



Saint Anthony Park Elementary School Kindergarten Program



What are the class sizes in kindergarten?

Our maximum class size at this time is 26. We have four kindergarten classrooms.

What curriculum do you use?

Our kindergarten uses Discovering Our World, which is a Pre-K and K program developed by the Saint Paul Public Schools Office of Early Learning in 2013. The program is intended to build a learning environment in which students participate in active learning times (centers) and independent work time in addition to direct whole-class and small group instruction.

What other special learning experiences do students have?

Students walk to the local public library regularly. They work with an artist-in-residence for one week; perform a vocal concert for parents and families; and do various special art projects. We have Family Science Night every year, and an annual science fair for grades 3-5. Our art teacher works with each class weekly, teaching art history, different styles of art, and, of course, creating art!

How can parent volunteers be involved?

After the first six weeks of school, parents are invited to volunteer in the classroom in many ways, from reading with students to preparing materials to helping out with special projects. There are many schoolwide opportunities for parents to be involved too – see www.sapsamn.org for more information!

Are there teaching assistants?

We have one teaching assistant who is assigned to kindergarten. Other support staff – teachers and teaching assistants – support and co-teach in the kindergarten classrooms: English language, special education, speech/language, and bilingual assistants.

What is your philosophy on social-emotional support?

We believe that all students want to be successful and have positive learning experiences. Our counselors teach lessons in every classroom about social skills, self-esteem, and successful school behaviors. Every classroom begins the year by explicitly teaching all children the rituals and routines they will need to know in order to participate successfully at school. Each day begins with a morning meeting, in which the focus is sharing and community building. Some children need more time or assistance to learn those routines, and we provide extra support as needed from counselors, a social worker, support staff and teachers. We have a partnership with Nystrom and Associates to provide on-site mental health therapy. If children are not demonstrating expected behaviors, they are provided with tools to help them change their behavior, fix a problem they have created, or help themselves be ready to learn again. We hold all children to very high standards of positive behavior, but we are committed to providing all children the support they need to meet those standards.

What specialist classes to kindergarteners have?

Kindergarteners participate in physical education, performing arts, science, visual arts and technology. All classes are taught by licensed teachers and rotate approximately every four days.



Do students have recess?

Students go outside for recess every day for 30 minutes, unless the temperature and/or wind chill are -10° or colder.

What technology do students use?

All students in St Paul Public School are issued an iPad for use at school. Students use the iPads to build a portfolio of their work, play games that reinforce basic skills, read books online, learn basic technology skills, and many other things. They also learn basic computer and coding skills in our computer lab. iPads are available to take home in case of weather-related or other planned digital learning days.

How do you teach gifted or advanced children?

Teachers at St. Anthony Park infuse rigor and challenge throughout the curriculum for all children. All students are tested in kindergarten on the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), and we have a very high percentage of students who are officially identified as “gifted and talented.” Our teachers are skilled at enriching or deepening the curriculum for children who need it. The Saint Paul Public Schools curriculum in general is designed to meet the needs of learners with diverse needs in every class, at every level.

What is the kindergarten day like?

Our school day is 7:15-2:00. This is a sample kindergarten day schedule:

7:15-7:40 Arrival

7:40-7:55 Morning Meeting

7:55-8:10 Writer’s Workshop mini-lesson

8:10-8:20 Independent writing

8:20-9:10 Centers

9:10-9:20 Read-Aloud

9:20-10:10 Specialists (Science, Active Inquiry, Music, Physical Education)

10:10-10:20 Break

10:20-10:50 Lunch

10:55-11:30 Recess

11:30-11:45 Independent reading

11:45-11:55 Math Review

11:55-12:10 Math mini-lesson

12:10-12:20 Math Task Board (Independent Activities)

12:20-12:50 Centers

12:50-1:20 Phonics and Phonemic Awareness

1:20-1:35 Reader’s Workshop

1:35-1:50 Clean-up

1:50-2:00 Dismissal

**For more information, or to tour our school, call 651-293-8735, or visit our website at <http://stanthony.spps.org>
St Anthony Park Elementary School ● 2180 Knapp Street, St Paul MN 55108 ● 651-293-8735**

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