

2019-2020 Parent Guide to **Kindergarten**



Visit “Kindergarten Enrollment” at
www.sowashco.org for more information.

Kindergarten Information

District 83: South Washington County Schools

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2019-20 School Calendar



- » Sept. 3, 2019: First day of school for Grades 1-9
- » Sept. 4, 2019: First day of school for Grades 10-12
- » Sept. 5, 2019: First day of school for Kindergarten
- » Sept. 9, 2019: First day of school for PreK
- » Oct. 16-18, 2019: No school, Professional Convention
- » Oct. 21, 2019: No school for Grades K-5, Teacher Prep Day
- » Nov. 5, 2019: No School, Election Day
- » Nov. 27-29, 2019: No school, Thanksgiving Break
- » Dec. 23, 2019 - Jan. 1, 2020: No school, Winter Break
- » Jan. 20, 2020: No school, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- » Feb. 14, 2020: No school, Workshop Day
- » Feb. 17, 2020: No school, Presidents Day
- » Feb. 18, 2020: No school for Grades K-5, Teacher Prep Day
- » March 6, 2020: No school, Workshop Day
- » March 9-13, 2020: No school, Spring Break
- » March 16, 2020: No school, Workshop Day
- » April 10, 2020: No school, Spring Holiday
- » April 27, 2020: No school
- » May 25, 2020: No school, Memorial Day
- » June 4, 2020: Last day of school for Grade 12
- » June 3, 2020: Last day of school for Grades PreK-5
- » June 5, 2020: Last day of school for Grades 6-11

Welcome, parents!

Kindergarten is an important milestone for you and your child. It marks the start of your child's entrance into formal education. At South Washington County Schools, we hope to make this transition a smooth one for both you and your child.



District 833 offers all-day kindergarten at all elementary schools. This parent guide includes helpful information on kindergarten, immunizations, transportation and early childhood screening.

We are happy to answer your questions and provide you with more information. We have included a directory of the elementary schools with principal names and phone numbers, and a list of helpful community resources.

The future is bright for the Class of 2032 as we focus on personalized learning and creating a positive climate and culture. As parents of young learners, please know that your involvement in their learning is a key to success. Your school will share more opportunities to become involved and our district news will provide additional opportunities to become engaged at the district level.

If you have questions, please feel free to call, email or visit our District Service Center in Cottage Grove.

We look forward to welcoming your child to kindergarten in September 2019!

Sincerely,

Superintendent
South Washington County Schools

Enrolling in Kindergarten

To enroll in kindergarten you will need:

- Enrollment forms
 - Birth Certificate
 - Up-to-date immunization records
-



How to enroll in kindergarten

Children who are five years old on or before September 1, 2019 are eligible to start kindergarten.

- 1. Enrollment forms will be mailed to you by Student Information in mid-January.** If you do not receive this information, please contact 651-425-6218.
- 2. Bring the completed forms, immunization record and a photocopy of your child's birth certificate to Kindergarten Enrollment Night (held at your child's school) on Feb. 19, 2019.** If you do not know which school your child will attend, use the **Boundary Calculator** found on www.sowashco.org.

If you do not have a copy of your child's birth certificate, and your child was born in the State of Minnesota, call the Washington County Department of Vital Statistics at 651-430-6175.



Prior to starting kindergarten

- 1. Complete Early Childhood Screening:**
The State of Minnesota requires that all children complete a free health and developmental screening **before entering kindergarten**. Proof of screening is required for entrance into kindergarten.

If your child has not completed the screening, please call 651-425-6175 to schedule an appointment, or go to the district website at www.sowashco.org and select "Early Childhood Screening" under Parents (see page 4). **PLEASE NOTE: Completing Early Childhood Screening does not enroll your child for kindergarten.**



Early Childhood Screening

Minnesota State Law requires Early Childhood Screening for all students before entering kindergarten.

- A screening is a quick and simple check of how your child is growing and developing. Screening checks the child's vision, speech, hearing, height, weight, health history, cognitive, motor and social/emotional development.
- Early childhood developmental screening helps schools identify children who may benefit from district and community resources available to help in their development.
- Early childhood developmental screening includes a vision screening that helps detect potential eye problems, but it is not a substitute for a comprehensive eye exam.
- The screenings are provided by South Washington County Schools staff free of charge and are offered several times each month.
- To schedule a screening appointment, go to the district website (www.sowashco.org) and select "Early Childhood Screening" under Quick Links for Parents, or call 651-425-6175.
- Screenings are held at the District Program Center (8400 E. Point Douglas Rd. S., Cottage Grove).
- Once your child enters kindergarten, the kindergarten teacher will conduct an assessment. This is a separate assessment and is done in addition to early childhood screening.



Other Learning Support

Kindergartners coming from homes where languages other than English are spoken will be assessed to determine whether they qualify for English Language services to support student achievement. For more information, please contact your building principal. The district provides a comprehensive program for students with unique learning needs. Student needs in the areas of academics, social and emotional wellbeing, behavior, nursing, communication and assistive technology, will be supported through the Special Services Department.

Immunizations

Minnesota State Law requires all students to have the following shots before attending school.

Kindergarten students must show proof of required immunizations as indicated on the chart to the right.

The Minnesota School Immunization Law requires that all kindergarten students are current with certain immunizations before starting school, unless your child has a medical or conscientious exemption. The immunization dates or exemption information must be given to the school health office before the first day of school. Children will not be allowed to start school until the records are received and they are deemed in compliance.

For more information, call your doctor, clinic, health plan or school's health office.

Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (DTaP, DTP, DT)	✓✓✓✓✓ (5th dose not required if 4th dose given after age 4)
Polio (OPV and/or IPV)	✓✓✓✓ (4th dose not required if 3rd dose given after age 4)
Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)	✓✓
Hepatitis B (Hep B)	✓✓✓
Varicella (chicken pox)	✓✓ (two doses required or provider verified disease documentation)
Hep A	✓✓
Hib	✓
Pneumococcal	✓✓✓✓

Medications

Medications that are required to be taken during school hours and that the parent/gurdian is unable to come and administer, can be administered by a school health services employee. The medication must be in the original container or prescription bottle and should be accompanied by specific instructions regarding when and how it is to be given, and for how long. Written parental permission is required for all medication that is to be administered at school. In additon, written Health Care Provider Permission is required for all prescription medication. For more details visit the "Health Services" page on www.sowashco.org.

School Meal Accounts

All District 833 elementary schools offer breakfast and lunch for students. Menus can be found on your school's website. To register and manage your student's meal account, go to www.schoolcafe.com.

Free and reduced price meals are available at all elementary schools, based on financial need. Applications are available online every summer at www.sowashco.org.

Transportation



Transportation will be provided to and from school for all kindergarten students residing **more than one mile** from their attendance school **or who need to cross a busy road**.

Information about the Transportation Department, including the status of whether school buses are running on time, is available on the district website under **Services - Transportation**.

School-Age Childcare: Kids Club

Kids Club is the District 833's School-Age Child Care program. It provides a safe, educational and creative environment for elementary children during non-school hours.

During the school year, Kids Club operates before and after school in each elementary building and provides care to current elementary students. Kids Club also offers full-day care on select non-school days as well as full-day and half-day programs during the summer months.



Kids Club staff have a passion for engaging students in fun and educational activities. The program maintains a 1:15 staff to student ratio, with a lowered ratio for field trips and other activities. All staff also receive ongoing professional development in the areas of child guidance and development, health and safety including first aid and CPR, programming and activities, and social development.

Space is limited for Kids Club. Learn more about how to enroll at www.cecool.com.

Kindergarten Experience

Each elementary school will have a schedule that provides many different learning opportunities throughout the day. Each schedule looks and feels a little different based on the school and group of children. Below is a list of activities your kindergartner will get to experience in their school.

- Literacy Centers
- Math Centers
- Dramatic Play
- Morning Meeting
- Breakfast, snack and lunch
- Whole group instruction
- Individualized instruction
- Music, physical education, art and media
- Social studies, health and science
- Movement breaks
- Read aloud
- Calendar time
- Writing

Kindergarten Learning

Your child will be exposed to many different learning experiences in kindergarten that will be appropriate to their age and level of development. These experiences will be presented in a variety of ways in order to introduce, reinforce, extend or master various skills. Students will be able to achieve the following skills in each subject listed below.

Social & Emotional Development

- Consistently calm self when feeling strong emotions or discomfort.
- Express feelings, needs, opinions and desires in appropriate ways.
- Follow expectations to manage feelings and behaviors.
- Play cooperatively with others.
- Display concern, respect, care and appreciation for others.
- Actively help solve problems.

Language Arts

- Read emergent-reader texts with purpose and understanding.
- Participate in collaborative conversations.
- Speak audibly to express thoughts, feelings and ideas clearly.
- Use words to participate with poems, rhymes and songs.
- Use a combination of drawing, speaking and writing to compose informative and narrative texts.
- Demonstrate command of the conventions of standard English grammar when writing and speaking.

Kindergarten Learning

Mathematics

- Read, write and represent numbers from 0-31.
- Use objects to count backward and forward to 20.
- Compose and decompose numbers up to 10 with objects and pictures.
- Recognize basic 2D and 3D shapes.
- Compare objects according to length, size, weight and position.
- Identify, create, complete and extend simple patterns by shape, color, size, number, sounds and movements.

Science

- Monitor daily and seasonal weather changes.
- Observe and compare plants and animals.
- Sort objects by color, size, shape and texture, and describe how objects were sorted.

Social Studies

- Describe symbols, songs and traditions that identify our nation and state.
- Identify the difference between wants and needs.
- Tell and share similarities and differences in family traditions with others.



Health & Physical Education

- Engage in large muscle movements like hopping, throwing and kicking.
- Practice teamwork and cooperation through activities.
- Practice healthy personal habits, like dental care, exercise and rest.



Music & Art Education

- Sing a variety of songs and learn basic musical concepts.
- Begin to play a variety of un-pitched musical instruments.
- Experiment with a variety of art materials.
- Begin to understand and recognize various works of art.

Media Literacy

- Locate high-interest books in the Media Center.
- Use technology tools to create and share.

Kindergarten Choice



Across the district, students can participate, through a lottery or as space is available, in the district's Spanish Immersion program or the Multiage Choice program.

At **Nuevas Fronteras Spanish Immersion Elementary School**, students progress through the same K-5 elementary curriculum as do all other District 833 students, and learn to read, write, speak and understand Spanish by being immersed in the language at school. Teachers are

fluent in Spanish and are licensed elementary teachers. Students can continue on the K-12 Spanish Immersion pathway at District 833 with immersion classes at Woodbury Middle School and Woodbury High School.

Valley Crossing Elementary School offers a **Multiage Choice Program** where students of different ages make up a classroom to take advantage of the natural diversity created. Instruction focuses on individual progress in both academic and social-emotional areas. Students have the same classroom teacher for two years (Kindergarten and first grade, second and third, and fourth and fifth). This strengthens the relationship with students and families, and helps teachers to know their students well.

Transportation is provided for elementary school students in the Spanish Immersion and Multiage Choice programs, if the student lives more than one mile from their school.

Applications for the Spanish Immersion or Multiage Choice program are due on Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. Families will be notified of lottery results by February 7, 2018.

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Volunteering at School

South Washington County Schools welcomes parents who would like to volunteer at their child's school. New volunteers must complete the Volunteer Application Form, found at your child's school. To volunteer in any capacity where you will be alone with students, including coaching or chaperoning field trips, you will need to submit to and pay for a background check.

All elementary schools have a parent teacher organization or association. Contact your school to learn more.

Helping Your Child Prepare for Kindergarten

Parents and children can practice some of the following activities designed to make the transition into kindergarten smooth.

<p>Help your child get comfortable with their new surroundings.</p>	<p>Children feel safe when they know what to expect and come to school ready to learn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet your child’s teacher. • Go over the school day schedule with your child. • Go to your child’s school and spend some time playing on the playground.
<p>Help your child feel confident in their ability to take care of his- or herself.</p>	<p>Practice the following at home to help your child feel confident and successful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zipping, snapping and buttoning clothing. • Putting on and fastening shoes. • Using and flushing the toilet and washing hands.
<p>Help your child learn to work with others.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have conversations about expectations for interacting with others; respect, kindness and care. • Allow space and time for your child to problem solve. • Practice expectations of group discussions: raising hands, active listening and taking turns.
<p>Give your child a head start with learning together.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about who their teacher is, where the school is and any other connections that can be made to the school day (neighborhood friends, playground, etc.) • Read books together, sing songs and nursery rhymes to describe the world around us. • Help your child know and recognize their first and last name, and practice writing it.

Additional Resources

Minnesota Department of Education

Early Learning Services through the State Department:

www.education.state.mn.us

Minnesota Parent Center

Parenting information, resources and activities for birth through grade 12:

www.pacer.org/mpc

District 833 Resources

South Washington County Schools

District Service Center
7362 E. Point Douglas Road S.
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
651-425-6218
www.sowashco.org

District Preschool (School Readiness)

District Program Center
8400 E. Point Douglas Road S.
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
651-425-6600
www.cecool.com

Early Childhood Family Education

651-425-6632

Kids Club

651-425-6637

Special Services

651-425-7201

Early Childhood Screening

651-425-6175

Transportation

651-425-5303

Stay in Touch

Infinite Campus Parent Portal

Parent Portal is a confidential and secure website where families can get information about their child's grades, transportation and more. It is also where parents can update and manage their contact information. Once your child is enrolled you can request an account by emailing ICSupport@sowashco.org.

Parent Notification System

District 833 sends important information to parents through phone calls, emails and text messages from the district and schools. Parents do not need to subscribe to this service.

SeeSaw

District 833 is excited to offer all Kindergarten students and families access to the online learning platform, SeeSaw. Through SeeSaw, students can upload and share their work with teachers. Parents will be able to see their child's work and subscribe to get regular updates on their student's work while in school.

District Website

The District provides an updated website with detailed information on its schools and programs at www.sowashco.org. Calendars, news articles, transportation information, school lunch menus and Community Education courses for students and adults can all be found online.

Social Media

Follow us Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube at "ISD833."

District 833 Elementary Schools

Armstrong Elementary 651-425-4100
8855 Inwood Ave. S.
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
Andy Cafilisch, Principal

Bailey Elementary.....651-425-4800
4125 Woodlane Drive
Woodbury, MN 55129
Candy Gram, Principal

Cottage Grove Elementary.....651-425-5800
7447 65th Street S.
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
Theresa Blume-Thole, Principal

Crestview Elementary651-425-3800
7830 80th Street S.
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
Jodi Husting, Principal

Grey Cloud Elementary.....651-425-4200
9525 Indian Blvd. S.
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
Laura Loshek, Principal

Hillside Elementary651-425-4000
8177 Hillside Trail S.
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
Erin Shadick, Principal

Liberty Ridge Elementary651-425-5900
11395 Eagle View Blvd.
Woodbury, MN 55129
Michael Moore, Principal

Middleton Elementary.....651-425-4900
9105 Lake Road
Woodbury, MN 55125
Arthur Williams, Principal

Newport Elementary.....651-425-4300
851 Sixth Avenue
Newport, MN 55055
Rich Romano, Principal

Nuevas Fronteras651-425-3100
1020 Third Street
St. Paul Park, MN 55071
Cynthia Maldonado, Principal

Pine Hill Elementary.....651-425-3900
9015 Hadley Ave. S.
Cottage Grove, MN 55016
Jolaine Mast, Principal

Pullman Elementary.....651-425-3600
1260 Selby Ave.
St. Paul Park, MN 55071
Ed Ross, Principal

Red Rock Elementary.....651-425-5600
3311 Commonwealth Ave.
Woodbury, MN 55125
Jennifer Holt, Principal

Royal Oaks Elementary.....651-425-4700
7335 Steepleview Road
Woodbury, MN 55125
Susan Risius, Principal

Valley Crossing Elementary651-702-7500
9900 Park Crossing
Woodbury, MN 55125
Lela Olson, Principal

Woodbury Elementary.....651-425-4600
1251 School Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125
Connha Classon, Principal

Not sure which school attendance area you live in? Call 651-425-6236 or check the School Boundary Locator on the website under About District 833 - School Boundaries.



South Washington County Schools

Independent School District 833

www.sowashco.org

School Board

Tracy Brunnette
Patricia Driscoll
Heather Hirsch
Ron Kath
Katie Schwartz
Sharon Van Leer
Michelle Witte

Administration

Dr. Keith Jacobus, Superintendent
Mike Johnson, Assistant Superintendent
Julie Nielsen, Assistant Superintendent
Kristine Schaefer, Assistant Superintendent
Michelle Barries, Director of Special Services
Robert Berkowitz, Director of Technology
Brian Boothe, Director of Professional Development and Accountability
Kelly Jansen, Director of Teaching and Learning Services
Bob Lawrence, Director of Community Education
Dan Pyan, Director of Finance and Operations
Shelly Schafer, Director of Communications and Community Relations
Kevin Witherspoon, Director of Human Resources

South Washington County Schools is an east metro school district serving all or parts of the communities of Cottage Grove, Newport, St. Paul Park and Woodbury and Afton, Denmark and Grey Cloud Island Townships, Minnesota.



If you would like a translated version of this document and/or further assistance, please contact your child's school. The phone number is 651-425-6230. Please say "Call me with Language Line." A translator will call you.

Yog koj xav tau ib tsab ntawv txhais koj cov lus thiab/lossi xav kom tau kev pab ntxiv, thov hu tuaj rau koj tus menyuam lub tsev kawm ntawv. 651-425-6230

Yoo hiika xalayaa kanaa fi/ykn. gargaarsa biraa barbaadde, maaloo mana barnoota daa'ima kee ttiykn. 651-425-6230

Haddaad u baahatid dokumiintigaan noocisa turjuman iyo/ama caawimo dheeraad ah, fadlan la 651-425-6230 xariirdugsiga ubadkaaga.

Si desea una versión traducida de este documento o más información, haga el favor de ponerse en contacto con la escuela de su hijo/a. 651-425-6230