

LITTLE CHUTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2017-2018 Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN (4K)?

Four-year-old kindergarten (referred to as 4K) offers young children the opportunity to participate in a quality learning program that provides a solid foundation for lifelong learning. Children build the social and pre-academic skills that contribute to future success in school. Benefits of 4K include: a DPI licensed teacher; curriculum that addresses the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards; opportunities for early identification of potential learning, social, and/or behavioral needs and interventions; the development of pre-academic and social skills necessary for a successful K-12 education.

WHAT ARE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BELIEFS RELATED TO 4K PROGRAMMING?

The 4K program is “developmentally appropriate” which means that although children are four and/or five years old, we understand that their abilities, interests, and developmental levels are very different; therefore, we strive to provide appropriate differentiated activities for students. The 4K program focuses on the development of age-appropriate social skills and academic readiness skills. The goal is for children to solve problems independently and communicate their needs to one another. We believe that children learn best through play and experiential learning. We believe that the 4K program is a necessary component of a child’s education and is essential to success in kindergarten and beyond.

WHAT ARE YOUR INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS RELATED TO 4K PROGRAMMING?

The 4K curriculum is aligned to the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards. A focus on learning through play and active exploration of the environment will allow children to gain skills in the following developmental areas:

- Social & Emotional Development
 - Demonstrates positive relationships with their peers; problem-solving skills in social interactions; and regulation in the expression of feelings, needs, opinions, and desires
- School Readiness Development
 - Learns the skills, processes, and problem-solving necessary to meet the challenge of a K-12 academic experience
- Numeracy Development
 - Learns concepts such as classification, pattern recognition, numeral recognition, and number concept development and estimation
- Literacy Development
 - Develops book behaviors, writes letters and words, identifies uppercase and lowercase letters, and identifies corresponding letter sounds

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE 4K PROGRAM?

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A child must be age four on or before September 1 of the current school year (an original birth certificate is required to document the child's age). The child must be a resident of the Little Chute Area School District (proof of residency is required for enrollment) or must be approved by the School Board to attend Little Chute Elementary School under Wisconsin Open Enrollment law.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY CHILD IS READY FOR 4K?

- Your child must be four years of age on or before September 1 of the current school year. Please understand that that you are not required to send your child to 4K because they meet this one requirement. The 4K program is made up of four-and-five-year-old children. Some parents elect to start their children at the five years of age based on personal preference and/or developmental readiness. You know your child best!! If you feel your child would benefit from another year before beginning 4K this certainly is an option and is not an unusual occurrence. Please consider that this is your child's first experience with school (and possibly your first experience as a parent). We want your child's first experience to be a positive and memorable event!!
- Your child demonstrates readiness for 4K if they exhibit the following behaviors:
 - o Interest in learning activities and stories;
 - o Has the ability to understand and follow directions;
 - o Plays safely with toys;
 - o Has the ability to share with others;
 - o Is able to use the bathroom independently.
- The 4K program is designed to prepare your child for a full day five-year-old program at Little Chute Elementary School. Five-year-old kindergarten has become a challenging year academically for children. Please ask yourself, "Do I intend to send my child to kindergarten next year?" If your response is "No" then your child may not be ready for 4K.
- If you have questions about your child's readiness for 4K, you are encouraged to contact school and speak to one of the 4K teachers. They are more than willing to answer your questions and help guide your decision making. The District also offers a summer school class, "Getting Ready for 4K." Having your child participate in such a class may give you additional information on your child's readiness for 4K.
- If you believe that your child has a developmental delay which may be related to an educational disability, the LCASD can answer questions related to your child's development. If this is the case, you are encouraged to contact: Laura McCormick, Director of Pupil Services; 325 Meulemans Street, Suite A; Little Chute, WI 54140; (920) 788-7605; lmccormick@littlechute.k12.wi.us

WHAT ARE THE DAYS/HOURS OF THE 4K PROGRAM?

Children will attend school consistent with the school calendar adopted by the Little Chute Area School Board. In general children will attend 4K five-days-per week for 2 hours and 40 minutes each day. Morning and afternoon sessions are offered. The morning session will be held from 8:10-10:50 a.m. The afternoon session will be held from 12:25-3:05 p.m. **The Little Chute Area School District's early release**

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schedule does NOT apply to 4K programming (afternoon 4K students attend as usual on early release days).

CAN I CHOOSE WHICH SECTION MY CHILD WILL ATTEND (AM OR PM)?

Parents indicate AM or PM preference when enrolling their child. Preferences are granted on a first-come, first-serve basis and are dependent upon capacity and enrollment trends. Historically, the District offers two sections of AM 4K and three sections of PM 4K. Typically, AM 4K is the most preferred placement and fills up quickly. Parents are informed of their child's session placement on or before June 9, 2017.

HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE IN A CLASS?

There are no state regulations directing the teacher-child ratio for 4K classrooms. The LCASD has a general guideline that class sizes will be between 15-20 students. Based on enrollment, each classroom will include one teacher and one teacher assistant.

DOES THE SCHOOL OFFER TRANSPORTATION FOR 4K?

The Little Chute Area School District does not offer general transportation for any grade levels due to the geographic size of the District. As a result, transportation is NOT provided for 4K students. An exception is made for special education students who require transportation through their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and a select number of households who are deemed by the Outagamie County Sheriff to be in a hazardous transportation area. If transportation is required under these circumstances, children will be programmed into the morning session of 4K.

WHEN DOES THE ENROLLMENT PROCESS BEGIN FOR 4K?

The 4K enrollment process will begin Tuesday, February 7, 2017 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at Little Chute Elementary School, 901 Grand Avenue. Enrollment information will not be accepted prior to this date/time. After this date, enrollment will occur during regular business hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Additional evening hours are scheduled for Thursday, February 9, 2017 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Please note that Little Chute Elementary School is closed during the month of July. During this period, enrollment will occur at the Little Chute Area School District Office, 325 Meulemans Street, Suite A, Little Chute, WI 54140. In order for your enrollment to be complete, all material in the enrollment packet needs to be turned into office staff. You **MUST** bring your child's birth certificate and proof of residency (not required students under Wisconsin Open Enrollment).

WHAT IF I DID NOT RECEIVE THE ENROLLMENT PACKET?

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You may pick up an enrollment packet at Little Chute Elementary School, 901 Grand Avenue, Little Chute WI 54140 or at the Little Chute Area School District Office, 325 Meulemans Street, Suite A, Little Chute WI 54140. Information about 4K enrollment can be found at www.littlechute.k12.wi.us

IF I AM UNAVAILABLE, CAN I ASK A FRIEND TO ENROLL MY CHILD ON MY BEHALF?

YES. If you are comfortable sharing your enrollment packet, child's birth certificate, and proof of residency with a friend, someone other than you may enroll your child. Please make sure that all forms from the enrollment packet are completed prior to this individual coming into school. Incomplete packets will NOT be accepted.

CAN I ENROLL MY CHILD BY SENDING THE ENROLLMENT INFORMATION THROUGH THE MAIL?

YES. All required enrollment information can be mailed to Little Chute Elementary School. Please provide a copy of your child's birth certificate. The document will be visually verified and then destroyed. By law, the District cannot maintain a copy of your child's birth certificate.

ARE ENROLLMENT AND REGISTRATION THE SAME?

NO. Completing the enrollment process secures a space in the 4K program for your child. Registration occurs in August at which time you will be notified the name of your child's teacher. You are also asked to pay any applicable fees at this time. Registration for the 2017-2018 school year is scheduled for August 8th -9th at Little Chute High School.

ARE THERE ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO SCHOOL TO HELP WITH MY CHILD'S TRANSITION TO 4K?

YES. The following activities are in place to assist with transition for the 4K program:

- Summer school is available for 4K students from MONDAY JULY 31ST THROUGH FRIDAY AUGUST 11TH (these classes are optional).
- The school conducts a "Meet and Greet" activity for parents and students. You are encouraged to attend one of the following two sessions which will be held at Little Chute Elementary School: Wednesday, AUGUST 9th FROM 5:00-6:30 P.M. AND Tuesday, AUGUST 15TH FROM 5:00-6:30 P.M. Activities will be conducted on the playground behind the school.
- The school conducts an "Open House" at which time the parents and students can visit the classroom and bring in school supplies. Open House for the 2017-2018 school year is scheduled for THURSDAY, AUGUST 31ST FROM 4:00-5:30 P.M.
- The 4K teachers conduct two assessment days at the beginning of the school year. Your child will attend one of these days. The transition days are SEPTEMBER 5TH AND 6TH. You will be notified as to which day your child should attend at the "Meet and Greet" activity.