

Schools in District 742 with Kindergarten Programs

Clearview Elementary
7310 Hwy 24 SE
Clear Lake, MN 55319
320-743-2241

Half day, full day and Spanish
Immersion classes

Discovery Community
700 South 7th Street
Waite Park, MN 56387
320-251-5770

Half day, full day and Jumpstart*
classes

Kennedy Community
1300 Jade Road
St. Joseph, MN 56374
320-363-7791

Half day and full day classes

Lincoln Elementary
336 Fifth Ave. SE
St. Cloud, MN 56304
320-251-6343

Half day and full day classes

Madison Elementary
2805 Ninth Street No.
St. Cloud, MN 56303
320-252-4665

Half day, full day and Chinese
Immersion classes

Oak Hill Community
2600 County Rd. 136
St. Cloud, MN 56301
320-251-7936

Half day and full day classes

Talahi Community
1321 University Drive
St. Cloud, MN 56304
320-251-7551

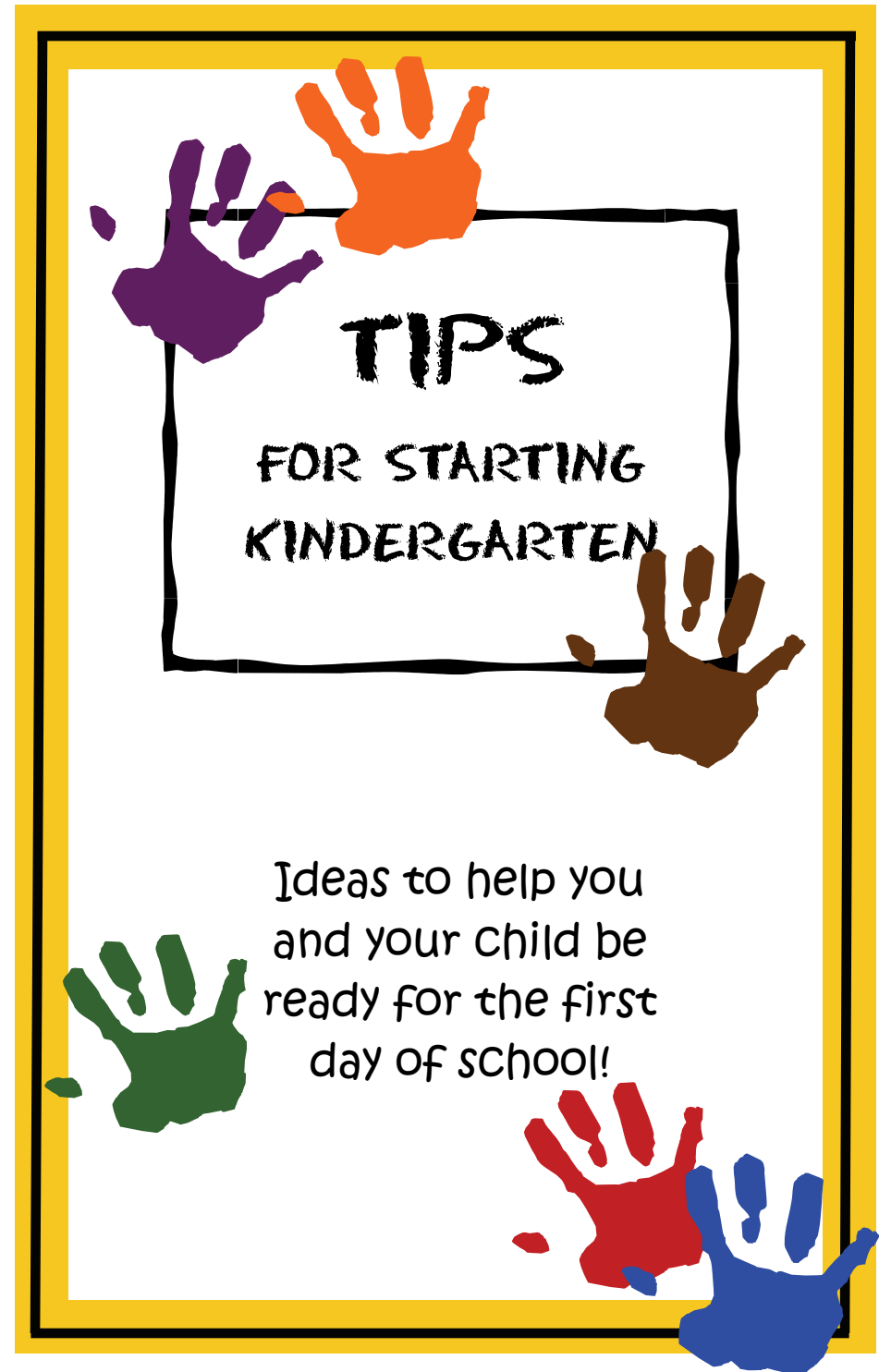
Half day, full day and Jumpstart*
classes

Westwood Elementary
5800 Ridgewood Road
St. Cloud, MN 56303
320-253-1350

Half day and full day classes

**To register your child for Kindergarten:
Call the *Schoolink* Welcome Center: 320-202-6897**

*Jumpstart classes are for English Language Learners with limited English language proficiency skills



Before school starts...



- **Recognize that the day your child first goes off to school is an important event.** Realizing this can help you to make it a positive experience. For many students, it is the first major separation from the secure and familiar world of home and family, and it marks entrance into a new universe of friendship, learning and adventure—a world that parents can never again entirely share. Your greatest gift to your child at this time is your loving support and understanding.
- **Remember that learning to like school and liking to learn are closely related.** Your child's first school experience can contribute to a good or bad attitude toward school in the years ahead.
- **Prepare your child for the new school experience by explaining what to expect and answering all questions honestly.** Children need to know the number of days and length of time they will be in school as well as how to get there and back. A child may be anxious, and needs to know the details in order to handle the stress involved. Working mothers and fathers should make certain that the child knows the arrangements for before and after school care.
- **Convey a positive attitude about school.** If the parents show enthusiasm for what the school experience can mean, the child is more likely to look forward to it.
- **Make transportation plans clear to the child.** If he or she is to walk to school, walk the route together a few times before school starts. If there are other children from your neighborhood who are of the same age, see if they can walk together. If a child goes to school by bus, help the child identify the vehicle. Encourage older children to watch over younger ones. Once the bus arrives, be direct; say goodbye and allow the child to board alone. If the child cries, try not to overreact; in most cases the tears will soon disappear.
- **Create a normal routine atmosphere at home the first few days of school.** Do not deny or avoid the uniqueness of the situation, but do take an active interest in what your child tells you about school when he or she comes home. Be a good listener allowing time to talk about school and people there.



Printing Your Child's Name

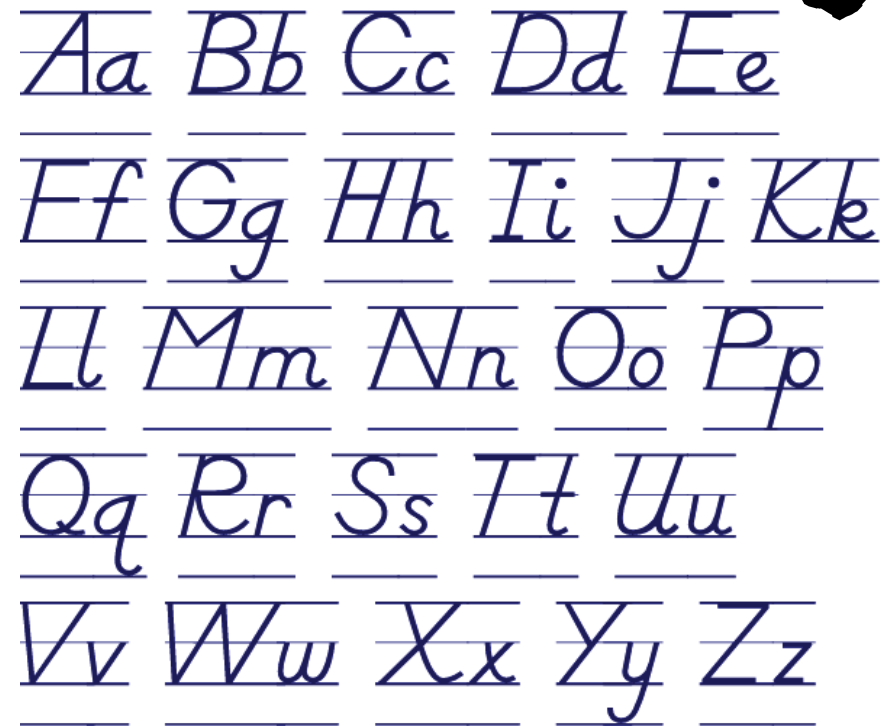
When teaching your child to print his/her name, please use a capital letter for the first letter and lower case for the other letters (i.e. Susie not SUSIE).

The St. Cloud schools use the D'Nealian style of handwriting in the elementary grades. The chart below indicates the formation of the alphabet letters for use in the writing of your child's name.

Please label all your child's school supplies using this letter formation.

D'Nealian Print Chart:

Use this chart to practice letter formation.



What Will Kindergarten Be Like?

In some ways, it's much like preschool and day care. But kindergarten will also involve:



- **Dealing with more people**

A kindergarten is usually part of a larger school. So, your child may deal with more teachers, other school staff and children.

- **New Settings and Activities**

For the first time in his or her life, your child may:

- use a school library
- play in a gym
- eat in a cafeteria
- ride a school bus

- **Bigger Class Sizes**

Your child may be in a class with 20 children or more. This may mean less individual attention. But, it also means a chance to:

- develop independent work habits
- learn to work and play with a group
- learn from the diversity of classmates

- **More Structure**

Most kindergartens have a daily routine. For example, they may use the library and playground only at set times.

- **More Focus on Learning**

Compared to preschool or day care, your child may spend more time doing:

- Science and math activities
- Reading and writing activities
- Pencil and paper exercises



- **Changes like these can help your child grow in many ways. Talk about them in a positive way.**

- **Give your child free playtime at home.** Now that your child spends more time in a structured school environment, you should allow more free time at home for play, but not more TV!
- **Get to know your child's teacher.** Get involved with the parent-teacher organization, volunteer your services in school, or check out ways you can help improve school conditions if you are unhappy with them.
- **Praise your child for the good things he/she has done.** Remember that there is more to be gained from accenting the positive. A pat on the back for the right answers can go a long way. Too often we tend to focus on poor performance and behavior.
- **Treat going to school as part of the normal course of events, something that is expected of your child and accepted by you.** If your child appears nervous about going to school, discuss his or her concern. Show understanding and offer encouragement. A calm, matter-of-fact, positive attitude is your goal. Don't argue the issue of school attendance; it is required by law.
- **Plan your day so that you can spend time with your child.** Be available when your child needs you. Be sure there is time to talk about school and the happenings of each day.
- **Let your child settle the quarrels or difficulties that may arise with friends.** Usually, unless children are harming each other physically, it is wise not to rush to the rescue. Try to let them work out their own differences.
- **Help your child cope with occasional frustrations and disappointments at school.** Learning to cope with all kinds of experiences is important to development and helps prepare for the stresses of life.
- **Avoid comparing this child's school experiences with how brothers and sisters or neighbors did when they began school.** Such comparisons can be harmful to a child's self-image. Each of us is different, and we meet life's turning points and experiences in our own way.
- **Think of yourself as supporting and helping your children's development—but not as "protecting" them from a world about which they must learn.**

12 Ways to Help Your child BE Ready for Kindergarten

1. Help your child develop a positive self-image!

“Love them, Respect them, and Encourage them!”

2. Provide opportunities for your child to be independent and make decisions for themselves.

3. Provide opportunities for your child to interact with other children.

4. Encourage your child to develop coordination skills by:

- lots of outdoor physical exercise (running, skipping, climbing, riding tricycles and bikes, throwing and catching a ball, etc.).

5. Allow them to express themselves and develop small motor skills by:

- using crayons, scissors, play dough, building with legos, putting together puzzles, etc.

6. Encourage your child to take care of their own physical needs.

- bathroom needs, dressing themselves, etc.

7. Encourage your child to develop their listening and attention level spans by:

- sticking with an activity,
- learning to avoid or ignore distractions,
- listening to stories and direction, and
- listening to others who are speaking.

8. Show your child that learning is fun!

- Sorting silverware will help build organizational skills.
- Helping with cooking and baking will introduce measurement and counting skills.
- Taking care of plants and animals will stimulate curiosity and develop a sense of wonder.
- Playing games with alphabet letters, numbers, and colors at home and in the car will build basic language and number skills.

9. Encourage your child to be responsible!

- Put things away that they take out.
- Do simple chores around the house.
- Follow through on simple directions.

10. Share new experiences with your child to expand their vocabularies and background of experiences.

- Take them places, read to them, answer their questions, ask them questions, and relate new things to familiar things they already know.

11. Teach them how to be safe!

- Be able to say their first and last name.
- Be able to say their parent’s names.
- Be able to say their address and phone number.
- Know how to walk safely to the bus stop and to school and how to ride the bus safely.
- Know how to play safe with friends and on the playground.
- Know how to protect themselves from strangers.

12. Share your child’s excitement for school by visiting the school at the August Open House.

- Visit the playground and walk to the bus stop before the first day of school. Talk positively about school so your child will look forward to it as an exciting, new experience.

