Starting Your Child In Kindergarten

1010 W. Broadway
Monticello, MN 55362
763-272-2400

Pinewood Elementary School
Academically:
Your child will be expected to have learned the following prior to entering kindergarten or by the end of September: name all 26 capital and lower case letter names in random order, count independently to 20, identify at least 8 letter sounds, recognizes and names basic colors (red, orange, green, blue, purple, black, brown, white, pink), name four basic shapes (triangle, square, circle, and rectangle), form letters in his/her name, recognizes his/her first name, create and extend an AB pattern.

Gold Teaching Strategies (Social/Emotional/skills): Your child plays appropriately by taking turns, shares, uses kind words to solve problems, and cooperates with adults (follows rules). Your child stays on task during work time and can sit and listen to a story (15 minutes each).

Physical and Fine-Motor skills:
Your child can pace his/herself, control his/her body while running/jumping, hold a pencil with three fingers, cut paper using a scissors, focus visually on objects close at hand, and write his/her first name using capital letters.

Language:
Your child should be able to express himself/herself using specific words to communicate wants.
Starting kindergarten is a big step for children; some kids are not ready when they are 5 years old. Your child may need to wait until he/she is 6 years of age before beginning kindergarten. Attending pre-school classes improves the transition to kindergarten. If your child has not attended any pre-school classes, he/she may need Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) summer courses to prepare him/her for this big step.

If you have questions about Readiness, try the on-line screening tool found at:

• http://www.kinderiq.com/kindergarten-readiness-test.php

If they are ready, we are too!

Welcome to Pinewood!

Current Kindergarten Teachers:
Mr. Gruhlke, Mrs. Deeren, Mrs. Frederickson, Mrs. Partridge, Mrs. Witschen, and Mr. Youngs
What can I do to get my Kindergartner ready for school?

2. Attend a preschool setting.
3. Read to him/her daily.
4. Develop self-help skills (dress themselves, zip, button, coats, bathroom duties, tie his/her own shoes.
5. Work on small muscle development (use scissors, crayons, markers, glue).
6. Practice writing his/her name.
7. Give your child separation time away from you before the first day of school. Get a babysitter; have playtime with a friend, times that you actually leave your child knowing he/she will see you again in a reasonable amount of time.
8. Develop a routine. Practice a school routine for at least three weeks prior to the beginning of the school year.
Starting school is exciting for children!

They’ve played school! And now, they’re eager to begin their K-12 journey for real. But school may mean:

- The first big steps to independence
- Being away from home and family
- New feelings
- New friends
- New experiences.

Let’s get your child off to a good start!
It takes a team to get off to a great start!

Teachers, administrators and specialists are trained to help your child:

Learn

He or she will be taught:

- basic skills like language, reading, math and writing
- arts, crafts and other practical skills

Grow

He or she will learn to:

- work with others
- respect authority
- develop self-control

Your child needs all of us!
Show your child that learning is fun.

Share activities such as:

**Grouping household items into groups to build organizational skills**

**Preparing snacks and meals to teach about measuring, temperature and time**

**Growing plants to encourage curiosity and a sense of wonder**

**Playing games with words, numbers and colors at home and in the car to build basic language and number skills.**

- Read aloud with your child. Ask questions about the stories and pictures.
- Set aside quiet reading time. Turn off the TV and other distractions.
- Have books available in your home. Go to the library often.
We encourage helpful habits at both home and school!

For example:

Completing chores
Pick up playthings. It’s a good way to develop responsibility and the ability to organize.

Getting along with others
The ability to work with others and a sense of caring and sharing are crucial for children in school.

Learning to listen
Being able to follow directions is a necessity at school.

Sticking to a schedule
Get your child to bed early. A good night’s sleep equates to 10-12 hours for kindergarten students.

Doing simple chores
Being responsible for regular household tasks helps develop cooperative group skills.

Dressing him– or herself
Your child should be able to tie shoelaces, fasten buckles and button or zip clothes without help.
The first day of school is a big event for parents and children.

If your child rides the bus to school let him/her begin this routine right away! We are in a partnership with Hoglund Transportation 763-295-3604.

If you drive to school learn how to use our Safety Zone. Drop your kindergartner off and give him/her a hug and kiss. We will be there to help this big transition for both of you.

Leave cheerfully. Don’t linger. Your presence may distract from this new and exciting world. Separation becomes more difficult the longer you prolong your good-bye.

If you look forward to the first day of school, your child will probably do the same.
Discuss any fears, we can help!

It’s natural for children to have some fears about school.

For example:

- Who’s going to help me?
- Will I miss home?
- Will the other kids like me?
- Will the teacher like me?
- What happens when I have to go to the bathroom?
- Who’s going to meet me after school?

Try to:

- Encourage discussion
  Let your child talk to you about his or her fears and feelings.

- Be reassuring.
  Tell your child that everything will be all right. Do all you can to help your child feel happy and confident about school.

- Work out problems.
  Let the teacher know your concerns. Teachers care about how children and parents feel.
Help your child start each school day right.

Be sure he or she is:

**Well-rested**
Children in kindergarten and first grade usually need 10-12 hours of sleep each night.

**Well-nourished**
- Provide a variety of healthy foods for meals and snacks.
- Limit fats and sweets. Avoid junk food.
- Eat together as a family. Don’t rush through meals.

**Dress for the weather**
- Listen to the weather report every morning before school.
- Choose appropriate outdoor clothing.
- Dress your child in layers. Some classrooms are cooler. A sweatshirt or sweater helps students feel comfortable.
What will my child do at school?

Your child will have many new experiences and learn many new skills. For example, he or she will learn to:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Get along with others, be cheerful, polite and fair</th>
<th>Explore new things and ideas</th>
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<tr>
<td>Be safe, by taking part in safety lessons, fire drills and supervised playground activities</td>
<td>Use new words learned from people, experiences, programs, books and pictures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plan ahead, ask questions and anticipate future events</td>
<td>Share toys, games and experiences with others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Express him – or herself with words, clay, crayons, music, etc.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Listen to stories, to directions and to others</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work on District Curriculum Reading, writing, math, science, art, music, etc.</td>
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Today’s students face many social and personal situations that affect their ability to do well in school and inhibit their progress toward becoming productive citizens. Children are affected by what is going on around them. Children need support in healing from serious traumas as well as encounters with teasing, bullying or feeling like they don’t fit in. Without extra emotional support, students often have difficulty concentrating on their work, sustaining relationships and handling feelings appropriately. We work together with parents to maximize your child’s success.

For support with your child visit the Pinewood website under the Counseling Corner tab for contact information.

http://www.pwes.monticello.schoolfusion.us/
All-Day Kindergarten

- Is now free for all students!
- Opportunities for academic, social/ emotional teaching, and both extension and intervention time available to all students.
- Lunch and recess will be part of the school day. A small rest period, will be available for students (when needed).
- Partial Day (Half-Day) Kindergarten is still an option (according to current MN legislation). Transportation will be the parents responsibility.
- If you want the Partial Day Option, you should complete the Simple Partial Day Registration form and contact the K-2 Grade Principal to set-up a meeting prior to August 1 or As Soon As Possible.
Office hours = 7:40-4:15

Student hours: = 9:00-3:40

Attendance is important for Kindergarten students. Students are expected to be in school unless they are sick.

If your child is sick, please call the attendance hotline and report their absence. The attendance number is 763-272-2410.

If we do not receive a message regarding your child’s attendance, we will call.

If you are picking your child up during the school day or changing end of the day transportation, please send a note to the teacher.

Please keep all of your phone numbers and addresses current in the office.

Calendar of Kindergarten Events

3/14 = Registration forms due back to PWE
8/1 or ASAP = Set-up Principal meeting if you want the partial day option
8/8 = Class teacher information mailed
8/21 = Kindergarten Countdown 9-11 or 6-8
This is an important time to meet your child’s teacher and practice the kindergarten experience
PINEWOOD RESOURCES

- K-2 Principal Eric Olson
  eric.olson@monticello.k12.mn.us
- Grades 3-5 Principal Brad Sanderson
  brad.sanderson@monticello.k12.mn.us
- Pinewood Office Phone Number = 763-272-2400
- Attendance Hot-line = 763-272-2410
- Eastview Elementary for all your Early Childhood and Kindergarten Readiness needs = 763-272-2900
- Hoglund Transportation = 763-295-3604
- District No. 882 Office = 763-272-2000
- Community Education for all your summer/after-school opportunities = 763-272-2030
- Kids Castle (on-site daycare provider) = 763-295-5029

Brochure Resources Used:
- Wood, Chip: Yardsticks (3rd Ed)
- Responsive Classroom website:
  www.responsiveclassroom.org
- Scholastic: 2010 Spring Catalog
- Pinewood Kindergarten Staff.