



Centennial School District #12 Kindergarten Questions and Answers

Revised Jan. 11, 2008

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What are the three kindergarten options?

1. District Kindergarten – Half-Day Kindergarten

This is the successful kindergarten program provided to all students in the Centennial School District. The kindergarten teacher uses curriculum that supports the learner outcomes designed for all kindergarten classes in the Centennial School District. Your neighborhood school will invite you to a registration night in the winter. Students attend school for a half-day—either in the morning or afternoon. Each school serves designated areas of the district and students are assigned to the school and the time that serves their neighborhood. Approximately 17-21 kindergarten students work with one kindergarten teacher for half of a school day. Bus transportation is available for children in the school's attendance area who live 1/2 or more miles from school.

Cost: No fee.

Registration: See specific schedule for specific dates and times for each elementary school.

2. K-Time Kids Club - Half-Day Kindergarten / Half-Day K-Time through Centennial Community Services

This program provides a choice for parents who want their child to attend his/her neighborhood school and have a high quality care option that complements the district's half-day program. Designed specifically for kindergarten-age children, there is a planned curriculum focused on developmental readiness along with incidental learning through play in group activities. The program is based on the whole child—social, emotional, physical, and cognitive. The day is structured to allow kindergartners to practice social skills, make choices, discover new interests, practice and reinforce academic skills they are learning in school, and to have fun. One Kids Club Site Manager works with up to 12 students. K-Time Kids Club is available to all kindergarten students attending Centennial Schools with the flexibility of attending from one to five days per week.

Cost: Approximately \$1,892 for the school year for five days of care per week (payable monthly) plus a \$10 registration fee. K-Time qualifies for county childcare assistance. Parents can elect to have their child attend from one to five days per week.

Registration: Applications will be turned in with other registration materials at the winter registration date. All materials must be in prior to April 11.

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3. Kindergarten Plus (All Day)

This program provides a choice for parents who want their child to attend kindergarten for a full day. Imagine the fun and challenge of an expanded day of kindergarten learning with a licensed teacher. One teacher works with 19–21 students using the curriculum that supports learner outcomes designed for all kindergartners in the district. The full day program offers time to explore topics in depth and allows for a closer working relationship between the teacher and parents. There are also opportunities to provide more attention to children’s social skills. Kindergarten Plus will be held at each elementary school if there is sufficient enrollment. If there are more applications than openings at a site and openings are available in another school, parents will be offered the option of attending Kindergarten Plus at that school and provide their own transportation.

Cost: The fee is \$2,800 for the school year (payable in monthly installments) plus a \$130 registration fee. Tax credits or deductions are available through the state based on your tax situation. Limited scholarships are available for families that qualify for free or reduced cost meals and have an application on file with the school district’s Nutrition Office.

Registration: Applications will be turned in with other registration materials at the winter registration date. All materials must be in prior to April 11.

- **Transportation** for Kindergarten Plus and K-Time Kids Club is available for all students who attend the school that serves their neighborhood and live 1/2 mile or more from school.
- **Before and after school childcare** is available through Kids Club as early as 6 a.m. and as late as 6 p.m. at an additional cost. Kids Club qualifies for county childcare assistance. Tax credits or deductions are available through the state based on your tax situation.

When is Kindergarten Registration?

Registration packets will be mailed December 7, 2007 and registration dates are as follows:

Elementary School	Day/Date	Time
Blue Heron	Tuesday, January 29	5 or 6:30 p.m.
Centennial	Thursday, February 7	5:30-7 p.m.
Centerville	Thursday, January 17	4-6 p.m.
Golden Lake	Thursday, January 31	5:30-7 p.m.
Rice Lake	Thursday, January 17	5 or 7 p.m.

What kindergarten program is available to all students?

The traditional school district sponsored half-day program is available to all kindergarten students. The full-day programs – Kindergarten Plus and K-Time Kids Club – are optional and fee-based.

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What option is best for my child?

The traditional half-day kindergarten, half-day K-Time Kids Club, and Kindergarten Plus (All Day) programs each provide an outstanding start to a child’s elementary school experience. Each program will prepare them for first grade, and each provides a viable option for parents seeking the best setting for their child. Parents must consider their child’s unique needs, interests, and developmental level to select the most appropriate option.

What does state funding cover?

Current state funding provides a half-day kindergarten experience for all Minnesota children. Kindergarten Plus (All Day) and K-Time Kids Club extend the half day experience. Since neither program is part of the normal, state-funded school day, they are offered through Centennial Community Services for a fee.

What are the costs for each program?

Half-Day Kindergarten	K-Time Kids Club (Half-Day Kindergarten / Half-Day K-Time)	Kindergarten Plus (All Day)
No cost	\$10 registration fee Approximately \$11 per day (annual fee of \$1,892.)	\$130 registration fee and deposit (\$100 goes to last months fee). Annual fee of \$2,800.

What is the timeline for 2008-09?

November	Kindergarten information session
December	Registration packets mailed to parent/guardian
January/February	Kindergarten registration at elementary schools
April 11	Deadline to register for Kindergarten Plus and K-Time Kids Club

Is there extra play time in Kindergarten Plus (All Day) and K-Time Kids Club (Half-Day Kindergarten / Half-Day K-Time)?

Yes.

What are the features of the Kindergarten Plus (All Day) program?

- Extension of the half-day kindergarten program curriculum
- Access to additional specialist instruction that might include physical education, music, technology, and/or media center
- A single classroom teacher for the entire day
- Lunch and recess at school
- The same start/end times and a daily schedule similar to children in grades 1-5
- Time to explore topics in greater depth

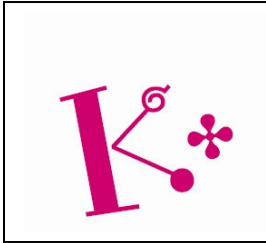
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How does Kindergarten Plus (All Day) compare to K-Time Kids Club (Half-Day Kindergarten / Half-Day K-Time)?

- Program curriculum complements the half-day kindergarten program
- Students spend half of their day with a kindergarten teacher and the other half with a Kids Club Site Manager
- Lunch and recess at school
- The same start/end times as children in grades 1-5



Will Kindergarten Plus stress more academics?

No. The extended day program will enrich what is already taught in kindergarten. It is not meant to be more rigorous, an accelerated kindergarten, or a program for select or high potential students. It is for Centennial kindergartners who are ready for an all-day experience and whose parents want them to spend a full school day with peers and their teacher.

Will Kindergarten Plus (All Day) have regular gym or music time?

While the program will look a little different at each elementary school, Kindergarten Plus (All Day) students will have additional access to specialist content that might include physical education, music, technology, and media center.

What does the K-Time Kids Club (Half-Day Kindergarten / Half-Day K-Time) schedule look like?

K-Time Kids Club features a planned curriculum focused on developmental readiness along with incidental learning through play in group activities. The program is based on the whole child – social, emotional, physical, and cognitive. The day is structured to allow kindergartners to practice social skills, make choices, discover new interests, practice and reinforce academic skills learned in half-day kindergarten, and to have fun. K-Time Kids Club is tailored to fit the specifics of each school with a daily schedule that might include story and circle time, music and movement activities, academic activities that support what kindergartners are currently learning in half-day kindergarten, and station time.

Will students in Kindergarten Plus (All Day) be ahead of other students when they get to first grade?

Student achievement levels depend on a number of variables. However, district staff believe that students who participate in the Kindergarten Plus (All Day) program will benefit greatly.

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What are the options for parents who only want a full day program on two or three days each week?

The K-Time Kids Club option, added onto the district's half-day kindergarten program, allows the flexibility of as little as one day up to five days of care per week. Drop in care is also available.

Could families use Kindergarten Plus (All Day) two or three days a week and K-Time Kids Club (Half-Day Kindergarten / Half-Day K-Time) the opposite days, or any combination of the three choices?

Parents must select one of the three options: Half-Day (every day), Half-Day with K-Time Kids Club (which offers flexibility in number of days per week), or Kindergarten Plus (All Day everyday).

How much will it cost for Kindergarten Plus (All Day) and K-Time Kids Club (Half-Day Kindergarten / Half-Day K-Time)?

For Kindergarten Plus (All Day), all registrants will pay a \$130 registration fee. Full cost for the program is \$2,800 per year payable in monthly installments. Families who qualify for reduced lunch pay \$1,400. Families who qualify for free lunch pay \$700. Payments are due at the beginning of each month.

Families interested in the K-Time Kids Club option pay a \$10 registration fee. Cost for five days of care per week is about \$1,892 per year payable in monthly installments. Care is flexible and offered from one to five days per week. Fee assistance is available to qualifying families through Anoka County Childcare Assistance.

Will each elementary school have all three programs?

Yes, if there is sufficient enrollment. Depending on available space, students who have registered for a site that does not receive sufficient enrollment will be given priority to attend a Kindergarten Plus (All Day) program at a different site.

How are special education services provided in Kindergarten Plus (All Day)?

Students in the Kindergarten Plus (All Day) program who qualify for special education services will receive the same amount of services as if they were enrolled in the half-day program.

Do the all day options qualify for a tax credit or deductions?

Tax credits or deductions are available through the state based on an individual's tax situation. For more information, call the Minnesota Department of Revenue at 651-296-3781 or look for Individual Income Tax Fact Sheet #8, K-12 Education Subtraction and Credit on the state website at www.taxes.state.mn.us/taxes/individ.

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Is there a sliding fee schedule for low income families in Kindergarten Plus (All Day)?

Families who qualify for free or reduced lunch may elect to enroll in Kindergarten Plus (All Day) and pay a fee of either half the rate (\$1,400) if they qualify for reduced lunch, or one-fourth the rate (\$700) if they qualify for free lunch. Verification of qualification will be made during the school year. Eligibility is based on federal income guidelines, which are listed in the Back-to-School issue of the district newsletter, The Observer, along with a Free and Reduced Lunch enrollment form. The enrollment guidelines for 2008-09 are typically not available earlier. The guidelines and application, when available, will be sent to families upon request by calling 763-792-6006. A copy of the guidelines for 2007-08 is available for review, and a sample is listed above. The \$130 enrollment fee is required of all families. Families who find out they do not qualify for the reduced rate after they apply will be refunded the entire enrollment fee if that is the reason for their withdrawal from the program.

Household Size	Annual Income	Monthly Income
1	\$18,130	\$1,511
2	24,420	2,035
3	30,710	2,560
4	37,000	3,084
5	43,290	3,608

How does the lunch process work?

Students in Kindergarten Plus (All Day) attend lunch supervised by school staff, just as students do in grades 1-5. K-Time Kids Club (Half-Day Kindergarten / Half-Day K-Time) students attend lunch with Kids Club staff. Children may bring their own lunch, or parents may set up a lunch account with Centennial Nutrition Services. Parents deposit money into this account, children enter a PIN code at lunch, and the cost of lunch or milk is deducted from the account. Instructions along with the PIN will be mailed to parents in August. Account balances can be checked and paid on line at www.paypams.com.

Can students be removed from Kindergarten Plus (All Day) or K-Time Kids Club (Half-Day Kindergarten / Half-Day K-Time)?

Persistent behavior problems can result in termination of the kindergarten agreement and removal from the program.

How are kindergarten bills paid?

Monthly payments are due at the first of the month for Kindergarten Plus (All Day) and the 23rd of the month for K-Time Kids Club (Half-Day Kindergarten / Half-Day K-Time). Bills may be paid by check only, which can be given to the Kindergarten Plus (All Day) teacher or K-Time Kids Club Site Manager who will forward the payment to the District Office. Credit card payments are under consideration.

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What's the difference between Kindergarten Plus (All Day) and K-Time Kids Club (Half-Day Kindergarten / Half-Day K-Time) other than cost?



Students in Kindergarten Plus (All Day) will remain with their kindergarten teacher the entire day and may spend some time with teacher specialists. The teacher will extend and enrich the kindergarten curriculum. The ratio is between 17 and 21:1.

Students in K-Time Kids Club (Half-Day Kindergarten / Half-Day K-Time) will transition at mid-day between their kindergarten teacher and Kids Club Site Manager. The Kids Club curriculum complements the half-day kindergarten curriculum. Site managers have experience in child care, most have degrees, and some are licensed teachers. The ratio is between 8 and 12:1.

Which teachers will be teaching full day?

Once registration for Kindergarten Plus (All Day) is completed and sections/buildings are identified for the program, teachers will be assigned and/or hired according to established district parameters. The deadline to receive registrations is April 11.

How many students are needed for each kindergarten option?

The program minimum for Kindergarten Plus (All Day) is 17 students. The program minimum for K-Time Kids Club (Half-Day Kindergarten / Half-Day K-Time) is 8 students.

What if there are more registrations than spaces for Kindergarten Plus (All Day)?

If a random drawing is needed, priority will be given in three stages: applications within one's home attendance area; applications within the district, but outside one's home attendance area, and finally, applications from outside the district. Within each category, applicants who meet the April 11 deadline will be randomized and assigned available or waiting list spaces.

Will the Kindergarten Plus (All Day) students be taught by their kindergarten teacher in the same room all day?

Yes.

Where will Kindergarten Plus (All Day) and K-Time Kids Club (Half-Day Kindergarten / Half-Day K-Time) be housed?

Depending on enrollment, both programs are housed in an elementary school classroom.

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If a Kindergarten Plus (All Day) program has insufficient enrollment at one school, will those children miss out or go to another school?

Depending on enrollment, it is possible that some kindergartners will have the option of attending a Kindergarten Plus (All Day) program at an elementary school that is not their neighborhood school. Parents who select this option must provide transportation for their child both to and from the elementary school.

Can students requiring special education services attend Kindergarten Plus (All Day)?

Yes. Kindergarten Plus is open to all students. Students in the Kindergarten Plus (All Day) program who qualify for special education will receive the same amount of services as they would receive in the half-day program.

What is required of a child who is entering kindergarten?

Children are required to be 5-years-old by September 1 of the school calendar year in which the child attends school.

Due to the extended kindergarten option, will there be a larger than expected gap between students when they enter first grade?

To the same extent that schools have always seen differentiation, it is expected to continue.

Please contact Maggie Washenberger at mwashenberger@isd12.org or at 763-792-6006 if you have further questions.

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