

April 1, 2014

Dear Bright Futures Preschool Parents/Guardians,

You are receiving this letter because you have expressed an interest in Peru Elementary School District 124's Bright Futures Preschool Program that is held at Northview School. This letter will give you a lot of great information when making your decision if you want to send your child to the Bright Futures program. After reading this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 223-2567 if you still have questions.

Bright Futures is a locally funded preschool program. We receive no funding from the state of Illinois or any federal funds. Because of this, we do have to charge tuition for our preschool program. The tuition we charge is very low in comparison to similar programs, and it only covers about one-third of the cost of our program. The majority of the cost is covered with local education funds, so clearly this program is very important to our district.

The a.m. session will run from 8:30 – 11:00 and the p.m. session will run from 11:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m. Just like last year, the \$75.00 registration fee is due at pre-registration. This registration fee will assure that a spot will be saved for your child for the 2014-2015 school year. Please submit a check for \$75.00 with all of the required paperwork that is enclosed in this mailing.

Listed in the table below are the 2014-15 tuition fees. The tier depends on your family income, so **if you feel you may qualify for a reduced tuition rate, then you are required to fill out the financial form enclosed with this letter.** This will not assure a lower rate, as this decision is made on a case by case basis.

	<u>Annual tuition</u>	<u>OR</u>	<u>Payable in 4 Quarterly Installments</u>
*Tier I:	\$150.00 per year	OR	\$37.50 payable 4 times per year
*Tier II:	\$600.00 per year	OR	\$150.00 payable 4 times per year
Tier III:	\$1050.00 per year	OR	\$262.50 payable 4 times per year

* In order to qualify for the reduced tuition rates, the attached financial form must be filled out listing the income of **all** family members. Parents will be notified in mid-June explaining which Tier your family qualifies. The \$75.00 registration fee is in addition to the tuition and it is paid by all preschool parents, regardless of income. There is also a \$50.00 milk fee for the year if you want your child to have milk with their snack.

When considering your options for Preschool for the coming year, I want to inform you of what Peru's Bright Futures Preschool program has to offer:

- Highly qualified teachers who have their Bachelor's Degree in Child Development or Speech Pathology and their Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education. That means they attended a university for **six years** to learn how to work with young children and be able to provide rich experiences for preschool children. Both Mrs. Ferrari and Mrs. Rebholz will continue to be our Preschool teachers for our program next year.
- Free transportation to and from school (even sitters who reside in the district).
- The children will continue to attend school for half-day sessions (2.5 hours per day) Monday through Friday.
- Our program uses Early Learning Standards to build lesson plans designed with incremental learning. Teachers implement curriculum, which focuses on child involvement and hands-on experiences. A new focus is a phonemic awareness program where children learn to segment words and hear sounds in words which will make them more successful in reading and spelling.
- State of the art technology, which includes Smart Boards and iPads. Smart Boards are the latest technology and allow teachers to actively engage students with an interactive screen. It looks like a big white board. Students can come and navigate through software, write on the Smart board, watch video streaming, and more. There are many age appropriate activities in which our preschoolers will have an opportunity to have a hands-on experience with the software. It's very impressive! Most of you know about iPads. These are smaller interactive tablets that have educational applications downloaded. Children can interact with the iPads and learn their letters, numbers, and even listen to books on the iPads.
- All preschool students are included in all of our school incentives throughout the year. There are incentives and assemblies for our PBIS program (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) as well as for our reading program.
- The preschool teachers expose the students to positive experiences essential to helping children develop intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically.
- Preschool children participate in special area classes such as music and art with our fully certified art and music teachers one time per week. Preschool children have the experience of going to our library at Northview and checking out library books! Adults read to children every day. Language and literacy skills are developed through meaningful experiences, such as telling stories; reading stories and poems; dictating stories; seeing print in use; participating in dramatic play; communicating informally; and experimenting with writing, drawing, copying and inventive spelling.

- Fine- and gross-motor skills are developed through play activities. Fine-motor skill activities include pegboards, stringing beads, construction sets, puzzles, drawing, painting and cutting. Gross-motor skill activities include balancing, running and jumping. Children have opportunity throughout the day to move freely, using large muscles within indoor and outdoor activity areas.
- Self-confidence and positive learning experiences are built by encouraging children to accomplish meaningful tasks and to help them participate in learning successful experiences.

Transportation

With free transportation being offered, we will continue to run the buses like we did this year. One session/route will consist of students living on the west side of Peru. The other session/route will consist of students living on the east side of Peru. The east and west routes and whether they will be in the a.m. or p.m. will be determined when we find out the numbers of students needing transportation and what their session preference will be. This way of offering transportation for our youngest children works so well because the children are not on the bus longer than 30 minutes.

To summarize, please fill out the appropriate information included with this mailing and send back to Northview School. Please make sure to include the \$75.00 registration fee that will then guarantee your child's spot in our program. If your child has not been screened for preschool, it is a mandatory requirement that every child must be screened prior to enrollment. The next screening takes place on April 9, 2014 and then one will also be scheduled in August 2014.

If you have any questions at all about the contents of this letter, do not hesitate to contact me at the Northview School Office (223-2567). We are really looking forward to a successful 2014-2015 school year!

Sincerely,

Sara McDonald, Principal