



Online Enrollment
Begins
January 1st, 2019

Dear Parents:

You are invited to participate in *the Altoona School District 4K Program*, our collaborative, community-based four year old kindergarten program, for the 2019-2020 school year. *Altoona 4K* is an enriched, play-based program designed to prepare your child for their educational career. We provide an enriched curriculum that provides school readiness skills and school expectations. We know that our children learn best through play and provide age appropriate activities in cognitive and pre-math skills, social-emotional, adaptive, literacy and language, and motor development. Our 4K program is a half day program (morning and afternoon options) that runs Monday-Thursday. It's a program designed for all children who live in the Altoona School District and who will be four years old by September 1, 2019. Four year old children who have been accepted for open enrollment will also be eligible to participate. The Altoona School District 4K program is provided at no cost. Transportation options are available.

The 2019-2020 *Altoona 4K* program is offered at four community sites:

Little Star Daycare, 2245 Hayden Avenue
Western Dairyland Head Start/Altoona Early Education Center, 1314 North Hillcrest Parkway
St. Mary's Elementary School, 1828 Lynn Avenue
The Little School House of Altoona, 2328 North Hillcrest Parkway
Little Minds Matter, 3085 Meadowlark Lane

A brief description of our 4K site options is provided on the website.

4K Enrollment is completed online. Please visit our website at www.altoona.k12.wi.us to complete the necessary paperwork. If you do not have access to a computer, we will have some available at the elementary school.

In addition to enrolling online, we require the following forms:

- Original Birth Certificate (we verify the information and return it to you)
- Proof of Residency - (mortgage documents or utility bill with your name and address on it)
- Immunization form (only required if your child received their vaccinations from a different state)
- Other important documents if applicable (IEP, court documentation, etc.)

Please bring the above listed forms to the Altoona Elementary School Office, located at 157 Bartlett Avenue, between the hours of 7:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., before Friday, May 31, to complete the enrollment process.

We encourage you to take advantage of *Altoona 4K* If you have questions, please contact Laura Trachsel, Altoona 4K Coordinator, at: ltrachsel@altoona.k12.wi.us. Please pass this information on to others who may not have received it. We want all Altoona families with four year olds to be aware of this exciting opportunity!

Sincerely,

Laura Trachsel

Laura Trachsel, Altoona 4K Coordinator

Brief Descriptions of the Altoona (4K) 4 Year Old Kindergarten Sites

All Sites:

- employ WI Department of Public Instruction licensed teachers
- utilize the same curricula: The Creative Curriculum for Preschool, a widely used, research-based curriculum which includes all developmental areas, Conscious Discipline and Second Step, curriculums which teach social-emotional, friendship and problem-solving skills, and Handwriting without Tears to help support fine motor development.
- monitor children's progress with the Teaching Strategies GOLD assessment
- screen children's literacy skills with PALS (Phonological Awareness Literacy Screening)-PreK
- communicate with parents via newsletters, notes, and two parent-teacher conferences/year

Little Star Daycare

Little Star is located in Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Our curriculum follows the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards, and provides hands-on activities in language arts, math, science, and social studies. We encourage children's individual curiosity and positive social-emotional development in all aspects of our program. Little Star is a licensed child care facility, and child care is available both before and after the 4K program.

Contact: Krystina Schumacher, Director 715-832-1513 or krystina.littlestar@gmail.com

The Altoona Early Education Center (Head Start)

The Altoona Early Education Center is a center that involves collaboration with Head Start, a federally funded program. We utilize practices that support each child's strengths and allow children to learn through play and active exploration of their environment. In addition to learning activities in all areas of development, Head Start offers comprehensive services in the areas of dental care, health care, family services, and parent engagement. We ensure that your child develops school readiness skills through curriculum that follows Head Start Performance Standards, the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards, and Day Care Licensing Regulations. We are a five star YoungStar Program. Eligibility requirements must be met prior to placement.

Contact: Debbie Davis, Center Manager 715-577-5562 or ddavis@altoona.k12.wi.us

St. Mary's Elementary School

St. Mary's is a very special place for children to learn and grow. Our 4K program's approach to learning includes hands-on curiosity, engagement and persistence, invention and imagination. In addition, the core curriculum includes language arts, mathematics, social studies and science. As with all the students enrolled at St. Mary's, our focus is on the individual child. Our program emphasizes social and emotional, health and physical, language and communication development. The partnership between the school and family benefits each student's growth and development. At St. Mary's, our teachers provide the foundation for a lifelong love of learning.

Contact: Carissa Smiskey, Principal 715-830-2278 or csmiskey@regiscatholicschools.com

The Little School House of Altoona

The Little School House is a state licensed and insured child care center. Our director is DPI certified with a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education and 9 years of experience teaching 4K. Our 4K program promotes learning and development through the use of hands-on curriculum in language arts, math, science, art, and social studies. Our experienced staff work hard to teach children all they need to know to be successful in future educational experiences. Your child will establish friendships, learn respect for themselves and others, and thrive while at the Little School House. We offer full time child care for those who need additional care before and after 4K.

Contact: Chris Redetzke, Director 715-214-6609 or littleschoolhousealtoona@gmail.com

Little Minds Matter

At Little Minds Matter Every child is unique, we believe that success and growth comes from encouragement and praise. Our 4K teacher focuses on building every child's self-esteem, confidence and education through positive feedback, play, and our 4K Creative Curriculum. We nurture their natural strengths. A child sees the world around them with wonder and awe, we believe in encouraging their natural curiosity. Little Minds Matter is located in River Prairie.

Contact: Lanette Strong, Center Manager 715-210-9993 or support@littlemindsmatter.com



If my child attends 4K at a faith-based site, will they receive faith-based instruction?

Faith-based instruction will be provided to children outside of the 4K programming hours at the discretion of the site.

Will my child need a physical before they can start?

Pre-school/4K child care partner sites do require a physical. The immunizations that are required by the State of Wisconsin s252.04 for Pre K (2yrs through 4years) are:

4 DTP/DTaP/DT, 3 Polio, 3 HepB, 1 MMR and 1 Varicella (Chickenpox) if the child has not had the disease.

In addition, it is a good health practice to have an annual dental exam for children.



Altoona 4-Year-Old Kindergarten Program

Vision

All of Altoona’s young children and their families deserve ongoing opportunities to reach their optimum potential.

Mission

4K is a community partnership committed to supporting and nurturing the social and educational growth and development of Altoona children and their families by providing quality learning experiences.

The 4K program is offered at various pre-school/childcare partner sites in Altoona. To find out what pre-school/childcare sites offer 4K or for more information, contact the 4K Coordinator, Laura Trachsel at ltrachsel@altoona.k12.wi.us, or check the School District of Altoona website, www.altoona.k12.wi.us.



The School District of Altoona does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability. The School District of Altoona has complaint procedures that allow residents or aggrieved persons to file a written complaint with Alan McCutcheon, SPED and Pupil Services Administrator, 1903 Bartlett Avenue, Altoona WI 54720, (715)839-6224. The complaint procedure requires the District to acknowledge the complaint within 45 days and to issue a determination within 90 days, unless the parties otherwise agree in writing.

4K Programming



Frequently Asked Questions:

The School District of Altoona's 4K curriculum is based on the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards. Altoona uses the "Creative Curriculum" as a guide to foster growth in health and physical development, social and emotional development, language and communication, cognitive and general knowledge, and self help skills.

Children learn through:

- * Dramatic play
- * Block play
- * Art and sensory experiences
- * Literature
- * Discovery
- * Music and movement



What are the requirements for children who wish to enroll in 4K?

Children must be 4 years old on or before September 1 of the enrollment year. He or she must reside in the School District of Altoona boundaries or have applied and been accepted for Open Enrollment.

The 4K program is intended for children turning 4 years of age from September 1 through the previous September 2. Families requesting to delay 5K entrance and enroll their 5K eligible child in 4K should contact the Altoona Elementary building principal at 715-839-6050 before April 30th of the school year prior to enrollment.

Is the 4K programming the same at all sites?

A DPI certified early childhood educator teaches each of the 4K classes and depending on numbers of children enrolled, each classroom may have a paraprofessional to assist the teacher and children. Each site utilizes the same curriculum.

What are the 4K class teacher/student ratios?

The teacher/student ratio in all 4K classes is 1:10 unless an exception is made by the School District Administrative Council.

Where will my child attend 4K?

If a child is currently enrolled in a pre-school/childcare partner site, then the child will have priority to attend 4K at that site. As much as possible, parent site preferences will be honored. After all pre-schools/childcare partner sites are filled the district will add a school-based site only if needed.

Is transportation available for the program?

Yes. A child will be transported directly to and/or from the 4K session in the morning or afternoon. For example, a child can ride the bus directly to the 7:30 am session of 4K. However, if the child attends the childcare setting at 6:30 am and the 4K session starts at 7:30 am, then transportation is the responsibility of the family.

When dropping a child off, the bus driver must see a parent or other responsible adult (this person must be listed on the "persons authorized to receive the child" part of the registration form) before letting the child off the bus. If an authorized person is not present then the child will be brought to Little Star Day Care and parents will be responsible for any childcare services provided.

