



Peru Elementary School District 124

Northview Elementary School

2100 Plum Street
Peru, Illinois 61354

School District Office

1800 Church Street
Peru, Illinois 61354

Parkside Middle School

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815-223-1111

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June 22, 2018

Dear Peru Bright Futures Preschool Parents/Guardians,

You are receiving this letter because you have expressed an interest in the Peru Elementary School District 124 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 223-1111 extension 3 if you still have questions.

We are very excited to announce that Peru Elementary School District 124 has been awarded with the Preschool for All Grant beginning with the 2018-19 school year. This grant is huge for our school district, resulting in roughly \$265,000 in annual funding for the next five years totaling over \$1.3 million in total funding for the program. This will allow us to return our half day program to serve 80 preschool age children, including up to 10 total students per year from our neighbors in Dimmick and Dalzell. We worked with and included both neighboring districts in our grant application to give us a greater chance of securing this highly competitive grant. Securing this grant also means that there will be NO tuition charges or fees for preschool, effective with the 2018-19 school year.

We will be taking all of our current students who were in our program last year as well as all of the students that pre-registered with us this past spring. Then we will enroll students not in our program in this order: 1) The child must be screened by our Preschool team on August 23rd, 2018 and paperwork is filled out by the parent; 2) children that will turn four years old by September 1, 2018 will have first preference on enrollment after they have been screened 3) three year old children that have been screened by our PreK team and there are some "at-risk" indicators such as speech/language delays, readiness delays, or behavior concerns; 4) any parents interested in our program once the first two categories of students have been enrolled.

The preschool student hours are staying the same. The a.m. session will run from 8:15 – 10:45 a.m. and the p.m. session will run from 11:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.

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

- Two highly qualified teachers who have their Bachelor's Degree in Child Development. Mrs. Ferrari and Ms. Preston are our two Preschool Teachers.
- Free transportation to and from school (even sitters who reside in the district) IF you live in the bus zone.
- The children will 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 interactive whiteboards and iPads. Interactive whiteboards allow teachers to actively engage students with an interactive screen. Students are able to navigate through software, write on the 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! All 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).
- The preschool teacher exposes 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 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.

With free transportation being offered to those living in the bus zone, 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.

If you have any questions at all about the contents of this letter, do not hesitate to contact me at the Northview School Office (223-1111 extension 3). We are really looking forward to a successful 2018-2019 school year!

Sincerely,

Sara M. McDonald, Principal