

SP4K- EARLY LEARNING NEWSLETTER

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Summer School 2020 for Incoming Kindergarten Students

It is hard to believe that in a short time we will be registering our current 4K students for Summer School 2020. Parents/Guardians have already received preliminary information on safety procedures for the Summer School sites and in a short time, information on registration will be coming your way.

Summer School is held for 5 weeks, JUN 22-JUL 23 on Monday-Thursday, 8:00-1:30 at the following schools: Creekside (Creekside & Royal Oaks students), Eastside (Eastside & Northside students), Meadow View (Meadow View & Horizon students), Token Springs (Token Springs & CH Bird students). Westside (Westside students only). Since Summer School is not held at every school in the district, students from some school sites will attend Summer School at another designated site.

We are pleased to offer a wonderful introduction to the schools in the Kickoff to Kindergarten (K2K) class. The K2K class is designed to provide students with an introduction to the social and academic environment they will experience in the fall of the upcoming year. Students will learn more about the daily routines and the expectations of an elementary school. We hope that most of our students register and participate.

Additionally, the District collaborates with the City of Sun Prairie Parks and Recreation Department and the YMCA to offer wrap around care at every elementary site after 1:30 pm and on Fridays. More information will be forthcoming. We also offer an early "drop off" class for elementary students starting at 7:00 pm, Monday-Thursday.

Parents/guardians should be familiar with the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. The district uses Infinite Campus to register students. Parents/guardians will use the Parent Portal throughout their children's K-12 career to monitor grades, pay for lunch and other fees, and a variety of other activities. Every parent/guardian enrolling their children in the district is provided information on the Parent Portal for Infinite Campus. If you need more information, please go to the Enrollment page on the district website. <https://www.sunprairieschools.org/district/enrolling-students>

Watch for more information that will be sent directly via email and will also be posted on the Sun Prairie Summer School website.
<https://www.sunprairieschools.org/academics/summer-school>

REMINDERS

NO SCHOOL:
February 21

ABSENCES:
Please call your site to report all student absences

BUSING:
Please be prepared to meet your bus 15 minutes prior to your assigned pick up or drop off time

4K REGISTRATION:
February 27th 10-6 at the District Office. All NEW families interested in registering for 4K 2020-21 school year.



HOW TO HELP YOUR CHILD LEARN TO SHARE

Learning how to share is a big challenge for all children because it often means putting aside one's own needs in order to make someone else happy. Sharing is not a skill children have when they are born—they need to be taught how to share and how to see that their efforts have helped someone else feel happy or solve a problem. In order to learn this skill, children need adults to provide them with many different opportunities where they can practice how to share with others and see other children in the act of sharing. When a child learns how to share with others she feels more confident and is better able to play with other children independently. Additionally, learning how to share gives a child a very important and solid foundation of successful friendship skills she can continue to build on as she grows.

Try This at Home

- Read books about sharing with your child. Talk about how the characters might feel as the story unfolds. All feelings are healthy and normal. A character might be feeling a variety of emotions—from frustrated and sad to happy and joyful. A good example is the CSEFEL Book Nook based upon the book *I Can Share* by Karen Katz. This resource has many activities that go along with the book to teach about sharing. <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/booknook/share.pdf>
- Notice and point out when other children are sharing. “I see that those girls are sharing their snack.”
- Notice and let your child know that you see the many moments in the day when he is sharing. “Thank you for sharing your crayons with me. I feel happy when you share.” Or “When I came to pick you up from school, I noticed that you were sharing the toys with Sophie. What a good friend!”
- Plan ahead if sharing might be a concern. “Avery is coming over to our house today for a play date. I know how special your blankie is to you. We can put your blankie in a special place that is just for you and all the other toys will be shared with Avery.”
- Find opportunities to teach sharing to your child. “Oh no! For dessert tonight we only have three cookies left for you, Joey, me, and Daddy. I wonder what we can do?”

Practice at School

At school, children are taught how to share and learn about how sharing makes friends feel. Children learn about sharing through stories, role-playing and puppets. One way teachers help children learn how to share with each other is by pointing out how a friend looks and feels when a child does, or does not, share. Teachers also encourage children to begin to solve problems by themselves. “I see you have five cars and Ryan has none. I wonder what we can do?” Or “I wonder which car Ryan can use?” Most importantly, teachers congratulate children when they solve sharing problems and recognize how proud they must feel after they share.

The Bottom Line

Sharing is a skill that your child will use throughout her life to get along with others during activities and build friendships. Children who learn how to share are better able to understand other's feelings, negotiate difficult situations with confidence and feel secure in their ability to solve problems by themselves.

Bus Driver Recognition Week

February 10-14, 2020 is School Bus Driver Recognition Week in the State of Wisconsin.

Be sure to thank your child's bus driver for all they do to get our students to and from school safely every day!



If you have any questions or concerns about this information, or school bus safety, please contact Kobussen at 825-8700, ext 5509.

UPDATE FROM KOBUSSEN BUS

Bus Delays and Emergencies

Parents, please remember that if your child's bus is delayed and/or evacuated for any reason (bus breakdown, emergency, etc) students are not allowed to leave the scene. Students must stay with the driver and wait for further instructions. If another bus is dispatched, students are to ride that bus and only

get off at their assigned stop.

Winter Bus Reminders

As cold and snowy weather is upon us we would like to remind families of a few safety issues when students are waiting for the bus in the morning. Students should:

- be waiting at their bus stop at least 5 minutes before the scheduled arrival time.
- be dressed appropriately for waiting in cold weather. This includes jackets, hats, gloves/mittens, and scarves.
- stay out of the road and other's yards and driveways when waiting for the bus. Wait on the sidewalk or as close to the curb as possible if there are no sidewalks.
- wait on their side of the road and only cross when the driver signals.
- never run toward the bus as it's coming to a stop. Please wait for the bus to come to a complete stop before approaching to board.
- remain seated when on the bus. When it's time to get off, wait until the bus has come to a complete stop before standing to avoid injury if the bus slides as it's stopping.



Research¹ has shown that the skills your child needs to be successful in the future are social and emotional skills!
 The more socially skilled children are, the more likely they are to succeed in school. Because this is so important for your child, we are using the Pyramid Model in our program.



What is the Pyramid Model?

The Pyramid Model is a framework for supporting the social and emotional development of our children. The goal of the Pyramid Model is to create an environment where every child feels good about coming to school. This is accomplished by designing classrooms that promote engagement in learning and by building positive relationships among children, families, and staff. In our use of the Pyramid Model, our classroom staff will work together to ensure that all children understand behavior expectations, receive instruction in social skills, and those who are struggling receive individual support.

The Pyramid Model illustrates that the foundation for helping children develop social and emotional skills is nurturing and responsive relationships and high quality environments. The middle of the Pyramid, teaching of social and emotional skills, is provided to all children with some children receiving additional teaching and support. The top of the Pyramid shows that a few children will need the foundation, the middle AND individualized intervention to address challenging behavior.

To use the Pyramid Model, our program established a leadership team that will provide ongoing support to our staff and families. Our leadership team looks forward to sharing some of the important work we are doing, including teaching program-wide expectations, partnering with families, training staff in teaching strategies, providing classroom coaching to help teachers implement, and using data for decision-making. Stay tuned for ongoing updates about the Pyramid Model in our program!

1 Jones, D. E., Greenberg, M., & Crowley, M. (2015). Early social-emotional functioning and public health: The relationship between kindergarten social competence and future wellness. *American Journal of Public Health*, 105, 2283-2290.

What is gained by using the Pyramid Model?

FAMILIES

- Receive information on how to help promote children's social and emotional skills
- Team with teachers to help children grow and learn
- Receive support for preventing and addressing behavior problems

TEACHERS

- Are effective in helping children learn social and emotional skills
- Strengthen classroom management skills
- Have information and resources to support families

CHILDREN

- Increase their social and emotional skills
- Improve in their readiness for kindergarten



National Center for Pyramid Model Innovations

ChallengingBehavior.org

Do you want to know more about Pyramid Model? What it looks like in our classrooms? How you can support your children at home? How we can work together to teach strategies around social emotional development? More information about an upcoming parent training is on the next page.

POSITIVE SOLUTIONS FOR FAMILIES FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN BIRTH TO 6

Early Childhood Parenting Made Fun!

A three-week parenting program designed by the Wisconsin Pyramid Model to help parents learn to:

- Learn about the importance of building positive relationships with our children
- See the power of using positive comments and encouragement with our children
- Discuss the use of play as a powerful parenting tool
- Linking positive comments, encouragement and play to children's behavior
- Discuss the meaning of our child's behavior
- Discuss how to develop and practice consistent routines
- Understand how to make expectations clear for children
- Identify effective ways to teach feeling vocabulary
- Teach problem solving skills
- And much, much, more!

This 3-week class will be facilitated by Michelle Dargiewicz and Lydia Krueger, Early Childhood Teachers. The class is aligned with 4k's Pyramid Model which promotes Social & Emotional development and addresses challenging behaviors. This class is open to all parents of children between 0 and 6 years old **who live within the Sun Prairie Area School District boundaries.**

Class will meet on **Monday** evenings from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Early Learning Resource Center wing at Token Springs Elementary School, 1435 N Thompson Rd., Sun Prairie, on the following dates:

- **March 30**
- **April 6**
- **April 13**

Classes start precisely at 5:30 in the professional development rooms 191-192.

Childcare will be provided by SP High School students in rooms 184/185 for children from 3 to 12 years of age. Child care for children under the age of 3 will be in room 188.

Cost is \$10.00 per family for the entire class (includes folders, supplies, and child care). Bring your \$10 to the first class. Checks can be made out to SPASD.

Please fill out this [google form](#) to register for the class.

Contact Elizabeth Knudten elknudt@sunprairieschools.org if you have any questions or difficulty with the form. In your email, please include: **names of adults who will attend, your address, your phone number, and the names and ages of any children who will attend child care during the class period.** Register early – space is limited!

*****Classes may be canceled or rescheduled based on registration*****



Sun Prairie Area
School District
Futures depend on us...every child, every day.

SUN PRAIRIE AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

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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.

"Play is the highest form of research."

Albert Einstein

