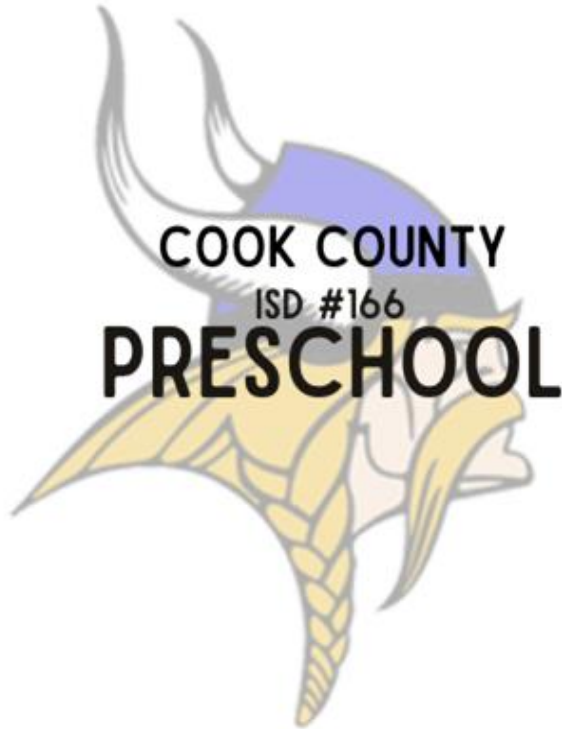


Sawtooth Mountain Preschool



2023-24 PRESCHOOL HANDBOOK

Cook County Community Education
101 West 5th Street, Grand Marais, MN 55604
(218) 387-2271 X 606 - kraden@isd166.org
www.cookcountyschools.org/cookcounty/cmcd

2023–24 Sawtooth Mountain Preschool Information

Nestled in the trees of Grand Marais, this Sawtooth Preschool program is offered by Cook County Community Education, with support from the State of Minnesota’s Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program & other partners. The intention of the program is to provide Cook County families with children of ages 3-5 with a high quality, developmentally-appropriate, and nurturing early childhood educational experience.

Philosophy

At Sawtooth Mountain Preschool, we believe children have a built-in drive to explore. We cultivate this through:

- Providing an environment where children can learn from and teach each other;
- Supporting children’s self-direction as they pursue learning;
- Utilizing storytelling to develop language, social skills and problem solving;
- Providing regular experiences with nature – we have a forest path connected to our campus;
- Encouraging problem solving;
- Encouraging cooperative learning and kind-heartedness;
- Appreciating the diversity of all families within and beyond our classroom community.

Curriculum

Sawtooth Mountain Preschool uses the High–Scope curriculum along with the COR Assessment, Second Step and Pyramid Model. We use multiple curricular approaches during our days including;

- Hands-on experiences in nature;
- Handwriting without tears concepts;
- Open-ended imaginative play / dramatic play;
- Music and movement;
- Exposure to a variety healthy, whole foods for snacks;
- Art activities;
- Language activities;
- Exploratory math activities;
- Sensory activities.

Links to our curriculum: 1) [High Scope](#) 2) [COR Advantage](#) 3) [Second Step](#) 4) [Pyramid Model](#)

Safety is Top Priority

Your child’s safety is of the utmost importance to us. We participate in regular safety drills and your child has access to the district health services department.

Customization to Meet Your Child’s Needs

We understand each child is unique. At Sawtooth Mountain Preschool we individualize each child’s experience to meet their needs by:

- Enhancing the curriculum in order to engage and challenge children at their own rate;
- Providing inclusion opportunities for children with special needs and access to Early Childhood Special Education Staff; including speech therapy and other services as needed;
- Offering a variety of ways to learn throughout the day: large group, small group, individual lessons, hands-on, and outdoor learning settings are all used.

4-Star Parent Aware Rated!

Sawtooth Mountain Preschool is 4-star Parent-Aware Rated! Participating in this rigorous rating process shows our dedication to providing the best possible learning environment for our youngest Cook County learners. We hope you'll join us for the experience!

Schedule

Preschool's Open House is on Wednesday, August 30th, 2023 anytime between 3:30 – 6:00 pm, so you may attend your other children's elementary or secondary open houses the same evening. **At the Open House you will sign up for one time slot during the following week (Sep. 5-6) for your Child's individual intake conference - and early childhood screening, if needed.** The first day of preschool for the whole class is Thursday, September 7th. Classes then follow the ISD 166 calendar, except as noted below. **Preschool ends on May 31, 2023.**

Please note: There will be NO PRESCHOOL on 10-12-23 due to all staff having Pyramid Model training.

Eligibility to Attend Preschool

In order to be eligible to attend Sawtooth Mountain Preschool, a child must:

- **Be at least 3 years old by September 1, 2023 for the 3's class.**
- **Be at least 4 years old by September 1, 2023 for the 4's class**
- Have completed early childhood screenings by September 1, 2023. Screenings will be completed during the week of intake conferences for those that need them. Early Childhood screenings check hearing, eyesight, development, etc. for your child. These are required by the state of MN before children enter Kindergarten.
- Be 'Potty Trained'.
 - All children must be potty trained before attending preschool. We do not have the facilities and supplies, or enough staff to supervise the class and change children in the classroom. Potty-trained children no longer wear diapers, OR disposable underwear (pull-ups). Potty-trained children can tell the teacher when they need to go to the bathroom. Potty-trained children can attend to their own hygiene – this allows the teacher to only assist when absolutely needed. This is an issue which protects all concerned.
 - We feel that children old enough to attend preschool deserve privacy. We realize that 'accidents' can, and will happen. 'Accidents' by definition are unusual incidents and should only happen infrequently.
 - Exceptions are made for children receiving early intervention or early childhood special education services.

If your child is not completely potty trained as described above after the first month your family will be asked to pause your enrollment in our program until your child is fully trained. If you want to reserve your child's exact classroom placement, you may hold it by paying tuition until they re-enroll, but this is not required.

If your family is needing support in potty training our district provides resources to help support you in that process. Please contact our Early Childhood Coordinator if you'd like more information: 218-387-2271 ex 401

Class Times

We start our day at 8:05am and end our day at 3:10pm. Families may drop their children off any time between 7:45-8:05am by entering the front (Eagle) doors and signing their child into the classroom. Families may also request their child be picked up on the morning bus routes. 3's only half days will be done at 11:35. Parents will need to pick up children at that time.

Vikings Pride

Sawtooth Preschool uses a variety of teaching practices and interventions to support the social and emotional development of all children. Preschool staff use a positive and proactive approach to help children develop social and emotional skills. Preschool expectations are taught under the theme of "Vikings Pride". Vikings Pride is a program-wide approach, focused on social and emotional development for all children, which ensures a safe, positive, and successful learning environment for our youngest learners. The key to Vikings Pride is the idea that expected behavior needs to be taught, re-taught, modeled, and practiced.

All staff members teach all children Vikings Pride expectations. These expectations can also be taught at home and will be shared with families each fall. Sawtooth Preschool values partnerships with families. We find that when we are all on the same page with our expectations, children are more able to understand and meet those expectations.

Vikings Pride focuses on three areas:

Be Respectful.

Be Responsible

Be Safe

Guidance techniques will be age appropriate and will include the following based on the Pyramid Model Framework and program-wide expectations:

- Intentional modeling by the staff prosocial skills, problem solving skills and friendship skills
- Support of prosocial behaviors by the teaching team and parents, through goal planning, parent coaching, resource sharing and referral
- providing a mechanism and plan for support in crisis situations developing a problem solving process for children with emerging challenges
- providing a system for identifying children who need a behavior support plan

BUS TRANSPORTATION & TRANSPORTATION INFRACTIONS

Riding the bus to school is a privilege, not a right. Transportation infractions include but are not limited to being disruptive, distracting, or destructive on the bus that interferes with the safe and orderly transportation of students to and from school.

- **1st Offense:** Student conference & notification of parents/guardians
- **2nd Offense:** Final warning, meeting with parents/guardians
- **3rd Offense:** Up to 1 week suspension from bus privileges, meeting with parents/guardians
- **4th Offense:** Up to 1 month suspension or possible loss from all bus privileges for the year, meeting with parents/guardians

Note: Students receiving Special Education Services are subject to being transported by alternative transportation services if it is determined that their behavior is negatively impacting school bus safety, school bus environment, or if the behavior on the bus is negatively impacting student behavior during the school day.

Weather Related Closing

From time to time it becomes necessary to close schools due to bad weather. If weather conditions are not favorable, Cook County Schools closings will be announced on the following radio stations: WTIP (Grand Marais) and CKPR (Thunder Bay) and the following television stations: WDIO, KBJR, and KDAL. Cook County Schools will post closings on the School Web Site <http://www.cookcountyschools.org/>. Parents will also be notified using

Campus Messenger. Cook County Schools respects the right of parents to keep their child home if they have concerns about weather conditions.

Campus Messenger – Automated Messaging

Keeping parents informed and involved helps to assure student safety and improve student success. With today's on-the-go lifestyles, it has become more difficult for schools to reach families quickly and effectively. This is why ISD 166 uses Campus Messenger for Schools.

Campus Messenger is an essential tool for notification and communication. Within minutes of an emergency, school officials can use Instant Alert to deliver a single, clear message to the student's parents or guardians by telephone, cell phone, e-mail, pager or PDA in any combination. Campus Messenger is also used for general school announcements and for individual alerts regarding student attendance and food account balances.

Parents should contact the school office to learn how to update personal profiles allowing notifications of school closings and important messages to be sent to additional: phone numbers, cell numbers, email addresses or other electronic communication devices.

Tuition

3's & 4's All Day Preschool and 3's Half Day Preschool is based on a sliding fee scale shown below. We do however have different scholarships families can apply for to help reduce the cost of tuition. Prices listed are per month.

*****If you participate in a county program such as MFIP, SNAP or CCAP or free and reduced lunch you automatically qualify for a full scholarship! Please contact the Early Childhood Coordinator for more information, 218-387-2271 ex 401*****

3's & 4's FULL DAY Sliding Fee Scale							
Gross Income	Family Size						
Annual Income	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
120000+	\$530	\$530	\$530	\$530	\$530	\$450	\$400
\$95,000-119,000	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$400	\$345	Free
\$75,000-94,000	\$400	\$400	\$400	\$345	\$265	Free	Free
\$40,000-74,000	\$345	\$345	\$265	\$265	Free	Free	Free
\$25,000-39,000	\$265	\$265	\$265	Free	Free	Free	Free
Under \$25,000	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
3's ONLY HALF DAY Sliding Fee Scale							
Gross Income	Family Size						
Annual Income	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
120000+	\$265	\$265	\$265	\$265	\$265	\$225	\$200
\$95,000-119,000	\$225	\$225	\$225	\$225	\$200	\$173	Free
\$75,000-94,000	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$173	\$133	Free	Free
\$40,000-74,000	\$173	\$173	\$133	\$133	Free	Free	Free
\$25,000-39,000	\$133	\$133	\$133	Free	Free	Free	Free
Under \$25,000	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free

*We are unable to offer scholarships or benefits for 5 year olds, other than our sliding fee scale. If you need a free option for your 5 year old, we offer developmentally appropriate 5 year old placements in our Kindergarten classrooms for free.

*Please note that tuition is due each month, regardless of attendance. We strongly encourage you to have your child attend every day preschool is in session, for the greatest educational development possible.

Breakfast and lunch are free for all students.

Contact Information:

Early Childhood Coordinator: Krista Olson- 218-387-2271 ex 401, krolson@isd166.org

4's Teacher: Tina Eich- 218-387-2271 ex 429 teich@isd166.org

3's Teacher: Mari Maldonado- 218-387-2271 ex 416 mmaldonado@isd166.org

Early Childhood Special Education Teacher: Rachel Liechty- 218-387-2271 ex 305 ra.liechty@isd166.org

Cook County Schools Principal: Mr. Belanger 218-387-2271 jbelanger@isd166.org

Cook County Schools Superintendent: Chris Lindholm 218-387-2271 clindholm@isd166.org

Meet Our Staff



Hayley Loney

Hayley is our Licensed Speech-Language Pathologist. Hayley attended the University of Minnesota Duluth and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Communication Science Disorders. She attended University of Mary where she completed her Master of Science in Speech-Language Pathology. Hayley received her National Board Certification in 2021 through the American Speech-Language Hearing association.

"I am so excited to be a part of the team here at Cook County ISD166 and help all my students with communication needs and allow them to reach their full potential at

school!"

Tina Eich

Hello, I'm Tina, one of the 4's teachers. I have been teaching early childhood education for 5 years.

I have my Associates Degree from North Hennepin Community College and I am currently attending Bemidji State University finishing my Bachelors degree in Psychology. I am passionate about the social emotional growth and health of our preschool students and helping them prepare for elementary school. I moved to the area nine years ago and currently have a home in Silver Bay where I live with four of my children and my dog.



Mari Maldonado



My name is Mariprovi Maldonado. I'm the 3's preschool teacher. Born and raised in Puerto Rico. I came to live here 3 years ago with my family. I've been teaching preschoolers since 2003. I have a B. A. in Early Childhood Education and CDA ages 2-5. I love to learn new things.

Let the adventure begin!

Rachel Liechty

Over the past 10 years, I have had the honor and privilege of working with young children and families across Cook County and Grand Portage for Cook County Public Schools. I currently serve as Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education teacher. I am licensed in Early Childhood Special Education (Birth-6 years), Parent and Family Education (Birth-6/Adults), certified as Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health specialist, and endorsed as Infant Family Specialist by the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health. I obtained my B.A. Journalism & Professional Strategic Communications and M.S. Natural Resources Science & Management and Environmental Education from the University of Minnesota. From these evolving perspectives, I seek to advance understanding and explore ways we can strengthen programs and services as partners with young children and families, particularly across systems in developing supportive pathways and greater access to services..



Krista Olson

I am so excited to be part of the Cook County School District. I have worked in education for 16 years. I have a K-8 Elementary Teaching license, K-12 Administration license, Superintendent license and a Community Education Director license. I look forward to bringing my experiences to my new position at the school as an Early Childhood and Community Education Coordinator. I am married to Drew and we have three children. We love to be outdoors and exploring new places together!



Joshua Belanger

Mr. Belanger will be starting as the Cook County schools PreK-12 Principal for the 2023-24 school year. He most recently served as the Assistant Principal for Coon Rapids High School.



Chris Lindholm

Cook County Public Schools Superintendent Chris Lindholm started in July 2021 after serving as Superintendent of Pequot Lakes Public Schools since 2013, Assistant Superintendent of the Burnsville-Eagan-Savage district, Principal and Assistant Principal at Shakopee Junior High School, Dean of Students at Edina High School, and Social Studies Teacher and Head Girls Soccer Coach at Northfield High School. His son Sam attends the U of MN Morris, son Rowan attends Cook County High School, and his wife Kristin also works for Cook County Public Schools. After several years of hobby farming Cormo sheep, chickens, and growing local foods in Breezy Point, MN, the Lindholms now live in downtown Grand Marais, MN and are grateful to be part of a community that values community, the environment, diversity, the arts, and living resiliently.



ISD #166 Calendar

Cook County Schools Calendar 2023-24 Option D

August 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

September 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Description	Days			
	T	S		
8/28-8/31	PD Days	August	4	0
Aug 30	Open House	September	19	19
Sept 4	No School - Labor Day	October	20	19
Sept 5	First Day of School k-12	November	19	18
Sept 7	First Day of Preschool	December	14	14
Oct 19-20	No School - Fall Break	January - Sem 1	13	13
Oct 23	No School - PD Day	January - Sem 2	8	7
Nov 3	End Quarter 1	February	18	17
		March	21	20
Nov. 6	No School - GP Conf & PD	April	17	16
Nov 22-24	No School - Thanksgiving	May	22	22
Dec 21-Jan 1	No School - Winter Break	June	5	4
Jan 15	No School - MLK Jr. Day	Teacher Work Day	0	
Jan 19	End Quarter 2	Teacher Conf. Comp	2	0
Jan 22	No School - PD Day	Total	182	169
Feb 15	No School - PD Day			
Feb 16 - 20	No School - Mid-Winter Break			
Mar 11	No School - GP Conf & PD			
Mar 29	End Quarter 3			

November 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	18	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2023						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

January 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

		# days
Quarter 1	9/5 - 11/3	41
Quarter 2	11/6 - 1/19	42
Quarter 3	1/23 - 3/29	44
Quarter 4	4/8 - 6/6	42

February 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

March 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	10	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

April 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Apr 1-5	No School - Spring Break		
April 22	No School - PD Day		
May 27	No School - Memorial Day		
June 1	Graduation	Parent/Teacher Conferences	
June 6	Last Day of School	At School 11-7 & 11-9	
June 7	Teacher Workday	GP 11-6	
		At School 3-12 & 3-14	
		GP 3-11	

May 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

July 2024						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- First day of Prek is September 7th
- Entrance Conferences September 5th-6th
- No Preschool October 12th- Teacher Inservice
- Spring conferences 3/12 and 3/14

• Last Day of Prek is May 31st

• Exit conferences June 3-6

Signature Page

Please remove this page and turn it in with other paperwork to the registration table or front office. This is part of the registration packet paperwork. Your child's file will not be complete without this page.

ISD 166 Sawtooth Mountain Preschool

Students Name: _____ DOB: _____

2023 - 2024 Publicity Photograph Permission Form

Photos may be taken during a school day by teachers and office staff for the purposes of sharing classroom activities and school publications. I authorize ISD 166 to use photos of my child to be used for publicity purposes in the yearbook, Viking Voice Monthly, Twitter, Facebook, brochures, website or other promotional materials.

- Yes
- No

2023 - 2024 ISD 166 Sawtooth Mountain Preschool Universal Permission Form

I hereby grant permission for my child to participate in classroom field trips, walking trips, bussed field trips and special classroom activities that may include leaving the school campus. My child will attend these activities unless I send a note to excuse my child.

- Yes
- No

I have read and understood the parent handbook.

Parent/Caregiver Name Printed

Date

Parent/Caregiver Signature