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# KINDERGARTEN PARENT HANDBOOK

# Welcome!

We are pleased to welcome you to Fridley Public Schools! Hayes Elementary and Stevenson Elementary are both International Baccalaureate (IB) World Schools. As such, your kindergartener has access to the full IB magnet programs. This handbook should answer many of the questions you have about kindergarten. Please keep this handbook as a reference throughout the year. If you have additional questions, contact your student's school directly at the numbers listed below.

## About Kindergarten at Fridley Public Schools

- Fridley Public Schools offers kindergarten programs at both Hayes Elementary and R.L. Stevenson Elementary Schools.
- Each kindergarten student begins his or her journey to college readiness with the following core academic disciplines: reading, math, science and social studies.
- Students have experiences in music, art, physical education, media and Spanish.
- All students at each school have access to International Baccalaureate magnet program.

**Locations:** Hayes Elementary School  
615 Mississippi Street NE  
Fridley, MN 55432  
763-502-5200

R.L. Stevenson Elementary School  
6080 East River Road  
Fridley, MN 55432  
763-502-5300

**Hours:** 9:10 AM – 3:45 PM (free breakfast: 8:55 AM)

**Bussing:** Students eligible for transportation ride the regular morning and afternoon school buses.



## International Baccalaureate

At the center of an International Baccalaureate (IB) education are students with unique learning styles, strengths and challenges. The IB focuses on each student as a whole person. Thus, IB programmes address not only cognitive development but social, emotional and physical well-being. The aim is to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people with adaptable skills to tackle society's complex challenges and who will help to make the world a better place.

### Primary Years Programme (PYP)

In Fridley Public Schools, the PYP is offered to all students from pre-Kindergarten through Grade 4. Founded on a philosophy that recognizes a child's natural curiosity, creativity and ability to reflect, the PYP generates a stimulating, challenging learning environment to nurture those assets and foster a lifelong love of learning in every child. Like all IB programmes, it is transdisciplinary, meaning students learn across subject areas while investigating big ideas:

- Addresses students' academic, social and emotional well-being.
- Encourages students to develop independence and to take responsibility for their own learning.
- Supports students' efforts to gain understanding of the world and to function comfortably within it.
- Works within global contexts. Students increase understanding of languages and cultures, and explore globally significant ideas and issues.
- PYP students take Spanish classes, where they are introduced to Spanish language and culture.
- Explores significant content that is broad and balanced, conceptual and connected.
- Helps students establish personal values as a foundation upon which international-mindedness will develop and flourish.



## Hayes Elementary

615 Mississippi Street NE, Fridley, MN 55432  
763-502-5200



**John Piotraschke**  
Principal



**Julie Bieniek**  
Principal's Secretary



**Margo Rothenbacher**  
Counselor

## Stevenson Elementary

6080 East River Road, Fridley, MN 55432  
763-502-5300



**Daryl Vossler**  
Principal



**Chelsea Jones**  
Principal's Secretary



**Christa Sanders**  
Counselor

## An Introduction to Fridley Public Schools

Fridley experiences unusually strong enrollment by nonresident students who cite quality academics, positive school climate and personalized attention for each student as reasons for choosing the district.

District students come from Fridley and several other areas of the Twin Cities metro area. Our students come to us from diverse backgrounds and there are more than 40 languages spoken in our students' homes.

Hayes and Stevenson Elementary Schools, both Minnesota Schools of Excellence, serve students in grades K-4. Both schools received authorization from the International Baccalaureate Organization to offer the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP) in 2010.

Education through the IB framework has an emphasis on international mindedness, rigorous curriculum and assessment, instruction in a second language and teaching the whole child. In the ever increasing globalized world economy, Fridley is proud to prepare its students with the skills they will need to be citizens of the 21st century.

The IB PYP focuses on the development of the whole child as an inquirer, both in the classroom and in the world. The PYP provides a framework for organizing curriculum and delivering instruction.

All grade levels focus their curriculum around the same six themes of global significance. These themes are intended to help children engage with their world and the world around them.

**Fridley Public Schools offers a SMALL SCHOOL atmosphere with large school OPPORTUNITIES**

### Fridley elementary schools offer:

- **All-day kindergarten**, available at no cost to parents
- **Student support services**, including a full-time counselor, social worker and cultural liaison
- **Fridley Climate, Achievement, Responsiveness and Equity (CARE)**, which provides multi-tiered systems of support in the areas of academics and behavior for students
- Nationally accredited **Tiger Club** after school care program available at nearby Fridley Community Center
- Opportunities for **parent volunteering and community engagement**



### Points of interest about Fridley Public Schools:

There are many outstanding reasons to have your child attend Fridley Public Schools. Among them:

- **Caring, compassionate** teachers and staff
- **Whole child approach** to education
- **Specialists** to provide additional small group instruction to struggling students
- Teachers and staff train in **Culturally and Linguistically Responsive (CLR)** instruction
- Fridley enjoys **strong community support** through volunteers, passage of referendums and collaborations
- **Partnerships** with community, local agencies, government entities and faith-based organizations continue to support our students



### PARENT SURVEY SAYS:

Parents overwhelmingly reported what they like best about Fridley Public Schools are:

- **THE TEACHERS**
  - **SAFE SCHOOLS**
  - **IB CURRICULUM**
  - **OPPORTUNITIES**
  - **SCHOOL SIZE**



## Things to Know...

### Health & Safety

Kindergarten students learn:

- Fire safety practices
- Bus safety practices
- Basic personal hygiene habits required to maintain health (caring for teeth, gums, eyes, ears, nose, skin, hair and nails)
- The importance of exercising and ways to maintain fitness
- Ways to manage stress
- The importance of sleep
- Stranger dangers
- Aspects of substance use and abuse (tobacco)

### Immunizations

The following shots are required by Minnesota's School Immunization Law before your child can start school:

- 5 - Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTP)
- 4 - Polio
- 3 - Hepatitis B (this takes 4-6 months to complete)
- 2 - Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)
- 2 - Varicella (Chickenpox)

### Illnesses

*The Attendance Policy is:*

If your child is sick, please call the attendance lines at Hayes (763-502-5207) or Stevenson (763-502-5307) and leave a message with your child's name and the reason for absence/tardiness. For the security of your child, it's imperative that we know that when they are not in school they are home with you. If your child is injured or becomes ill at school, the Health Assistant will contact you. It is important to keep phone numbers current.

*A child should stay home from school when:*

- He/She has a temperature of 100 degrees or more, is vomiting, or has diarrhea, for a period of 24 hours after the last episode.
- If your child has a rash that may be disease related, check with your family physician before sending your child to school.

*Give your child a healthy start by assuring they have:*

- Necessary immunizations.
- Periodic health exams
- Plenty of sleep each night (10-12 hours are recommended for this age group)

- A good healthy diet that includes breakfast
- Neat, clean, comfortable clothes appropriate to the day's activities

### Transportation

Students eligible for transportation will ride regular morning and afternoon buses. Our contractors are Voigt's Bus Service (763-571-1241) and 1st Student (763-421-5785).

Items to talk to your child about:

- If your child misses the assigned stop in the afternoon, tell your child not to get off at another stop but to notify the driver immediately and the driver will bring the child back to the assigned stop.
- Have a second plan if your child misses the bus or if the parents are not home when your child arrives home.
- Review bus safety with your child.

### Transportation and Daycare

If your kindergartner will be in daycare you will need to submit a form online. If the district does not get a form submitted, Transportation will set up a bus stop to and from your resident if eligible.

Also if there is an address change throughout the school year, please keep the Transportation Department and the school office updated. Before changing daycare, make sure the daycare is located in the district boundaries. If not there will be no transportation from the daycare.

Please visit our Transportation Web site throughout the school year for up to date information.

How do I get my bus stop information?

- You should receive a postcard in the mail approximately two weeks before school starts. Bring that card to Orientation to verify with the teacher which bus the student will ride at the end of the day.
- Students living in the "No Bus Zone" or Parent Transport will also receive a post card (green) for communication purposes at the beginning of the school year.
- If you have any questions, call Transportation at 763-502-5026, or email [Cindy.McKay@Fridley.k12.mn.us](mailto:Cindy.McKay@Fridley.k12.mn.us)



## Things to Know...

### Safe and Healthy Children:

Please teach your child:

- About traffic lights, police officers, bus drivers and school safety patrol members
- To use only crosswalks to get safely to the other side of the street
- To use sidewalks wherever possible, and to walk facing traffic if there are no sidewalks
- To avoid strangers: don't talk to or accept rides from them
- To go directly home from school
- To follow all safety rules on the school bus.
- Arrive 5 minutes prior to schedule bus time

### School Start and End Times

Hayes and R.L Stevenson: 9:10 a.m –3:45 p.m.  
Free Breakfast: 8:55 a.m – 9:10 a.m.

### Class Lists

Because of changes made throughout the summer, class lists are not finalized until mid-August.

### Back-to-School Information

In mid-August, watch for back-to-school information including a school supply list, Kindergarten Orientation times, transportation postcard, and other important information from your school in the mail.

### Staying Connected

Fridley Public Schools uses several tools to communicate with families including:

- Fridley Public Schools has recently implemented Peachjar, a new e-flyer system. With Peachjar, parents receive digital flyers via email about school activities, after school programs and other school-approved programs in the Fridley area. Watch for emails from Fridley Public Schools Peachjar.
- District and school website: Access school information at [www.fridley.k12.mn.us](http://www.fridley.k12.mn.us)
- Facebook – use this to stay current with school happenings throughout the year:  
*Hayes* - <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Hayes-Elementary-School/544872282210895>  
*Stevenson* - <https://www.facebook.com/RLSElementary>

### Visitor Check-In System

To help ensure the safety of all of our students we use a visitor check in system. Visitors will be required to scan their driver's license when entering the building and identifying where they will be visiting or volunteering. This will create a visitor's badge that must be worn throughout the building. Please bring your driver's license in the building with you.

### Flexible and Affordable Before-and After School Care

Fridley Community Education child care programs provide high quality services that will grow with your child from infancy through 6th grade. Please call the Tiger Club main line at 763-502-5107 and you r call will be directed for more details and registration information. You can also learn more at [FridleyCommEd.com](http://FridleyCommEd.com) by clicking on 'Tiger Club (Childcare).'

- Before-school care (6:00 to 9:00 a.m.) and after-school care (3:45-6:00 p.m.) for grades K-4
- Full-time or part-time care options are available - county childcare assistance accepted
- Full-day care on most days that school is closed (includes meals and all activities)
- A complete summer program including fieldtrips, swimming and meals (Kindergarteners may enroll for the summer program before kindergarten begins)





## What is Kindergarten Readiness?

At Fridley Public Schools, we want all children to be successful and enjoy school when they start kindergarten. 'Kindergarten Readiness' is a term often used when talking about entering kindergarten. We'd like to help you answer the question "Is my child ready for kindergarten?" by providing the indicators listed below. If you have questions about your child's readiness, observe him/her over the next few months, watching for some of the behaviors listed. If you have concerns or questions about your child or kindergarten, please feel free to contact the principal.

### **Social Behavior:**

- Participates in group activities
- Interacts easily with a familiar adult
- Keeps hands and feet to self
- Moves through routines and transitions smoothly
- Plays or works cooperatively with peers
- Takes turns

### **Reading / Writing / Math:**

- Begins to recognize letters and sounds
- Counts objects to 5
- Counts to 10 or higher
- Identifies colors and shapes
- Prints name (uses lower case letters)
- Has experience with writing tools (pencils, crayons)

### **Listening and Speaking:**

- Uses words to communicate needs and wants
- Listens to stories for 5-10 minutes without restlessness
- Follows two-step directions
- Recalls stories and events

### **Fine / Gross Motor:**

- Cuts on line or patterns
- Can run, jump, hop, and march

### **Self-Help Skills:**

- Takes care of bathroom needs independently
- Organizes his/her belongings
- Shows progress toward tying shoes, zipping, buttoning, etc.

## Early Childhood Screening

*Early Childhood Screening is an early look at how your child is growing and developing. Between the ages of 3<sup>1/2</sup> and 4 years, screening can detect possible health or learning concerns so children can get help before they start school.*

*Minnesota law requires every child to participate in an Early Childhood Screening prior to entry into public school kindergarten. The screening includes a height, weight, vision and hearing check, as well as a developmental screening.*

*To schedule a screening appointment for your child, please call 763 502-5111 or email [renee.sorgenfrie@fridley.k12.mn.us](mailto:renee.sorgenfrie@fridley.k12.mn.us).*



## Grade Level Expectations

The Grade Level Expectations outlined in this guide describes the learning goals for kindergarten students. They are based on the Minnesota State Standards and the Fridley School District Curriculum Content Standards. Families can support their children in meeting these grade level goals by helping them come to school ready to learn and involve them in home learning activities.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

Communicate using interrelated processes including listening, speaking, reading, writing, and thinking.

#### READING

##### *Comprehension and Response*

- Identify fiction and non-fiction texts
- Identify characters and settings
- Sequence events in a familiar story
- Identify a problem and solution in a familiar story
- Make a connection to a familiar story

##### *Phonics and Word Recognition*

- Name all uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet
- Produce sound for each letter of the alphabet
- Recognize rhyming words
- Read common high-frequency words by sight
- Segment and blend beginning, middle, and ending sounds

#### WRITING

##### *Types of Writing*

- Write about events and opinions using a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing

##### *Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics*

- Write a sentence using a capital letter at the beginning, punctuation at the end, spacing between words, and phonetic spelling

### MATHEMATICS

Explore mathematics using a hands-on, standard based approach. Investigate patterns, geometry and spatial sense, money, graphing, counting, numeration and order, patterns, time and an introduction of addition and subtraction operations.

#### *Number and Operation*

- Recognize how many objects are in a set
- Read whole numbers from 0 to at least 31
- Write whole numbers from 0 to at least 31
- Represent whole numbers from 0 to at least 31
- Count forward to at least 31
- Count back from 20
- Compare numbers from 0 to 31
- Order numbers from 0 to 31
- Use objects/pictures to add numbers between 0 and 10
- Use objects/pictures to subtract numbers between 0 and 10
- Find 1 more and 1 less than a given number

#### *Algebra*

- Identify, create, and extend patterns
- Identify unknown number partners (3 and 4 are partners of 7, 5 and 2 are partners of 7, etc.)

#### *Geometry and Measurement*

- Recognize two and three-dimensional shapes
- Sort objects using characteristics such as shape, size, color and thickness
- Compare and order objects according to size

All kindergarteners will receive instruction and have experiences in visual arts, media literacy, music, physical education and Spanish. Each student will also participate in International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IB PYP) Units of Inquiry on science and social studies.



## How to Register for Kindergarten

There are two easy ways to register your child in Fridley Schools:

### 1. Go online

- Visit [www.fridley.k12.mn.us](http://www.fridley.k12.mn.us) and choose the yellow 'Enroll' button at the top of the page. The 'Ready to Enroll' link is found at the bottom of the enrollment page.
- To complete the registration process, you will need to bring the required documents listed below in red to the Education Center.

### 2. Come to the Education Center

- Staff will assist you in completing the online registration. To complete the registration process, you will need to bring the required documents listed below in red to the Education Center.

**The Education Center is located at:**

6301 Central Avenue NE, Fridley 55432

**Please bring the following required documents with you:**

- Proof of address (driver's license, utility bill, rental/purchase agreement) OR Open Enrollment Form
- Child's original birth certificate
- Up-to-date immunization records
- Pre-school screening documents if screened outside our district

Copies will be made of each document and originals returned to you. **Registration is not complete until we have received all of the above documents.**

**Questions? Want more information? Call Lori at 763-502-5081.**

### Kindergarten Registration Nights

*These events are for parents AND your future kindergartner. You will have the opportunity to talk with the principal, meet the classroom teachers, tour the classrooms and turn in any additional registration paperwork. You will also receive information about transportation, extended child care and nutritional services.*