun Prairie Area School District, SP4K Program and Early Childhood (EC) Programs have developed the following protocols in order to reduce the risk of COVID transmission in our classrooms.



QUARANTINE PROTOCOLS:

When a student tests positive:

- Students will be required to quarantine when there is a positive case in the classroom.
 - Students are required to quarantine for 10 days from the onset of symptoms or the date of the positive test (if asymptomatic) whichever is first.

What will teaching look like during the quarantine period?

- During quarantine there will be no live 4K instruction.
- Students will access learning opportunities through ReadyRosie and Seesaw.
- Teachers will work with students and their caregivers to insure access to educational materials during the quarantine. These will be determined by the individual teachers and programs.
- Students with disabilities will follow their agreed upon IEP contingency plan.

Contact Tracing

- In cooperation with the district nurse, the school will contact employees and families of students identified as close contacts using the letter templates from PHMDC to notify them that they are a close contact and if they need to quarantine. PHMDC will not contact these individuals separately unless they are in the same household as the person who tested positive. For confidentiality purposes, the individual who tested positive will not be identified in communications to the families, students and employees at large.

INFECTION MITIGATION:

Infection mitigation efforts are intended to minimize exposure and keep the virus out of school environments. Our programs follow infection response plans based on guidelines from State Child Care Licensing and Public Health Madison & Dane County in the event that we have a positive case within a 4K location.

This includes separation, disinfection, notification, and contact tracing.

Masking will be required for all staff, students, and adults inside 4K classrooms.

[American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#)

[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

[Wisconsin Department of Health Services \(DHS\)](#)

[Public Health Madison & Dane County \(PHMDC\)](#)

- The American Academy of Pediatrics--the U.S. professional organization for all pediatricians--has endorsed mask wearing indoors for all children age 2+.
- Studies have shown that face masks can help block respiratory droplets and that face mask use has been associated with lower COVID-19 infection rates.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has a [website](#) detailing information on face coverings. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains a [website](#) that reviews the evidence behind use of face coverings.
- [SPASD Face Covering Information for Families](#)
- [SPASD Protective Measures](#)

Screening Checklists

All students and staff are asked to monitor themselves for signs of possible infection. Please use the following checklists as screening guidelines.

- [SPASD Student COVID-19 Symptom Screening Checklist \(English\)](#)
- [SPASD Student COVID-19 Symptom Screening Checklist \(Spanish\)](#)

Hand Washing and Social Distancing

- Routine hand washing and/or hand sanitizing and cleaning of personal items will be taught and encouraged in all classrooms. This is an important life skill that is part of living a healthy life, and this is an opportunity to reinforce knowledge and skills in this area.

- It is the nature of 4K students to play with their teachers and their peers. We will work to educate students on the importance of social distancing and will maintain physical distancing to the greatest extent possible.

SPASD Student COVID 19 Symptom Screening Checklist

Lista de verificación de los síntomas de COVID 19



KOBUSSEN BUS-

- Buses can be noisy places. Please help your child remember to use their "0-1" voices, so the drivers can be safe. Sometimes, when bus drivers have to speak loudly to be heard, our kiddos mistake loud for "yelling". We have given the bus drivers this tool to help our 4K students understand what kind of voice they should be using on the bus. It is also used in our classrooms so your children should be familiar with the tool and the language used.
- Staying buckled in their seats is very important. Even if the ride is short please help us to reinforce the need to stay buckled and sitting in their seats, until the teacher comes to get them off the bus.
- Please be prepared to meet your child's bus 10-15 minutes before the scheduled bus times you have been given. Due to absences and our door to door busing the bus times may vary within that time frame.
- Early release is EVERY THURSDAY at 1:30. This means the buses in the afternoons will arrive home an hour and fifteen minutes earlier than the rest of the week. Please be ready to meet the bus earlier on Thursdays.
- If you are interested in more information about how you can help your child with riding the bus please talk with your child's teacher about our "Riding the Bus" social story.

· If your child is not going to be riding the bus to or from school please let the bus company AND your teacher know. We want to make sure we know exactly who is getting on and off the bus every day. The bus company can be reached at 825-8700.

SUN PRAIRIE FOOD RESOURCES

McKenzie Family Boys & Girls Club

232 Windsor Street, Sun Prairie

- **Family Meals to Go**

Family Meals consist of a premade meal for a family of 5, a produce box, and a cooler box with meats, cheeses, and yogurts. Available for anyone in the community on Tuesdays from 3:00-5:00 pm.

Register ONCE at <https://www.classy.org/event/family-meals-to-go-mckenzie-family-boys-and-girls-club/e316731> then receive a WEEKLY form to reserve your meal for the following week. Pick up is a drive-through in the parking lot of the club.



Sun Prairie YMCA

1470 Don Simon Dr, Sun Prairie

608-478-4308

Email: mhrubes@ymcadane.org

- **Mobile Food Pantry**

Drive up service with no questions asked.

We load your trunk with boxes of food.

This is held at Westside Elementary every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month.

Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry

18 Rickel Rd, Sun Prairie

608-478-0510

Free taxi service is available to and from the pantry. Call Sun Prairie Taxi at 608-837-5550 to request a ride to the pantry. Once at the pantry you can request a voucher to pay for the taxi.

People can use the Pantry every other week. Neighbors struggling with food insecurity can visit the food pantry once every 14 days for healthy food options and weekly kid's boxes. The pantry also offers personal care items.

Hours:

- Monday/Wednesday/Friday 12:00pm - 3:30pm
- Tuesday/Thursday 5:00pm - 7:00pm
- Saturday 9:00am - 11:00am

Sunshine Supper

1632 W. Main St, Sun Prairie

Email: sunshinesupper@gmail.com

- **Drive Through Meal Program**

Available for anyone on Mondays 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Enter the parking lot off Hart Road (behind the building).

Meals are brought to your car. Walk-up service available.

WHO DO I CONTACT WITH QUESTIONS?

The best place is to always start with your child's teacher. They have close contact with your child and have a deep understanding of their program and can most quickly address any of your concerns. The next step is to contact your 4K site director. They have a wealth of knowledge and can answer questions about the many site specific policies and procedures. You can also contact the 4K Program Supervisor to answer questions from a 4K- Sun Prairie School district perspective and help you navigate the school district in general.



ELIZABETH KNUDTEN

SP4K Program Supervisor

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☎️ 608-834-6671

🌐 sunprairieschools.org



BECKY PENTICOFF

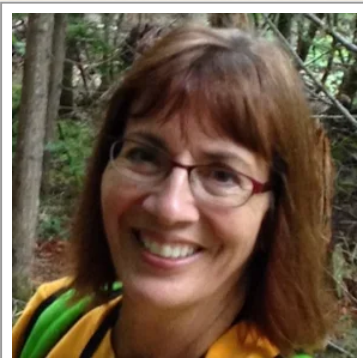
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STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

No student may be unlawfully discriminated against in any school programs, activities or in facilities usage because of the student's sex (gender identity, gender expression and non-conformity to gender role stereotypes), color, religion, profession or demonstration of belief or non-belief, race, national origin (including limited English proficiency), ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or pa-rental status, homelessness status, sexual orientation, age, or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. (SPASD Policy JB)



If a student or parent/guardian would prefer to have this information translated into Spanish, please contact us at 834-6620.

Si un estudiante, padre ó guardian prefiere tener esta información traducida en Es-pañol, por favor contactenos en el 834-6620.

If a student or parent/guardian would prefer to have this information translated into Hmong, please contact us at 834-6630.

Yog tus me nyuam lub xiv los yog niam thiab txiv/tus neeg muaj cai saib xyuas tus me nyuam xav tau qhov ntawv ntawm no ua lus Hmoob, thov hais rau peb paub rau ntawm 834-6630.