

MINNEHAHA ELEMENTARY

Welcome to Kindergarten

Minnehaha Elementary

It's a great day to be an Agate!

SHANE JOHNSON

PRINCIPAL

SJOHNSON@ISD381.ORG

COLLEEN MCMILLAN

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

CMCMILLAN@ISD381.ORG

As your child enters kindergarten, we know you may have a lot of questions. We want to make sure that you and your child feel at home at Minnehaha Elementary. If you have any further questions, please contact your child's teacher or ask Ms. Colleen (cmcmillan@isd381.org) in the office prior to classroom teacher assignments.

See you soon!

Ms. Olson
rolson@isd381.org

Ms. Stainbrook
astainbrook@isd381.org

Mrs. Uremovich
nuremovich@isd381.org

Please note that information within is subject to change.

Beginning of the School Year

Teacher Assignments

You will receive information in the mail from the school about your child's teacher. An email with a welcome letter and instructions regarding the beginning of the year Meet & Greet will also follow. Please make sure to provide a working email address when you register your child so we can reach you.

Meet & Greet

Kindergarten students will have their first full day of school on *Thursday, September 10th, 2026*. Each Kindergarten student and their own grown ups will sign up for a 30 minute time block on September 8th or 9th to come and meet the teacher, bring supplies, see the school, and learn about the first day of school. Please look for more information in your provided email in August.

Transportation

If you would like your child to ride the bus, please contact our transportation department at 834-8201 ext 8240 to set up bus transportation. Your child's teacher will double check pick up and drop off times, as well as the bus number with you, at your Meet & Greet time.

Important Dates

Aug: Welcome Postcard, Email from Teacher

Sept 8th & 9th: Scheduled Meet & Greet with Teacher

Sept 10th: First Full Day of School for Kindergarten

Arrival Procedures

Dropping Off Students

We say our goodbye to grown ups at the main entrance of the school. There will be a staff member at the door who will help your child get to their destination safely. Please make sure you watch that your child goes in the building before leaving. If you arrive after 8:00, you will need to sign your child in at the office.

Bus Drop Off

Busses drop students off at the playground gate where they will walk to the playground entrance of our building. Staff are located at the door to ensure your child will make it to where they need to be.

Morning Procedure

- Students can arrive at the school after 7:30 and will have three choices: breakfast, playground, or the library flex space to play.
- At 7:50, students are dismissed to their lockers to start their day.
- Students need to be in their room by 8:00.
- Staff are in all areas of the school to help Kindergartners navigate the school safely.

Dismissal Procedures

Picking Up Students

Students will be walked out the main entrance door at 3:15 by the Kindergarten Teacher(s) in charge of Pick Up Dismissal, who will make sure that they are handed off to their grown up. Please make sure to notify your child's teacher who will be picking your child up if it is not their regular pick up person. Students must be picked up at the main entrance and may not walk across the street without an adult. Please make sure you use appropriate crosswalks. This is to ensure the safety of our students during this busy time.

Students Riding the Bus

Students going on the bus will be walked to the busses and put onto their bus by the Kindergarten Teacher(s) in charge of Bus Dismissal.

Dismissal Changes

Dismissal changes must be made by calling the office by 2:00. Colleen will make sure your child's teacher knows of the change.

Absences

Please call Ms. Colleen in the office before school if you need to report an absence for your child. (218) 834-8221 Ext. 8401

Food Services

Breakfast

Breakfast is served between 7:30–7:50. Breakfast is currently available at no cost.

Snack

- Snack is served once a day for 10–15 minutes.
- Please send a snack with your child daily.
- White Milk is provided free.
- Because the school doesn't provide snacks, we would greatly appreciate any snack donations for students who forget their snack.

Joining Your Child at Lunch

You are welcome to come eat lunch with your child!

- Please notify Colleen in the office in the morning if you'd like to order a school meal so the Kitchen Staff can prepare the appropriate amount of food.
- Lunch is currently \$5.00 for adults. You may pay for that by adding funds to your Parent Portal Account.

Lunch

Our kitchen serves two meal options each day:

- A lunch: Rotation of Hot Foods. Menus are sent monthly through Parent Portal Messenger.
- B Lunch: Deli Meat Sandwich Rotation.
- Home Lunch: If you send in a lunch from home, milk is available for purchase.
- Lunch is currently available at no cost per Minnesota State Statues. If that were to change, you will be notified of the lunch cost.
- Helpful Tip: Discussing the day's lunch option will help your child get used to choosing their meal independently when they make their lunch choice in the classroom each morning.

Recess

Recess

Students have recess twice a day: once with their teacher and once after lunch. We go outside for recess after lunch every day, weather permitting.

Outdoor Gear

Please dress your child for the weather.

- Please label items so they do not get lost, as they all look very similar.
- Send in snow pants, warm jacket, hat, mittens/gloves, and boots once snowfall occurs.

Health and Wellness

Nurse

Minnehaha has a nurse available. If your child becomes ill at school, you will receive a phone call. If your child is hurt and a visit to the nurse is necessary, you will be contacted. If your child has a minor injury, such as a scraped knee, you may not be contacted.

Medical Conditions

If your child has allergies, needs medications during the day, or has any medical conditions that the school needs to be aware of, please contact the school nurse before the beginning of the school year. 218-834-8221 X8434

Illness

If your child exhibits the following symptoms, our policy is for you to keep them home for 24 hours after the symptoms are gone:

- fever (24 hrs without fever reducing medication)
- vomiting
- diarrhea

A detailed policy can be found on the Lake Superior School District Nurse's Webpage regarding illness exclusion.

Before and After School Care

Community Education offers Kids and Company before and/or after school (and summer) care. Register online through community education or call (218) 834-8221 ext 8423.

Birthdays

Please choose one of these options to celebrate your child's birthday at school:

- store-bought treat
- your child's favorite store-bought snack
- send in their favorite book to read

Field Trips

We have opportunities for enriching learning experiences outside the classroom every year. Though new field trip opportunities come up each year, these are the field trips we typically go on each year: Two Harbors Fire Hall (October) & Lake Superior Zoo (May). Before the field trip occurs, we will send out an online permission slip. We'd love for you to volunteer on some of the trips if you are able! If you'd like to volunteer, please fill out a Background Check Form and turn it into the office or your child's teacher.

Academic Programs

Our instruction aligns with the Minnesota K–12 Academic Standards, which can be found on the Minnesota Department of Education Website. Our educators have been trained in current evidence-based practices. We are ready to work as a team to support your child's growth academically and socially.

Reading Programs

- Phonics: Functional Phonics & Morphology
 - systematic, evidence-based phonics and morphology curriculum grounded in structured literacy
 - MN Dept. of Ed approved K–5 Foundational Skills Curriculum through the READ Act
- Language & Comprehension: Fishtank Learning *pending school board approval
 - knowledge-building English Language Arts curriculum designed to help students comprehend the text through enriching Read-Alouds
 - integrates reading with Science and Social Studies
- Supplemental Reading Supports:
 - Heggerty Phonemic Awareness
 - UFLI

Other Subjects

- Science
- Social Studies
- Art
- Social Play Centers

We also participate in various enriching opportunities during the year, such as: Little Loon Opera, Just Kids Dental Presentation, and Safe & Strong Program.

Math Program

- Bridges in Mathematics
 - inquiry-based and student-centered
 - structured daily routines to develop mathematical concepts
 - utilizes play-based skill practice

Additional Programs

- Social Emotional Learning:
 - once a week for 30 minutes led by our school counselor where students learn important skills for school success
- Music
 - twice a week for 55 minutes where students explore movement, discover their singing voices, and learn beginning terminology and theory concepts through a wide variety of music
- Physical Education
 - attend twice a week for 55 minutes where students practice their gross motor skills, cooperative learning, and direction following skills through various forms of play
- Library
 - once a week for 30 minutes where students listen to story and check out one book to bring home for the week

Tips for a Successful Kindergarten Transition

Kindergarten is a big transition and an exciting milestone in your child's life! We are excited to work with you and your child in their journey to becoming amazing learners! Here are a few practical tips and skills to help prepare your child for a smooth and confident transition. While these skills do not determine eligibility for kindergarten, practicing these will help your child's transition be more successful.

Every Child is Ready to Learn

Social Emotional Readiness

- Separation: managing separation from grown ups without excessive stress
- Interactions: taking turns, sharing, keeping hands to self
- Following Rules: listening to instructions, sitting for short story, waiting in line
- Asking For Help: expressing needs to an adult
- Understanding Directions: being able to accept when the answer is, "no" for reasonable tasks

Self-Care & Independence

- Independent Bathroom Use: managing clothing, wiping, and washing hands
- Dressing: taking shoes on and off, putting on and zipping up jacket and other outdoor gear
- Hygiene: washing hands and coughing/sneezing into elbow, blowing nose and wiping clean
- Lunch Management: opening lunchboxes, bags, and containers independently
- Transitions: able to stop a desired task to move on to the next task

Getting Ready for New Routines

- Start your school year routine this summer by setting up your morning routine.
- Practice opening lunchboxes and eating lunch within a 20 minute timeframe.



Check out this informational page about Kindergarten Transitions from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

School Supply List

Kindergarten

plastic pencil box that snaps shut
2 boxes of 24 count box of crayons
2 packs of 4 (or more) black thin dry erase markers
10 sharpened pencils
2 boxes of 10 washable markers
6 glue sticks
large pencil eraser
scissors
highlighter
1 take home folder
1" Binder
1 Pencil Pouch (to go in 3 ring binder)
watercolor paints
box of kleenex
backpack large enough to fit folder
labeled phy-ed shoes
(please send shoes your child can put on themselves)
labeled leak-proof water bottle (optional)

Looking to donate extra supplies to your child's classroom?

Here are some things we'd really appreciate if you would like to donate:

Clorox Wipes

Thin Black Dry Erase Markers

Smooth Plastic Sheet Protectors (for binders)

Example of a Typical Kindergarten Schedule

Time	Subject
7:30 – 8:00am	Arrival
8:00 – 8:30am	Morning Meeting & Number Corner
8:30 – 9:00am	Whole Group Math
9:00 – 9:20am	Morning Recess
9:20 – 10:20am	Phonics
10:20 – 10:50am	Reading Intervention 1
10:50 – 11:35am	Lunch/Recess (11:15)
11:35– 12:05pm	Reading Intervention 2
12:05 – 12:30pm	Language Arts
12:30 – 12:40pm	Math Workplaces
12:40 – 12:55pm	Snack
12:55 – 1:45pm	M/W Phy Ed T/Th Music
1:45 – 2:40pm	Other Subjects
2:40 – 3:00pm	Choice Time/Library W
3:00 – 3:15pm	Clean Up & Dismissal