Kindergarten: Achieving success, one student at a time!

- Rigorous K-12 Instruction
- IB-PYP and Spanish Immersion Options
- Average Kindergarten Class Size of 23
- Focus on Equity for ALL Learners
- Updated Facilities focused on Next Century Learning and Student Safety
- Before and After School Care

Learn more about St. Louis Park Public Schools at www.slpschools.org

New school start-end times begin Fall 2020! See back cover for details.
Dear parents/guardians of a prospective kindergartener:

Greetings from St. Louis Park Public Schools! This year is especially exciting for your family because it means you have a child who is eligible to start kindergarten next fall. We cannot wait to meet them!

Please read the following brochure carefully as it contains important information and key dates to enroll your child in St. Louis Park Public Schools.

St. Louis Park Public Schools lives its mission daily throughout the school district and in our four outstanding elementary schools that serve students in kindergarten through grade 5.

As our mission states...“As a caring, diverse community with a tradition of putting its children first, we will ensure all students attain their highest level of achievement; prepare all students to contribute to society; offer high quality opportunities for lifelong learning; provide multiple pathways to excellence; challenge all learners to meet high standards; and provide a safe and nurturing environment that energizes and enhances the spirit.”

Aquila Elementary, Peter Hobart Elementary, and Susan Lindgren Elementary are neighborhood schools offering the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB-PYP). This curriculum emphasizes inquiry-based learning while helping students develop the characteristics of the IB Learner Profile (learn more about IB-PYP on Pages 6-7). Your neighborhood school assignment is based on your permanent residential address; see District attendance boundaries on the back cover to find the school your child will attend.

A fourth elementary school, Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School (PSI) provides all classroom instruction in Spanish and enrolls students from across the school district.

Students at PSI have the same academic outcomes as the three neighborhood IB-PYP schools, but are immersed in the Spanish language throughout the school day and learn academic content while also acquiring the language.

If you are interested in having your child attend PSI, watch for the RESIDENT Application for Enrollment form that will be mailed to St. Louis Park families in January. Please note that the completed application must be received by 4 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2020, at the District Office (6311 Wayzata Blvd., St. Louis Park). If more applications are received than spots available, the district conducts a lottery (per St. Louis Park Public Schools’ School Board Policy #545). Families will be notified by mail regarding school placement prior to Kindergarten registration.

I highly encourage parents who submit an application to attend PSI to also tour their neighborhood school and learn more about the excellent opportunities available to all students (see page 3 for elementary school tour information).

Kindergarten registration packets will be mailed to families in early Spring. Please complete the forms in the packet and return them to the District Enrollment Center at 6311 Wayzata Blvd., St. Louis Park, MN 55416, or via email to enrollment@slpschools.org.

Kindergarten Information Night will take place at all four of our elementary schools on the evening of March 12, 2020. This will be a night for families to meet their principal, explore their school, and learn more about Kindergarten in St. Louis Park Public Schools.

If you have questions, please call the District Office at 952-928-6000.

We hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Astein Osei
Superintendent

Welcome Class of 2033!

Astein Osei
Superintendent
## Kindergarten: Just the Facts

### Our Elementary Schools

*See the map on the back page for your neighborhood school placement.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Web Site</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aquila Elementary School (AQ)</td>
<td>8500 West 31st St., St. Louis Park, MN 55426</td>
<td>952-928-6500</td>
<td><a href="http://www.slpschools.org/aq">www.slpschools.org/aq</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Hobart Elementary School (PH)</td>
<td>6500 West 26th St., St. Louis Park, MN 55426</td>
<td>952-928-6600</td>
<td><a href="http://www.slpschools.org/ph">www.slpschools.org/ph</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School (PSI)</td>
<td>9400 Cedar Lake Rd., St. Louis Park, MN 55426</td>
<td>952-928-6555</td>
<td><a href="http://www.slpschools.org/psi">www.slpschools.org/psi</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Lindgren Elementary School (SL)</td>
<td>4801 West 41st St., St. Louis Park, MN 55416</td>
<td>952-928-6700</td>
<td><a href="http://www.slpschools.org/sl">www.slpschools.org/sl</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Academic Program

- International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB-PYP) offered at Aquila, Peter Hobart, and Susan Lindgren Elementary Schools, and Spanish Immersion programming offered at Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School (see more on pages 6-9).

### Eligibility

- **Early Childhood Screening**: Students must be age 5 by September 1, 2020. This is an evaluation to check the health and development of your child, so concerns may be addressed early. This enables your child to be ready to be a better learner in kindergarten. It is a free service for children ages three to five (3-5) years old and is required for entrance into kindergarten.
- **Screening is held September to June at Central Community Center. To schedule an appointment, call 952-928-6774 or visit [www.slpcommunityed.com](http://www.slpcommunityed.com) (see more on page 11).**

### Before & After School Childcare Options

- For an additional fee, Kids Place provides before and after school care on site. Operating hours are from 6:30 a.m. until school start time, and school end time until 6 p.m.
- Additional registration for Kids Place is required. For more details, please call 952-928-6764 or visit [slpcommunityed.com/child-care](http://slpcommunityed.com/child-care)

### Kindergarten Timeline

**Fall 2019-Winter 2020 - Elementary School Tours**

*Tour details below. Various dates – check website.*

- **November 21, 2019 – Immersion Information Night**
  - Park Spanish Immersion Gym, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **January 15, 2020 – Park Spanish Immersion Kindergarten Application Deadline for Non-Residents**
  - Must deliver to District Office by 4 p.m.
- **February 13, 2020 – Park Spanish Immersion Kindergarten Application Deadline for Residents**
  - Must deliver to District Office by 4 p.m.
- **Kindergarten Information Night will take place at all four of our elementary schools on Thursday, March 12, 2020.**
  - **Aquila Elementary School**
  - **Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School**
  - **Peter Hobart Elementary School**
  - **Susan Lindgren Elementary School**

**August 2020 (Dates TBA) – Ride the Bus: Aquila and Peter Hobart Elementary Schools**

- Central Community Center, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**August 2020 (Dates TBA) – Ride the Bus: PSI and Susan Lindgren Elementary Schools**

- Central Community Center, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**September 10, 2020 – School Starts for Kindergarten Students**

*Grades 1-12 start September 8, 2020*

### Elementary School Tours Available

**Beginning Fall 2019, each of the four elementary schools will offer parents/guardians the opportunity to tour their neighborhood school and Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School. Tours will be provided during the school day to allow parents/guardians full access to the student experience. The tours will provide an opportunity to get a sense of the school environment and have questions answered.**

**During school tours you will:**

- Learn about the mission of the school and district
- Visit classrooms and learn about the curriculum
- Witness students engaged in learning with their teachers and other students
- Discuss how technology is integrated throughout the school to support learning
- Visit shared spaces in the school; spaces may include: Media Center, Gymnasium/ Cafeteria, Music, Art, Playground, and others
- Receive information about our safe and nurturing school environment
- Be introduced to school communications to support the school-to-home connection
- Hear about the Parent-Teacher Organization at the school, special events and activities to build community, and how you can participate
- Receive information about before and after school childcare options and enrichment activities

Visit the school district website at [www.bit.ly/SLPKTours2019](http://www.bit.ly/SLPKTours2019) to schedule a tour or call the school office at the numbers listed below to speak with someone directly:

- **Aquila Elementary School**: 952-928-6500
- **Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School**: 952-928-6555
- **Peter Hobart Elementary School**: 952-928-6600
- **Susan Lindgren Elementary School**: 952-928-6700
What Does Kindergarten Look Like in SLP?

Kindergarten is an important time in a child’s life as they start to grow emotionally, socially and academically.

We are committed to aligning instruction, curriculum, and assessment in a culturally relevant manner. Here is a glimpse into some of the key components that help us achieve that goal.

Literacy
It’s typical for Kindergarten students to spend 15-20 minutes, three to four days per week on guided reading, which is an instructional approach that involves the teacher working with a small group of students who demonstrate similar reading behaviors and can read similar levels of text. The goal of guided reading time is for students to use strategies independently on their way to becoming fluent, skilled readers. Other literacy concepts introduced and taught include the left to right progression, sentence structure, capitals and punctuation, phonics, site words, and segmenting (pulling words apart) and blending (putting them back together).

Math
St. Louis Park kindergarten classrooms use Math Expressions curriculum. Teachers use partner, small group and large group math sessions to focus on helping students build a strong number sense. Instruction is given in a number of subject areas including counting, skip-counting, comparing, patterns, addition, subtraction, time, sorting, measurement, money, and others. Kindergarten teachers also utilize the concept of “spiraling” in their math instruction. With spiraling, material is revisited repeatedly over months to ensure student mastery of skills.

Technology
Kindergarten teachers are constantly integrating new technologies through interactive presentation tools in their classroom, teacher controlled apps on personal devices including iPads, as well as outside connections to engage student learners.

Student Agency
Student agency refers to learning through activities that are meaningful and relevant to learners, driven by their interests, and often self-initiated with appropriate guidance from teachers. To put it simply, student agency gives students voice and often, choice, in how they learn.

Responsive Classroom
Responsive Classroom is an evidence-based approach to teaching that focuses on engaging academics, positive community, effective management, and developmental awareness.

Kindergarten Assistants
Each kindergarten classroom in St. Louis Park Public Schools has a four-hour Kindergarten Assistant. These staff members help the classroom teacher facilitate small group work as well as focusing on student needs for enrichment and academic support.

Example of a Typical Kindergarten Day:

15 minutes Complete independent tasks
20 minutes Morning Meeting (classroom community piece, greeting, sharing component, student voices)
25 minutes Large Group Read Aloud
5 minutes Bathroom Break
15 minutes PALS (Peer-Assisted Learning Strategies) Partner Reading
40 minutes Large and Small Group Math Lessons
40 minutes Recess and then Lunch
20 minutes Quiet/Relaxation Time
5 minutes Bathroom Break
80 minutes Afternoon Literacy Stations
60 minutes Specialists (Physical Education every day and a rotation for Media, Spanish (IB-PYP schools, and Music)
5 minutes Snack and self directed time
45 minutes WIN (What I Need) Time - Extra Math or Reading, ELL, Special Ed., Speech

End of day
Dismissal

Kindergarten Assistants
Two Styles of Learning

**IB-PYP Programme**

Aquila, Peter Hobart, and Susan Lindgren Elementary Schools are officially authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization to provide all students a rigorous and diverse education through the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB-PYP).

St. Louis Park joins together with schools from across the world in the IB-PYP to create educational opportunities that prepare students to be independent learners, understand different cultures, embrace challenges of the 21st century and thrive in a global society.

The IB-PYP curriculum emphasizes inquiry and provides an international experience while ensuring that state and national educational standards are met. The program also includes Spanish instruction for all students.

More information about the IB-PYP curriculum is available on pages 6-7.

**Spanish Immersion**

At Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School (PSI), students learn reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies and other subject areas while immersed in the Spanish language. The curricular content and outcomes are aligned with the District’s other elementary schools, however students are instructed primarily in Spanish.

At the end of fifth grade, students leave PSI speaking Spanish fluently and with mastery of the core academic subjects. Spanish culture comes alive at PSI through teachers who are native Spanish speakers or those who have traveled or lived abroad and have an excellent understanding of other cultures and the value of global education.

More information about Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School is available on pages 8-9.

**New school start-end times begin Fall 2020! See details above.**
Aquila, Peter Hobart, and Susan Lindgren Elementary Schools are all officially authorized by the International Baccalaureate Organization (IBO) to provide ALL students a rigorous and diverse education through the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB-PYP).

St. Louis Park joins together with schools from across the world to create educational experiences that prepare students to be independent learners, understand different cultures, embrace challenges of the 21st century and thrive in a global society.

Emphasis on Inquiry, Focus on Educational Standards

The IB-PYP curriculum emphasizes inquiry. IB-PYP provides an international experience while ensuring that state and national educational standards are met. The program also includes Spanish instruction for all students.

Every unit of inquiry is organized around a central idea. Each unit is designed to be:

Engaging: Of interest to the student, and involving them actively in their own learning.

Relevant: Learning in a context connected to the lives of students.

Challenging: Extending the prior knowledge and experience of the students to increase their competencies and understanding.

Significant: Contributing to an understanding of the transdisciplinary nature of the theme, and therefore to an understanding of commonality of human experiences.

All subject areas – language arts, math, the arts, social studies, science/technology, and personal/social/physical education – are taught using six transdisciplinary themes, (see page 7) which are applied across all subject areas. Students explore and deepen their understanding of the themes through shared experiences.

Key Concepts

IB is an internationally recognized curriculum for teaching students that focuses on the whole child. Students explore their subjects by asking questions:

• Form: What is it like?
• Function: How does it work?
• Causation: Why is it like it is?
• Change: How is it changing?
• Connection: How is it connected to other things?
• Perspective: What are the points of view?
• Responsibility: What is our responsibility?
• Reflection: How do we know?

Learner Profile

The learner profile represents a set of characteristics that are developed within our students to promote internationally-minded citizens. Our students demonstrate these skills throughout the IB Primary Years Programme, Middle Years Programme and Diploma Programme.
The Learner Profile enables students to become:
- Communicators
- Risk Takers
- Principled
- Thinkers
- Open-Minded
- Caring
- Balanced
- Knowledgeable
- Reflective
- Inquirers

Using these attributes, students will begin the journey of lifelong learning and become active participants in a global society.

Action Cycle
Successful inquiry may lead to action, initiated by the student as a result of the learning process. This action may extend the student’s own learning, the learning of others or it may have a wider social impact.

It is intended that the student taking action will grow from the experience, and that the process of taking action, or not, will contribute to each student establishing a set of values.

Information and Communication Technology
Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is a vital part of the PYP. It supports student inquiry and develops conceptual understanding.

ICT is a tool for learning included in all subject areas, rather than a separate class.

Students document their ICT learning and make it accessible to a wide audience, through the creation of: blogs, e-Folio, websites, podcasts, and movies; as well as general computer and web research.

ICT provides students opportunities for authentic learning. It offers access to a broad range of sources of information. When using ICT, students learn to use the tools critically and with integrity; paying particular attention to the validity and reliability of the information obtained.

Transdisciplinary Themes

Who we are: An inquiry into the nature of the self; beliefs and values; personal, physical, mental, social and spiritual health; human relationships including families, friends, communities, and cultures; rights and responsibilities; what it means to be human.

Where we are in place and time: An inquiry into orientation in place and time; personal histories; homes and journeys; the discoveries, explorations, and migrations of humankind; the relationships between and the interconnectedness of individuals and civilizations, from local and global perspectives.

How we express ourselves: An inquiry into the ways in which we discover and express ideas, feelings, nature, culture, beliefs and values; the ways in which we reflect on, extend and enjoy our creativity; our appreciation of the aesthetic.

How the world works: An inquiry into the natural world and its laws; the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment.

How we organize ourselves: An inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; economic activities and their impact on humankind and environments.

Sharing the planet: An inquiry into rights and responsibilities in the struggle to share finite resources with other people and with other living things; communities and the relationships within and between them; access to equal opportunities; peace and conflict resolution.
Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School (PSI) is one of St. Louis Park Public Schools’ four elementary schools. PSI is an option you may consider for your kindergarten student. If more applications are received than spots available, the district conducts a lottery (per St. Louis Park Public Schools’ School Board Policy #545).

Language immersion offers a unique and innovative educational opportunity.

What makes PSI unique?
PSI students are immersed in the Spanish language while they learn reading, writing, mathematics, science, social studies and other subject areas. The curricular content and outcomes are aligned with the District’s other elementary schools. However, students at PSI are primarily instructed in Spanish rather than English.

What are the long-term goals of students in a Spanish immersion program?
The school community works to help students:

• Master elementary content areas (i.e. English, science, social studies, math, etc.).
• Acquire a high level of proficiency in Spanish.
• Gain an understanding and appreciation of Spanish and Spanish speakers and their varied cultures.
• Develop a strong foundation in English.

Is language immersion a new concept?
Immersion has been used in the United States since the early 1970s and in Canada since the 1960s. Immersion schools in the United States have gained popularity as an effective method of language and content learning. In reality, the immersion concept has been around for thousands of years, since it is the way all of us learn our native language. In immersion, language learning is done in such a natural way that students are comfortable with the instruction. Children are excellent mimics. They are eager, curious and less self-conscious than adults in experimenting with and acquiring new languages.

How do children learn English at PSI?
In the Spanish classroom setting, starting on the first day of kindergarten, all instruction is in Spanish. Students may use English initially, but their classroom teacher responds in Spanish. As students become more accustomed to hearing and understanding the Spanish language, they are encouraged to express themselves in Spanish.

Starting in second grade, students begin formal English classes to work on comprehension, spelling, writing, grammar, and decoding for reading accuracy and fluency. In third grade, reading strategies are strengthened. Students continue to work on spelling rules and writing skills. The amount of English language arts instruction increases through fifth grade. The English teachers work in collaboration with the Spanish classroom teachers to plan together to help students in both languages.

PSI students have the same English language outcomes as the students in the other three St. Louis Park elementary schools. At every grade level, daily reading, in both English and Spanish, is essential for the child’s language development.
Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School

PSI has other English classes to support learners. English reading intervention is offered for students needing additional support and English Language Learner classes are offered for students whose home language is not English.

How will learning content in Spanish affect my child’s English language literacy?

Research consistently finds that the immersion experience actually enhances English language development. During the first few years of the immersion program, students’ English development may lag temporarily in reading and English language skills. However, by the end of elementary school this discrepancy disappears and immersion students tend to perform as well or better than their English-speaking peers. It is important to remember that the initial lag is temporary and to be expected.

What level of proficiency in Spanish will students have by the end of elementary school?

The goal is for students to speak Spanish fluently. They will also have strong enough reading, writing and listening skills to master the core academic subjects in Spanish.

Is a background in Spanish needed?

The majority of PSI students do not speak Spanish before beginning kindergarten. Teachers use instructional techniques, which help students understand what is being taught.

Are PSI teachers native Spanish speakers?

Many of our teachers grew up in Spanish speaking countries, and all classroom teachers have a high level of Spanish language proficiency. PSI classroom teachers have traveled or lived abroad and have an excellent understanding of other cultures and the value of global education.

In addition to the licensed teachers, PSI is fortunate to have Spanish speaking interns. These native Spanish speakers from around the world enrich our students’ learning by bringing different perspectives, cultures and accents to share with the students and the community. These interns are supported by the PSI Parent Teacher Organization (PTO).

What role do parents play in our school?

A dedicated family commitment is essential for children to experience the great benefits an immersion education yields. Parents support their children in many varied ways by:

- Making a long-term commitment to immersion education.
- Providing experiences outside of school to develop English language skills.
- Developing an understanding of immersion education.
- Encouraging daily reading in Spanish and English.
- Supporting daily attendance.

Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School has a strong and active Parent Teacher Organization (PTO). Many volunteer opportunities exist in the school to help support its learners.
Healthy Meals Help Students Learn and Grow

We know that when kids eat well, they are better learners and are more attentive in class. Our goal is to serve our students, teachers, staff, and community members a well-balanced and healthy diet that is also affordable.

Currently, the District is focused on updating our kitchen facilities to include a centralized kitchen to provide made-from-scratch meals for all students districtwide. The centralized kitchen will be located at the High School and is scheduled for completion in the Fall of 2021. Meals will be transported to all schools districtwide for cooking and serving.

Additionally, the school kitchens at Aquila Elementary School and Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School were updated in the Summer of 2019 to allow school nutrition staff to cook more healthy, made-from-scratch meals. The kitchens at Peter Hobart and Susan Lindgren Elementary Schools, and the Middle School will be upgraded in the Summer of 2020.

Free and Reduced Meals

Your child(ren) may qualify for free or reduced-price meals. To apply, visit www.slpschools.org/nutrition and download an application form. The numbers of students who qualify for free and reduced-price meals helps the school district qualify for supplemental education funds and discounts. If you have specific questions about free and reduced-price meals, please call the School Nutrition Office at 952-928-6146.

Central Clinic

Central Clinic is a free walk-in clinic for children from birth through high school who live in, or attend schools in, the St. Louis Park or Hopkins school districts. Central Clinic’s mission is to reduce barriers to health care for the children and youth of our community.

Central Community Center
6300 Walker Ave., St. Louis Park, MN
Clinic entrance is on 35th Street on the northwest side of the building (near the high school football field).
Phone: 952-993-1100
Web: www.slpschools.org/centralclinic
Open 1-4:30 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Clinic is closed from the end of school until approximately the last week of July, and during school holidays.

Health Services Cares for All Students to Support Student Achievement

The mission of Health Services is to create and sustain a school health system that promotes and supports student achievement, health and wellbeing.

Licensed School Nurses (LSNs) serve students across the District by providing nursing treatments; medication delegation, administration & supervision; and assesses health status and plans for students. They also provide health education, consultation, and referrals to community resources.

Health Aides are assigned to each school to provide immediate care for ill and injured students, administer medication (under the direction of the LSN), assist with vision screening, process immunization records, and maintain health records.

Wondering if your child is well enough to go to school? Looking for more health services information? Visit the school district website and click on Health Services under the Departments tab:

- Absences
- Chronic Conditions
- Communicable Diseases
- Health Forms
- Immunizations
- Injuries
- Medications

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Early Childhood Screening

Early Learning Services conducts screenings for St. Louis Park children to help identify those who may benefit from early childhood services before they enter school, and connects them with the appropriate resources and programs.

- This free service is required by the State of Minnesota for children 3-5 years old.
- Screening includes a vision, hearing, and developmental assessment, as well as an opportunity to discuss any family circumstance that you feel may affect your child’s learning readiness.
- Screenings are conducted September to June at Central Clinic (enter from 35th St. and Wooddale Ave., entrance #7 – Central Clinic). Appointments are required.

To register for screening, go online to www.slpcommunityed.com, choose the “Birth to Five” category and then choose Early Childhood Screening. Or you can register by calling 952-928-6774.

Immunizations

Minnesota Statutes Section 121A.15 requires children enrolled in a Minnesota school to be immunized against certain diseases, allowing for specified exceptions. A form with information about immunization requirements will be included in your kindergarten registration packet. Students not in compliance—i.e., their immunizations are not up-to-date—will be excluded from school.

A copy of the student’s current immunization record must be on file at their school. Check now with your family doctor or clinic to see if your child(ren) has all the immunizations required for their age. If the student receives an immunization during the summer months, you can send it by mail or fax, or drop it off at the school during regular business hours. If you have questions or do not have insurance, contact the nurse at your child’s school for assistance.

St. Louis Park Public Schools has joined the growing number of school districts throughout the state of Minnesota who participates in the “No Shots-No School Program”. This program has schools and local clinics working together to see that all students in our district are properly immunized before starting school in the fall. The program provides barrier free access to immunizations for families without insurance and/or a family clinic. Parents may get a legal exemption for medical reasons or conscientiously held beliefs.

Have questions?
The links on our website provide detailed information on required immunizations and a form to complete and return to your school’s health office. Visit www.bit.ly/SLPimmunizations for more information.

For more information about immunizations, visit the Minnesota Department of Health website at www.health.state.mn.us.
## Kindergarten Expectations & Learning Activities

By the end of the school year, we expect kindergarteners to be able to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Literacy</th>
<th>Mathematics</th>
<th>Science</th>
<th>Social Studies</th>
<th>Other Subjects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Identify letter sounds  
• Identify characters, setting, author and illustrator  
• Recognize and name letters  
• Rhyme words  
• Write upper and lower-case letters in alphabetical order  
• Apply knowledge of letter sounds to writing  
• Retell, predict, and sequence texts read aloud  
• Follow verbal, multiple step directions  
• Listen to classmates and adults  
• Understand and use question words  
• Use new vocabulary learned in class | • Identify numbers 0-31  
• Write numbers in order 0-31  
• Make and explain a graph  
• Count backwards from 20  
• Add and subtract one-digit numbers  
• Identify patterns  
• Name basic two and three-dimensional shapes | • Explain how personal use of materials impacts his/her environment  
• Observe and describe properties of living and non-living things  
• Describe the basic needs of living things  
• Identify patterns in nature (seasons, life cycles)  
• Sort and classify objects based on a property | • Recognize that natural resources are used in the production of goods  
• Sequence events chronologically  
• State full name, address, and phone number  
• Name school, city, and state | Kindergarteners experience a wide range of learning opportunities that support and enrich academic success. In addition to the subjects listed above, students also participate in art, health, physical education, Spanish, media and technology classes. |
| Learning activities to do at home (the following strategies can be practiced in your family’s home language as well as in English): | • Retell events of a story  
• Draw a picture and explain details of the drawing when asked  
• Pick out own name from a list  
• Is attentive when read to for at least 10 minutes  
• Use finger to point to words in text  
• Play rhyming games  
• Tell stories  
• Identify letters and numbers  
• Assemble puzzles | • Sing counting songs  
• Sort coins  
• When you are waiting in line, count how many people are in front of you, in back of you  
• Count snack crackers  
• Count anything and everything  
• Point out shapes and patterns on signage, packaging, and everyday items | • Draw a picture and write words describing nature  
• Learn what is needed to stay healthy  
• Record plant growth  
• Talk about how shapes and objects are the same or different | • Sharing equipment and tools  
• Discussing feelings  
• Experimenting with music and sound  
• Finding and communicating information in different ways |
Kindergarten Enrollment Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the age requirement to enter kindergarten?
Children who are five years old on or before Sept. 1 of the school year for which they are registering are eligible to begin kindergarten.

Q. What immunizations are required?
Minnesota Statute 121A.15 requires that all children must be immunized against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, hepatitis B series and varicella (or a record of chicken pox.). See page 11 of this guide for more details.

Q. What if my child is not attending kindergarten in St. Louis Park this fall?
It is very helpful to the District’s future planning if we know of your decision not to enroll your child. Please call the District Office at 952-928-6000 to let us know if you are not planning to enroll your child in kindergarten. If you wish to enroll in St. Louis Park Public Schools at a later time, stop by the District Office to complete your registration.

Q. When will I find out who my child’s teacher will be?
Because of staffing and enrollment changes made throughout the summer, class lists are not finalized until August. Specific teacher assignments are shared with families at that time.

Q. How can I get involved at my child’s school?
Each K-5 elementary school in the district has an active PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) that organizes after-school events and coordinates volunteer opportunities. Find a link to your school’s PTO under the “Parent Resources” tab of your school website.

Q. How can I learn more about my child’s school?
You can request a tour of the building by using the contact information listed on page 3 of this brochure.
Health Services
St. Louis Park Public Schools Early Learning Programs
Preschool Helps Prepare Children for Kindergarten

Why Choose St. Louis Park Early Learning Programs?

• Professional, highly qualified, nurturing educators
• All classes have received the highest Parent Aware rating offered through Minnesota Department of Education
• Part-day and full-day options
• Proven effective kindergarten readiness curriculum provides instruction through play in all learning domains; social emotional development, science, social studies, fine arts, music, physical development, spoken language and vocabulary, emergent reading, emergent writing and mathematics
• Diverse community of learners, inclusive classrooms
• Aligned with St. Louis Park Public Schools kindergarten program to ensure a smooth transition to elementary school

For Part-Day Preschool Options:
• Visit www.slpcommunityed.com/birth-five/
• Call 952-928-6785
• Stop in Room 109, Central Community Center, Community Education Office
• To schedule a program tour contact Heidi Middleton at 952-928-6785 or middleton.heidi@slpschools.org

For Full-Day Preschool Options:
• Visit www.slpcommunityed.com/child-care/
• Call 952-928-6764
• Stop in the Kids Place Office inside Door 21 at Central Community Center
• To schedule a program tour contact Kim Rosholt at 952-738-1036 or rosholt.kimberly@slpschools.org

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE)
Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) offers classes for children ages birth through five and their parents or caregivers. Adults and children enjoy play and learning activities together under the guidance of a licensed early childhood teacher. For part of the class, parents participate in a discussion group led by a licensed parent educator. Families typically attend one day per week; daytime, evening and Saturday classes are available.

Questions about ECFE? Call Marjean Altemeier at 952-928-6763 or e-mail her at altemeier.marjean@slpschools.org.

Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)
ECSE serves young children with identified special needs and their families. For children age birth through two ECSE staff partners with parents/caregivers and provides services in their home, childcare or Early Childhood Classroom. Children ages three through five receive services within an inclusive Early Learning classroom where they learn alongside their typically developing peers. Many of these classrooms are co-taught by Early Learning and ECSE educators.

Part-Day Preschool Tuition Assistance
Income eligibility chart based on family income. There are limited funds available. Note: Scale subject to 2020 adjustments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Size</th>
<th>Annual Family Income (95% Discount)</th>
<th>Annual Family Income (70% Discount)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>$21,983</td>
<td>$31,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$27,729</td>
<td>$39,461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>$33,475</td>
<td>$47,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>$39,221</td>
<td>$55,815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>$44,967</td>
<td>$63,992</td>
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<tr>
<td>For each additional family member add:</td>
<td>$5,746</td>
<td>$8,177</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About St. Louis Park Public Schools

Achieving Success One Student at a Time

St. Louis Park Public Schools is a nationally recognized suburban public school district, serving approximately 4,600 students.

The District includes four elementary schools (Gr. K-5), one middle school (Gr. 6-8) and one high school (Gr. 9-12). The District educates children ages 0-5 and their families through Early Learning programs and services provided by Community Education. School age childcare and adult programs are also offered through Community Education. An award-winning senior program provides activities and engagement for seniors.

The St. Louis Park Public Schools and the City of St. Louis Park boundaries are nearly identical and both public entities work closely and collaboratively to support residents of all ages. The City of St. Louis Park is a first-tier Minneapolis suburb of approximately 49,000 residents. Both the schools and the city are growing. Over the past ten years, the student population has grown from approximately 4,200 students to nearly 4,600 students, with similar growth projected to continue.

Our Mission

As a caring, diverse community with a tradition of putting its children first, we will ensure all students attain their highest level of achievement; prepare all students to contribute to society; offer high quality opportunities for lifelong learning; provide multiple pathways to excellence; challenge all learners to meet high standards; and provide a safe and nurturing environment that energizes and enhances the spirit.

Strategic Plan

The 2015-2020 Strategic Plan guides the work of the school district. It includes four key strategies – each with multiple results to be achieved – all of which are measured to ensure that the mission is achieved.

**STRATEGY #1: Teaching & Learning**

Grounded in our belief that all students can achieve our mission, we will continually evaluate and systemically implement student outcomes by aligning instruction, curriculum, and assessment in a culturally relevant manner.

**STRATEGY #2: Structures & Systems**

We will align our structures and systems to our core values and develop and support all employees in order to achieve our mission and mission outcomes.

**STRATEGY #3: Community Collaboration**

We will collaborate with our diverse communities authentically and systemically to build collective ownership and accountability to achieve our mission and mission outcomes in accordance with our core values.

**STRATEGY #4: Facilities**

We will ensure that our facilities are consistent with the needs of our learners and our community.

St. Louis Park Public Schools Quick Facts 2019

- **92%**
  - Four-year graduation rate
- **23.6**
  - Average elementary school class size
- **220**
  - National Merit Scholars since the year 2000
- **6**
  - Number of schools including four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school
- **775**
  - Number of school district employees, including 307 teachers with advanced degrees

For more facts and figures about St. Louis Park Public Schools, visit www.bit.ly/SLPQuickFacts.

Connect with St. Louis Park Public Schools!

Facebook: @stlouisparkpublicschools
Twitter: @SLPublicSchools
Instagram: stlouisparkpublicschools
Web: www.slpschools.org
Class of 2033: It’s time to get ready for Kindergarten!

Which neighborhood school does your child attend?

Not sure which school your kindergartner will attend? The district boundaries map to the right gives residents a general idea of elementary school boundaries. Students from across the School District attend Park Spanish Immersion Elementary School.

New school start-end times begin Fall 2020! See details above.

All phone numbers are 952 area code unless otherwise noted.