



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

1800 Church Street
Peru, Illinois 61354

815-223-1111

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April 10, 2018

Dear 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.

Currently, the Bright Futures Preschool is a locally funded preschool program. We receive no funding from the state of Illinois or any federal funds. Because of this, we must charge tuition for our preschool program. The tuition we charge is very low in comparison to similar programs, and it only covers part 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. We have written a Preschool for All Grant to try to secure state funds to help increase the number of preschool students we can serve. If we get this grant from the state, we will not have to charge tuition for preschool. We will not know if our district will be awarded this state grant until at least April, maybe even later into the summer. When we hear about the grant, more information will come home to you. The good news is that the Peru Board of Education just recently approved the hiring of another PreK teacher for the 2018-19 school year. This means that we will be able to serve 70-80 students in our Preschool program next school year and we will be able to take 3 year olds in addition to 4 year olds.

We will be taking all of our current students who are in our program this year. Then we will enroll students not in our program in this order: 1) children that will turn four years old by September 1, 2018; 2) 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; 3) any parents interested in our program once the first two categories of students have been enrolled. If you are receiving this letter, this means that there is room in our program for your child. **Please read this over carefully and return the appropriate paperwork to Northview School no later than Friday, April 27, 2018.**

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.

Listed in the table below are the 2018-19 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:	\$200.00 per year	OR	\$ 50.00 payable 4 times per year
*Tier II:	\$800.00 per year	OR	\$200.00 payable 4 times per year
Tier III:	\$1400.00 per year	OR	\$350.00 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 by July 1 explaining which Tier your family qualifies. A \$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 \$60.00 milk fee for the year if you want your child to have milk with their snack. Both of these fees will be paid at registration in August. If we are awarded the grant, then there will be NO fees needed in August.

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:

- A highly qualified teacher who has her Bachelor's Degree in Child Development as well as a Master's Degree.
- 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.

To summarize, please fill out the appropriate information included with this mailing and send back to Northview School by April 27, 2018. We would also like you to send a copy of the certified birth certificate if we do not have that on file.

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