



Countdown to Kindergarten

2013 Kindergarten Registration



Welcome to Moorhead Area Public Schools!

We are excited for your child to enroll in Moorhead Area Public Schools. Nothing is more rewarding than watching your child grow and develop. By working together as a team, we can ensure that all students are able to reach their maximum potential.

This publication and the enclosed forms are designed to give families the information they need to plan for a successful kindergarten experience. Kindergarten registration for the 2013-14 school year begins January 22-23, 2013. If your child will be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2013, you may register him or her to begin school this fall.

We look forward to helping your child thrive in the Moorhead Area Public Schools!

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Registration steps

Will your child be age 5 by September 1, 2013? If so, this checklist is for you! At Moorhead Area Public Schools, we want kindergarten registration to be as easy as possible for you and your family. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need additional information to complete your child's registration. Call the district office at 218-284-3370. Elementary school contact information can be found on Page 4. We look forward to seeing your child this fall.

1 Schedule your child's free, mandatory Early Childhood Screening if he or she has not already had one.

The district screens 3, 4 and 5 year olds so appointments fill quickly. Please call 218-284-3800 to schedule an appointment or to find out if your child needs to be screened. *See Page 6 for more information on early childhood screening.*

2 Review kindergarten options.

Moorhead Area Public Schools offers half-day kindergarten. Other options include **Kinder Plus (K+)**, the fee-based, extended-day program offered through Moorhead Community Education, and the district's **K-5 Spanish Immersion Program**, offered at Ellen Hopkins Elementary School. *See the two separate handouts in this mailing for more information about both programs.*

3 Locate a copy of your child's birth certificate.

Please bring proof of your child's birthday, such as a birth certificate, hospital records or a baptismal record when you come to register.

4 Complete the Pre-Registration Form and gather additional information needed for registration.

Please complete the enclosed Pre-Registration Form and bring it with you to registration to confirm your child's first and last name, gender, date of birth and address. You will receive a snapcode to use in completing the registration process. *The checklist on Page 3 includes additional information that will be helpful for you to have when completing registration.*

5 Register your kindergartner.

Attend kindergarten registration from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Jan. 22 or 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 23 at the elementary school your child will attend. If you would like to have your child enrolled in the Spanish Immersion Program, please register him or her at Ellen Hopkins Elementary. *See Page 4 for more registration information.*

6 Complete infosnap.

Kindergarten registration forms should be completed online through *infosnap* either at the school during registration or at home on your own computer. Computer access and assistance will be available at the elementary schools for those who do not have access

at home. *Complete infosnap online registration forms by Feb. 28.*

7 Update your child's immunizations.

Schedule your child's checkup and immunization review with your health care provider. You will need updated immunization records for screening, registration and school entry. The Pupil Immunization Record, which you can print from *infosnap*, must be submitted on or before the first day of school. *See Page 6 for more information about immunizations.*

What is infosnap?

Student registration forms for Moorhead Area Public Schools are completed online through *infosnap*, which provides a secure and efficient registration process.

Parents will receive a snapcode during kindergarten registration to use for completing the process. Registration should be completed by Feb. 28.

Your child is registered for school once initial *infosnap* forms have been submitted. This summer and in future years, you will complete an annual review and update of the information to ensure it is current.

If you already have a child enrolled in the district, you will use your existing *infosnap* account and the snapcode for your kindergarten student to link your entire family.

8 Return Kinder Plus (K+) contract if choosing a full-day option.

Complete the K+ contract if you are registering your child in Community Education's K+ fee-based, extended-day program option. *See the separate handout in this mailing for the contract and frequently asked questions.*

9 If your child has an IEP, the EIS case manager will ensure the IEP is discussed with kindergarten staff.

If your child has an IEP, your child's current case manager will be working with the kindergarten staff at the school your child will attend to make sure that his or her IEP team understands his or her specialized needs. The EIS case manager can answer any questions you may have about your child's transition to kindergarten and work with you to make sure transition goes smoothly. A more formal transition meeting may also be planned as part of the IEP process if there are specific equipment or training needs required when your child starts kindergarten. *Even if you talk with your child's IEP case manager or attend a transition meeting, please remember to register your child at the elementary school your child will attend.*



10 Attend kindergarten open house at your child's elementary school.

This is a chance for your child to see the school and meet the people he or she will get to know next year.

- ◆ Probstfield Center for Education (S.G. Reinertsen Elementary kindergarten), Thursday, April 11, 6-7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Ellen Hopkins Elementary, Tuesday, April 16, 6-7:30 p.m.
- ◆ Robert Asp Elementary, Thursday, April 18, 6-7:30 p.m.

infosnap registration checklist

Below is a checklist of additional information that will be helpful for you to have with you when completing your child's kindergarten registration on *infosnap*.

- ☐ Completed Pre-Registration Form
- ☐ All primary and/or additional guardians' contact information (including employer, work phone and e-mail address)
- ☐ Health records/medical history (knowledge of any health problems that could result in an emergency should be shared)
- ☐ Instructions/dosage information for any prescription medications
- ☐ Immunization record
- ☐ Medical contact information (doctor, dentist, specialists)
- ☐ Emergency contact information (up to three contacts may be listed)
- ☐ Child care information (provider's name, phone number, address)
- ☐ Name and phone number of individuals allowed to pick your child up from school
- ☐ Pickup and drop off address for transportation (this is needed if your child will be riding the bus)
- ☐ Storm procedure contacts
- ☐ Full name, date of birth and school for other children living in the home

Finally...

Sign up for Early Childhood Family Education classes now. Once your child starts kindergarten, he or she is no longer eligible to attend ECFE classes. Registration for winter and spring classes has begun. Call 218-284-3400 or go online at <https://communityed.moorhead.k12.mn.us>.

Kindergarten registration

Kindergarten registration for the Moorhead Area Public Schools for the 2013-14 school year will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Jan. 22 and from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Jan. 23. Parents should register at the school located within their child's elementary attendance area.

See the attendance area map on Page 5 for assistance determining which elementary school your child will attend.

If you are unsure where to register your child, call the district office at 218-284-3370.

All S.G. Reinertsen Elementary kindergarten students will attend kindergarten at Probstfield Center for Education, 2410 14th St. S. Reinertsen parents should register

their students at Probstfield. Registrations will be accommodated at Reinertsen during regular office hours (7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.).

Children must be five years old on or before Sept. 1, 2013, to begin school in the fall. **Parents should bring a birth certificate, hospital record or baptismal record with them to registration for proof of age.**

Please complete the enclosed Pre-Registration Form and bring it with you to registration to confirm your child's first and last name, gender, date of birth and address. You will receive a snapcode to use in completing the registration process through *infosnap*, the district's online student registration system.

Kindergarten registration forms should be completed online through *infosnap* either at the school during registration or at home on your own computer. Computer access and assistance will be available at the elementary schools for those who need it. **Online registration forms should be completed by Feb. 28.**

Your child is registered for school once initial *infosnap* forms have been submitted. This summer and in future years, you will review and update the information and complete any additional information or forms, which may vary each year depending on your child's grade level.

If you already have a child enrolled in the district, you will use your existing *infosnap* account and the snapcode for your kindergarten student to link your entire family.

Unable to attend registration?

If you are unable to attend kindergarten registration on Jan. 22 or 23, please return the completed Pre-Registration Form to your child's elementary school as soon as possible. A snapcode will then be issued for you to complete the registration process by Feb. 28.

Do you have difficulty reading or writing English? Call 218-284-3800 to ask for a home-school liaison to help you in completing the registration forms. You could also ask your Head Start or pre-school teacher to assist you.

If you decide not to register your child for kindergarten this fall, or if you will be enrolling in another school, please call the district office at 218-284-3370.

Our elementary schools

Ellen Hopkins Elementary School

2020 11th St. S. • 218-284-4300

Mary Jo Schmid, Principal

Michael Daugs, Assistant Principal

Robert Asp Elementary School

910 11th St. N. • 218-284-6300

Chris Triggs, Principal

Jacob Scandrett, Assistant Principal

S.G. Reinertsen Elementary School

1201 40th Ave. S. • 218-284-5300

Reinertsen Kindergarten at Probstfield Center for Education

2410 14th St. S. • 218-284-3800

Anne Moyano, Principal

Travis Okerlund, Assistant Principal

Robin Grooters, Program Manager

Daily Schedule

Kindergarten

Morning 7:55–10:30 a.m.

Afternoon 12:05–2:40 p.m.

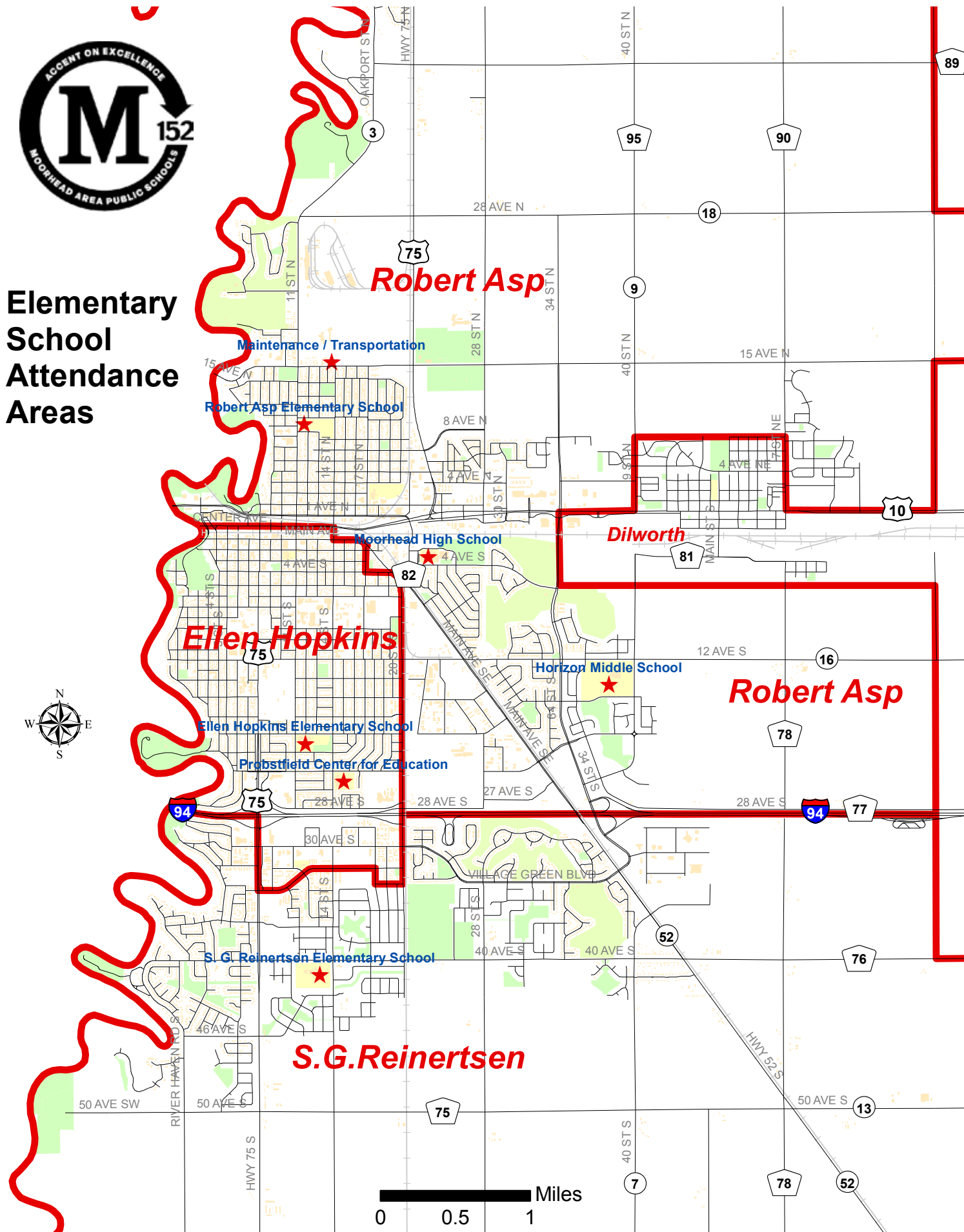
Grades 1–5

Classes Begin 7:55 a.m.

Dismissal 2:40 p.m.



Elementary School Attendance Areas



School services

Early Childhood Screening

All children in the Moorhead Area Public Schools must be screened before entering kindergarten.

Early screening will help identify conditions that may hamper a child's learning and assists parents in taking steps to help the child.

At screening, child development specialists will observe your child's vision, hearing, speech, development, height, weight, and social and emotional skills.

Call 218-284-3800 to schedule your screening appointment. Daytime and evening appointments are available. If you leave a message, please leave your child's name and birthdate as well as your name and daytime phone number. Be sure to bring your child's immunization record with you to screening.

If you decide to use your physician's physical to take the place of the early childhood screening, you will need to complete a form and forward it to Early Childhood Screening at 2410 14th St. S.,

Moorhead, MN 56560. Your clinic or health care provider may have a form available or you may request one from the address above.

Health Services

It is recommended that your child have a physical examination before starting school. Early Childhood Screening does not take the place of a medical doctor's physical examination.

Immunizations: Immunizations are an important part of your child's health care. In addition, they are required by law. Minnesota Statute Section 121A.15 requires that all students enrolled in a Minnesota school be immunized against certain diseases, allowing for certain exemptions as described on the Pupil Immunization Record.

Please see the table below for the list of required immunizations for your kindergarten student. If your child is not fully protected at this time, please update all immunizations immediately. You may schedule immunizations with your

child's regular physician. The completed Pupil Immunization Record, available on *infosnap*, must be returned by the first day of school for your child to begin class.

Children who qualify can receive low cost immunizations at Clay County Public Health, 715 11th St. N., Moorhead. Take any previous immunization dates with you. Please call 218-299-7777 for more information.

Parents may get a legal exemption from the state immunization law for medical reasons or conscientiously held beliefs.

Health Office: School health offices are staffed during school hours by a full-time health technician trained in first aid and CPR. A licensed school nurse is scheduled to be in the health office several hours per week and is on call at all times in cases of serious injury or illness at school.

Students are expected to participate in the regular school program including all physical education activities unless a doctor has recommended special planning. For temporary excuses from physical education or other activities, the school must have a note from the doctor. The district will expect any student not having this note to participate in all school activities.

Medication: For school personnel to administer prescription or nonprescription medication to a student during school hours, Moorhead Area Public Schools' policy requires that the parent or guardian complete a medication request

Are Your Kids Ready for School?

Minnesota's School Immunization Law

Directions:

- Find the child's age/grade level and read across to the right.
- Look to see whether the child had the number of shots shown by the checkmark(s) under each vaccine.

Note: Each row is meant to be read separately, so don't add up the columns of checkmarks under each vaccine.

Example: A preschooler needs 4 DTaP, then to enter kindergarten he or she needs 1 more DTaP, for a total of 5 (not 9).

	Hep B hepatitis B	Tdap/DTaP/Td diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough)	Polio	MMR measles, mumps, rubella	Hib <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b	Varicella* (chickenpox)
Preschool (age 3-5)		✓✓✓✓	✓✓✓	✓	At least ✓	✓
Kindergarten**	✓✓✓	✓✓✓✓✓ 5 th shot not needed if 4 th was after age 4	✓✓✓✓✓ 4 th polio not needed if 3 rd was after age 4	✓✓		✓✓

* Varicella shot(s) not required if a child's doctor signs a form saying the child has already had chickenpox disease.

** First graders who are 6 years old and younger must follow the polio and Tdap/DTaP/Td schedules for kindergarten.

form. These forms are available in the school health offices.

The form must include a written order from a licensed prescriber and parental permission. Parents must provide the medication in a pharmacy labeled or manufacturer's labeled container with student's name, dose and prescriber's name. Parents may come to school and administer medication to their children without completing the form. *Please contact Christy Elias, school nurse, at 218-284-4311 with any questions.*

District Calendar

A school district calendar is mailed to all families before the start of the school year. The calendar provides information about the school district, important phone numbers, and dates of events.

Transportation

School bus transportation is provided to students who live within their school's attendance area and who live one mile or more from their school. Kindergarten students who live .5 mile or more from their assigned school will receive noon transportation. Students enrolled in Kinder Plus (K+) ride the bus to and from school with grades 1-5 students. Transportation is not provided to Spanish Immersion students outside the Ellen Hopkins attendance area.

School buses transport students to and from the bus stop nearest their home address. An alternate stop may be arranged for a second household or child care.

Bus route information is mailed to families before the start of school or may be obtained by checking the district website or calling the transportation office at 218-284-1400.

At the beginning of each school year, time is spent in the classroom and on the bus helping children learn bus safety, appropriate behavior and rules for riding the bus and waiting at bus stops. Please help your child understand and use appropriate bus behavior.

Food Service

Healthy Start: Every child needs two things before they go to school every day — breakfast and adequate rest. They are essential for your child's health and improve the learning environment tremendously.

Start your child on a school day schedule with regular bedtime and wake-up time several weeks before school starts. The average 5- to 6-year-old child requires between 10 and 11 hours of sleep each night.

For families with busy morning schedules, a nutritious and affordable breakfast is served every day at school. School breakfast is available beginning at 7:30 a.m.

Meal Accounts: Students who eat meals at school will have an individual meal account. At each meal, students enter their student number, which deducts the cost of the meal from your child's account.

Meal accounts are maintained in the school office. Students may prepay for any number of meals by putting money in the account before or after school. The online payment processing system, Pay-Schools, allows parents to pay for meals online. Some students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch and breakfast. Applications are mailed to all district families each summer.

Continued on next page

Summary of important dates

Below are some important dates for kindergarten registration.

- ☐ Jan. 22-23 – Kindergarten registration begins; bring proof of age (birth certificate).
- ☐ Feb. 13-15 – Early Childhood Screening, call 218-284-3800 to schedule an appointment.
- ☐ Feb. 28 – Deadline to complete *infosnap* registration.
- ☐ March 7-8 – Early Childhood Screening, call 218-284-3800 to schedule an appointment.
- ☐ April 3-5 – Early Childhood Screening, call 218-284-3800 to schedule an appointment.
- ☐ April – Kindergarten Open Houses
 - ◆ Probstfield Center for Education (S.G. Reinertsen Elementary kindergarten), Thursday, April 11, 6-7:30 p.m.
 - ◆ Ellen Hopkins Elementary, Tuesday, April 16, 6-7:30 p.m.
 - ◆ Robert Asp Elementary, Thursday, April 18, 6-7:30 p.m.
- ☐ May – Return Kinder Plus (K+) contract if registering for full-day option and haven't already done so.
- ☐ June 5-7 – Early Childhood Screening, call 218-284-3800 to schedule an appointment.
- ☐ Summer – Return Pupil Immunization Record if haven't already done so.
- ☐ August – Back-to-School Night at your child's school
- ☐ September – School starts!

Learner Support Services

Whether your child needs accelerated learning programs, help with a disability, or anything in between, your school has professional, qualified, caring staff to accommodate those needs. *Please discuss any special needs with your building principal.*

Dental Services

The first set of teeth are deciduous or primary teeth and are as important to a child as permanent teeth are to an adult.

If these teeth are badly decayed or lost too early, it may lead to difficulty chewing food or problems with permanent teeth, such as damage or poor alignment.

You can give your child a beautiful smile and general good health by:

- Helping with daily brushing and flossing of teeth;
- Cutting down on the amount of sweets eaten, especially between meals;
- Choosing food for good nutrition;
- Visiting the dentist regularly.

Children's Dental Services:

For uninsured or underinsured children in the district, Children's Dental Services and Smiles Across

Minnesota provide preventive dental services, such as teeth cleaning, sealants, oral hygiene and dental fluoride. CDS makes the dental appointment for your child to be seen at his or her school.

Uninsured students who are income eligible will receive free care, paid for by a foundation through CDS. Others also will be able to access Children's Dental Services on a sliding fee scale. If a family has insurance, those families are encouraged to visit their previously established dental office.

All children receiving care will need parental consent. Forms are available at the school office and should be returned to the health office in your child's school. *Contact Children's Dental Services at 612-746-1530 with questions.*

K-5 Spanish Immersion Program

Parents who are considering enrolling their children in the district's K-5 Spanish Immersion Program at Ellen Hopkins Elementary are invited to learn more by meeting with the principal, speaking to Spanish Immersion parents or visiting the school. Parents may also visit Hopkins Elementary to observe the Spanish immersion classes. *See the enclosed information for more details.*

Kinder Plus (K+)

Kinder Plus (K+) is an optional, fee-based enrichment program for kindergarten students offered through Community Education.

K+ provides a full-day opportunity for kinder-



garten students by combining the traditional free, half-day kindergarten curriculum with an additional half day of enrichment activities provided by licensed Community Education staff. K+ is ideal for children who are ready for a longer day in a learning environment and is an alternative to traditional child care.

The enrichment half of the day is fee-based. *The contract and fee information are included with this packet.*

School Supplies

This summer, your child's school will send a letter with information, including a school supply list. Each school varies. Some schools require students to bring their own supplies. Others ask for money from each family to purchase the supplies for all students.

Every student will need a backpack large enough to carry papers, extra clothing and library books back and forth to school each day.

You may wish to purchase additional supplies during fall back-to-school sales so when crayons and paper dwindle during mid-year they can be replaced.

After-School Care

Before- and after-school care is available at the Moorhead elementary schools. *More information will be available at kindergarten open houses in April.*

This document can be made available in an alternate format such as large print or audio recording. Call 284-3330 to make a request.

If you do not read English and would like help in your own language, please call 284-3330.

Si usted no lee en inglés y le gustaría que le ayudaran en su propio idioma, por favor llame al 284-3330.

Nếu bạn không biết đọc tiếng Anh và muốn giúp đỡ trong ngôn ngữ của bạn, xin gọi số 284-3330.

شماره ۲۸۴-۳۳۳۰ به زبان خودتان، همیشه در دسترس است.

အကယ်၍ မြန်မာစာလေးမသိရဘူးဟု ဆိုပါက မြန်မာစာဖြင့် အကူအညီပေးပါမည်။
284-3330.

如果你不懂英語，請與英語
幫助，請打電話 284-3330。

School readiness

Check out these school readiness resources and class offerings

ECFE Classes

If your child is scheduled to begin kindergarten in the Moorhead Area Public Schools in the 2013-14 school year, he or she is still eligible to attend ECFE classes. Check *Parenting Press* for classes designed for four and five-year-olds or visit <https://communityed.moorhead.k12.mn.us>. Click on the catalog picture and select child-parent classes. Call Community Education at 218-284-3400 for more information or to register over the phone with a credit card.

Jump Start Preschool

Jump Start is available to 4 and 5-year-old children in the Moorhead School District. Jump Start classes are currently in session, but children may still enroll. Call 218-284-3400. Jump Start registration for the 2013-14 school year will begin in March.

Keys to Kindergarten

Keys to Kindergarten is a free program for children in the Moorhead School District who will be attending kindergarten in the fall

of 2013. It offers school readiness activities to improve children's academic, social and emotional skills. The class will meet eight evenings from January through March. Call 218-284-3400 for more information or to register.

Websites

Looking for more information? Check out these websites:
www.moorhead.k12.mn.us
www.naeyc.org
MNParentsKnow.org

What does my child need to know before starting kindergarten?

It is helpful if your child can do the following before entering kindergarten, but if he or she can't, don't panic! Teachers will work with you next year to make sure your child is learning to his or her fullest potential.

Before kindergarten I can name numbers and letters.

Minnesota Kindergarten Standards and Benchmarks:

- The student will identify and name upper and lowercase letters.
- The student will become familiar with the structure of printed material.
- The student will understand and apply knowledge of the sounds of the English language.

Before kindergarten I can name colors and shapes.

Minnesota Kindergarten Standards and Benchmarks:

- Recognize and sort basic two- and three-dimensional shapes.
- The student uses a variety of strategies to develop and expand listening and speaking vocabularies.

Before kindergarten I can listen to a story and then tell you what it was about.

Minnesota Kindergarten Standards and Benchmarks:

- The student will read and listen to a variety of texts.
- The student will listen to and understand the meaning of text.

Before kindergarten I can count the number of objects in a group up to 10.

Minnesota Kindergarten Standards and Benchmarks:

- The student understands the quantities of whole numbers up to 31.
- The student understands the relationship between quantities and whole numbers up to 31.

Before kindergarten I can tell others what I need, how I am feeling, and ideas that I have.

Minnesota Kindergarten Standards and Benchmarks:

- The student will communicate effectively through listening and speaking.



The child who is ready for kindergarten is...

...a child who listens

to directions without interrupting,
to stories and poems for five to ten minutes without restlessness;

...a child who sees

likenesses and differences in pictures and designs,
letters and words that have similarities;

...a child who hears

and has fun with words that rhyme,
or who is beginning to be aware of words that begin with the same sound or different sounds;

...a child who speaks and can

stay on the topic in class discussions,
retell a well-known story or poem in correct sequence;

...a child who shares

feelings,
possessions;

...a child who understands

the relationship inherent in such words as up and down, top and bottom, categories of words such as fruit = banana, apple, mango or vehicle = car, truck, van;

...a child who experiences

everyday activities and events commonplace for his or her peer group,
loving concern from adults around him or her;

...a child who adjusts

to changes in routine and to new situations without becoming overly fearful,
to the necessity of asking for help when needed;

...a child who plays

cooperatively with other children,
and shares, takes turns, and assumes his or her share of group responsibilities,
and is at ease with large motor activities (running, jumping, bouncing a ball),
and has had many opportunities for fine motor activities (cutting, pasting, using pencils and crayons);

...a child who works

without being easily distracted,
and follows directions,
and completes tasks,
and takes pride in his or her work.

All of these combined produce children who feel good about themselves and about their contributions to the group!

– Source unknown

There are many factors in deciding whether your child is ready for kindergarten. You, as parents, are the best people to make that decision. The only requirement for attending kindergarten is turning five by September 1.



Suggested reading for you and your child

- ◆ *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come* by Nancy Carlson
- ◆ *First Day Of School* by Helen Oxenbury
- ◆ *Leo The Late Bloomer* by Leo Lionni
- ◆ *What If The Bus Doesn't Come?* by Clarke & Stevens
- ◆ *Franklin Goes To School* by Paulette Bourgeois
- ◆ *When You Go To Kindergarten* by Howe & Imershein
- ◆ *If You Take A Mouse To School* by Laura Numeroff & Felicia Bond
- ◆ *Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready For Kindergarten* by Joseph Slate & Ashley Wolff
- ◆ *My Shining Star – Raising A Child Who Is Ready To Learn* by Rosemary Wells

Preparing your child for kindergarten

Starting kindergarten is exciting for both children and parents. There is a lot you can do to make the transition to kindergarten enjoyable.

◆ Get all the information you and your child need to feel comfortable with this new beginning.

◆ Become familiar with the school. Be enthusiastic and point out the school when you are driving past in the car or riding by on bikes. Take walks to the school and talk about the art and projects you see in the windows. Take your child to play on the school's playground after school, on weekends and during the summer. Familiarize your child with the route to school.

◆ Attend kindergarten open house together, taking the opportunity to tour the school and meet the principals and teachers. *See Page 3 for the dates.*

◆ Find out about any school events that you might attend with your child. Every positive experience helps you and your child feel more comfortable with the new setting.

◆ Learn social skills. *Sharing* is a regular part of the day in kindergarten. Help your child learn to take turns by sharing toys, crayons and games with friends and family members.

Waiting is tough for preschoolers, but you can help them get used to it by saying things like, "We'll go to the park *after* lunch."

Teach your child to *communicate* with words, not actions, when upset. Emphasize that crying,

screaming, hitting, and other temper tantrum behavior is not acceptable. Regularly point out other ways to solve a problem.

◆ Listening is important. Model being a good listener. Give your full attention to your child and remind them to listen when you speak. Read to your child and ask questions to practice recalling details from the story.

◆ Kindergartners should know their full names and the first and last names of their parents and caregivers. Memorizing your phone number and address may be a little easier if you set them to a familiar tune.

◆ Your child should know how to zip, snap, tie, button and fasten Velcro. Be sure that your kindergartner can take care of his or her bathroom needs well before the first day of school.

◆ If immunizations are needed before your child starts school, don't connect "shots" with starting school. Likewise, try to avoid talking about other habits or abilities linked to going to kindergarten. The child who is not excited about starting school will not want to break an old habit or learn a new skill just to go school.

◆ Connect with other families who will be sending their children to kindergarten too. Make a play date so the children can get to know one another before school starts. A familiar face is a very welcome sight come fall.



◆ Get a good routine going early! Draw pictures or take photos of your child doing his or her daily routine — waking up, brushing teeth, making the bed, eating breakfast, etc. Put these into booklet form and teach your child to use this handy guide to get ready in the morning. Make another book with your child's bedtime routine to make every night a good night. Consistency counts!

◆ Observe your future kindergarten student's ability to separate from you. If your child has difficulty, try leaving for short periods of time and build on the successes. Give the child some control over the situation by letting him or her decide how many hugs (one, two or three) he or she needs before you go. Relax and show your child that you are confident in his or her ability to tackle this new situation.






◆ At school, stay a few minutes, if invited by the teacher. Use the time to introduce your child to other children or engage him or her in an activity with someone else. Say goodbye in a loving but firm way and then leave with confidence. Our teachers have a lot of experience with separation issues — with both parents and children.

◆ Make it a ritual to spend a few minutes each day going through the backpack and talking about your child's day.

◆ Ask a friend to call you the first day or two. Separation is tough on parents too!

Month of Fun-days

Use the following activities to spend time with your child and enjoy learning together.
Modify the activities to fit your family. Most importantly, teach your child that learning is fun.

<i>Read these calendar ideas to your child. Point to the square as you read it.</i>		Read road signs together as you walk, bike or drive.	Ask your child to count out the silverware and set the table for your meal.	Look up a word in the dictionary today.	Read a story to your child as he or she dresses this morning.	Take a moonlight walk tonight. Bring a flashlight. Talk about the stars.
Look up astronomy in the encyclopedia.	Visit the public library. Get cards for everyone.	Play at the playground of the school your child will attend.		Talk about a favorite family event. Your child can draw pictures of it.	Make yesterday's pictures into a book. Write the words to explain the drawings.	Your child can practice writing his or her name in cornmeal in a cake pan.
Pound nails into scrap wood. Make something or just pound.	Play a board game or card game together today.	Make a puzzle by cutting up the front of a cereal box. A cake pan works as a frame for it.	Sort buttons and classify by size, color or other categories. Talk about where the buttons come from.	Together write a letter to someone special. Send a drawing or two.	Exercise together for at least 10 minutes.	Race items down a ramp or tube. Which rolls faster? Why?
Take apart something broken such as a clock or camera.	Make up new words to an old song — a sweet verse about each family member.	Pack sack lunches for supper tonight. Include a surprise.	Act out the plot of a favorite story. Use props and costumes for added fun.	Host a tea party for stuffed friends. Point out good manners.		Check the smoke alarms together. Talk about your fire exit plan.
Together plan a secret favor for a neighbor or a friend. Do it as a family.	Start reading a chapter book. Read a chapter each night after dinner.		What is important to your family? Design a crest to illustrate your values.	Put a picture note in your child's pocket. Write "I  U."	At the grocery store, help your child match products with their coupons.	Build a card house. It teaches patience as well as balance.

Do you know someone else who should have received this mailing and did not?

If so, direct them to call the district office at 218-284-3370 to be added to our kindergarten mailing list.