




**BES**

**BURNSVILLE  
EAGAN  
SAVAGE**   
**DISTRICT 191**  
Each Student  
Real-World Ready

# KINDERGARTEN

Family guide for 2016-17 school year



## Welcome to KINDERGARTEN

Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191 is pleased to offer full-day kindergarten to all families at no cost. As academic expectations continue to increase, a full-day of kindergarten is an excellent way to build a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning. We are excited about your child starting kindergarten!

Our kindergarten program is comprehensive, creative and centered on students and their academic, social and emotional success. Our teachers are nurturing, highly skilled and focused on helping each student grow.

### What we learn

Kindergarten children learn and acquire skills in different ways and at different rates. Kindergarten teachers take these differences into consideration when planning learning experiences. Students at all levels are encouraged to develop skills of independent learning, problem solving, cooperation with others, making wise decisions and transferring learning to future situations.

Kindergarten classes also promote the life skills of respect, responsibility and safety. The curriculum is consistently

sensitive and appreciative of the wonderful diversity within our community. The unique cultural, religious and life experiences of our students enrich the curriculum.

To start the school year in the best way, kindergarten students begin school two days later than older students. That's so kindergarten teachers can meet their students during individual 30-minute sessions. These meetings allow teachers to understand the academic needs of their students before school even begins. It's a positive jump start to kindergarten!

## KINDERGARTEN Enrollment options

In addition to the neighborhood schools (where students are assigned based on their home address), the district also has three elementary magnet schools that offer a specialized academic focus in addition to the district's core curriculum. Acceptance to magnet schools is based on space and criteria.

- Harriet Bishop Elementary, Savage: Gifted and talented magnet school for kindergarten through grade 5.
- William Byrne Elementary, Burnsville: STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) magnet school for kindergarten through grade 5.
- Rahn Elementary, Eagan: Arts & technology magnet school for kindergarten through grade 5.

For more information about magnet schools, visit the district's website at [www.isd191.org](http://www.isd191.org) or call the Welcome Center at 952-707-4180.

### OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open enrollment is the process by which families can apply for enrollment to a school in a district other than the district in which they live. An approved open enrollment agreement is valid until the child graduates from high school. For more information, call 952-707-4180.

### VARIANCE

Variance refers to the option for students who live in District 191 to attend a District 191 school other than their neighborhood school. For more information, call 952-707-4180.



## KINDERGARTEN Prep checklist

Are you wondering what you need to do to get ready for kindergarten? Keep yourself on schedule with this comprehensive checklist.

### EARLY LEARNING PREP

- Participate in Early Childhood Family Education through District 191 Community Education. [communityed191.org](http://communityed191.org) / 952-707-4150.

*Refer to page 6 for information about other early learning opportunities.*

### REGISTRATION PREP

- Schedule an early childhood screening for your child. Call 952-707-4100 for an appointment. Save the report for registration.
- Make sure your child's immunizations are up to date.

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Registration form for new students (available at [isd191.org](http://isd191.org))
- Early childhood screening report (See "Registration Prep" above for more info.)
- Immunization record
- Birth certificate or other legal proof-of-age document
- Proof of home address (not driver's license)

### HOW TO REGISTER

- Register your child online at [isd191.enrollview.org](http://isd191.enrollview.org), OR
- Register your child at the district's Welcome Center in the Diamondhead Education Center, 200 W. Burnsville Pkwy. 952-707-4180
- Attend a kindergarten information night at your child's school. See the dates at [www.isd191.org/kindergarten](http://www.isd191.org/kindergarten).

## KINDERGARTEN Registration

### HOW TO REGISTER

Registration for all new students in kindergarten through grade 12 takes place online at [isd191.enrollview.org](http://isd191.enrollview.org). Registration can also be done in person at the district's Welcome Center, located in Diamondhead Education Center at 200 W. Burnsville Parkway.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- Visit [www.isd191.org/enroll](http://www.isd191.org/enroll)
- Call 952-707-4180
- Email [welcomecenter@isd191.org](mailto:welcomecenter@isd191.org)

## EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING: What is it?

Early childhood screening to check vision, hearing and development is required before a child enters kindergarten. The screening is offered by District 191 at no cost to families. If you have not received information about screening by the time your child is four years old, you may schedule an appointment by calling District 191 Community Education at 952-707-4100.

*“I especially like their personalities, how eager they are to learn, and how sweet they are to each other.”*

—TRACY FARRELL, KINDERGARTEN TEACHER

## Frequently asked questions

**Q: When are children old enough to attend kindergarten?** **A:** Children who will reach their fifth birthday by Sept. 1 are eligible to enroll in kindergarten for that school year.

**Q: How do I register my child for kindergarten?**

**A:** You may register your child online at [isd191.enrollview.org](http://isd191.enrollview.org) or in person at the district's Welcome Center in Diamondhead Education Center. For more information about registration, contact us at 952-707-4180 or [welcomecenter@isd191.org](mailto:welcomecenter@isd191.org).

**Q: How do I know which school my**

**child will attend?** **A:** Use the SchoolFinder feature on the district's website at [www.isd191.org/schoolfinder](http://www.isd191.org/schoolfinder), or call the district at 952-707-4180.

**Q: If we don't reside within District 191, can my children still attend schools here?**

**A:** Yes. We welcome all students who wish to attend our schools. For more information about open enrollment and other attendance options, please contact the Welcome Center at 952-707-4180.

**Q: What is a typical kindergarten day like?**

**A:** Generally the day starts with greeting, sharing, news, and announcements. Students are involved in reading-related activities for about two hours each day and math-related activities for about an hour. Students also work with specialists in areas of physical education, music and more. There are snacks and lunch and usually time for free play. There may also be rest time, especially at the beginning of the school year.

**Q: How can I find out more about District 191?**

**A:** Visit our district website at [www.isd191.org](http://www.isd191.org) or call the Welcome Center at 952-707-4180.





## Help your child get ready for KINDERGARTEN

The transition to school is easier for children when they are able to do some of these activities:

### GET READY TO READ:

- Listen to stories and nursery rhymes
- Look at picture books
- Say first and last name
- Write first name
- Recognize first name when in print
- Be familiar with some letters of the alphabet
- Follow simple directions

### GET READY FOR MATH:

- Practice counting
- Be familiar with some numbers
- Be familiar with basic shapes like square, triangle and circle
- Sort blocks or objects by color, size or shape
- Talk about concepts like “full and empty;” “high and low;” “long and short” as child plays with blocks, fills containers, etc.

### GET READY FOR FUN:

- Practice using crayons, pencils, scissors and glue
- Practice sharing
- Help put things away after play
- Be familiar with names of colors

### GET READY TO HELP MYSELF:

- Practice with zippers, buttons and shoelaces
- Use a tissue to cover coughs and sneezes
- Recognize possessions such as jacket, lunch bag, etc.
- Eat without assistance
- Take coat off and on
- Use toilet, flush and wash hands independently

## Early Childhood Learning Opportunities

### EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) supports parents in their efforts to promote the healthy growth and development of their children. The ECFE program offers a wide variety of classes and events, including:

- Once-a-week playtimes
- Programs for English language learners
- Spanish family class
- Special events and community outreach

### SCHOOL READINESS PROGRAMS

School Readiness programs help preschool children and their families get ready for kindergarten. Programs include:

**Tiny Tots:** a half-day, year-round preschool program that children may attend one, two or three days each week. Emphasis is on social and emotional capabilities and learning through play.

**Kindergarten Jumpstart:** A typical all-day kindergarten classroom experience designed to spark children's interest in learning. Students will learn about school bus safety, meet people who work in the elementary school and learn what it's like to be in kindergarten.

**Ready to Grow:** A full-day program for children, ages six weeks to three years, that offers a quality early care and education experience in a stimulating environment that strives to be an extension of the home.

**Ready to Learn:** A full-day early care and education program for children ages 3 to 5. Focus is on the development of school readiness skills with the goal of creating a smooth and successful transition to the district's kindergarten program.

**READY! For Kindergarten:** A free program designed to help families prepare their preschool children with the skills needed to start and stay at grade level throughout their academic career. Classes encourage parents to talk, sing, read and play with their children in simple ways that foster pre-literacy, pre-math and social-emotional skills. Call Community Education at 952-707-4150 to speak with the coordinator of READY! for Kindergarten.

Community Education offers many opportunities to help prepare young children for kindergarten. For more information on these and other programs, visit [www.communityed191.org](http://www.communityed191.org) or call **952-707-4150**.

## KINDERGARTEN Services

### BUS TRANSPORTATION

Bus transportation is available to:

- All elementary students who live one mile or more from school
- All secondary students who live 1.5 miles or more from school

### DISTANCE FROM HOME TO BUS STOP:

- Elementary students should not walk farther than three-tenths of a mile to their bus stop
- Secondary students should not walk more than seven-tenths of a mile to their stops

Exceptions to these distances may be necessary due to geographical factors as determined by the Board of Education and/or the Transportation Department. If you have transportation questions, please call 952-707-2069.

### EARLY ENTRANCE

Initial admission to kindergarten is based on the child turning age 5 on or before Sept. 1. Special consideration may be permitted for early entrance of children who turn five in September or October and who demonstrate superior academic readiness. Parents interested in early entrance for their children must provide a written request to the principal of their child's school by April 1. Timelines may be



waived for students new to the district who are potentially eligible. Contact the enrollment office at 952-707-4115 for more information on the process.

#### **SCHOOL MEALS**

Breakfast and lunch are available at all schools, and breakfast is provided free for all kindergarten students. School meals are nutritious, a great value and a huge convenience for busy families. Parents are expected to prepay for meals, or payment must be received when students receive meals.

Based on family income, students may qualify for free- or reduced-price meals by completing an application. Applications must be approved before receiving benefits. For more information, go to the district website [www.isd191.org/foodservice](http://www.isd191.org/foodservice), or call 952-707-2051.

#### **TRANSITION FROM EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION AND RELATED SERVICES**

Special education and related services are available at all elementary schools for kindergarten children on an Individual Education Program (IEP). The child's IEP team, which includes parents, determines the type and amount of special education and related services for each child.

Parents of a child who is age-eligible and receives early childhood special education services may participate in a transition meeting with elementary school staff. The IEP team determines the special education placement, which may impact the kindergarten location for some students. Most often, students will attend their neighborhood school.

Some children may need a more specialized or focused program to meet their needs. These programs are located at a few elementary schools. Decisions for placement in programs are made by the child's IEP team.


#### **BEFORE- AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE**

The Community Education Project K.I.D.S. program offers extensive before- and after-school programs for students in elementary school. A balanced curriculum offers academic enrichment, social skill development and recreation activities in a safe, fun and secure setting.

Project K.I.D.S. is nationally accredited for high quality by the National After-School Association. For more information, go to [www.communityed191.org](http://www.communityed191.org) or call Community Education at 952-707-4150.



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