



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

www.perued.net

March 9, 2023

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.

Peru Elementary School District 124 was awarded the Preschool for All Grant beginning with the 2018-19 school year. We also received the Preschool for All Expansion Grant, which allows us to run a full day preschool for our most at-risk PreK students. Our grant includes serving up to 10 total students per year from our neighbors in Dimmick and Dalzell for the half day program. Securing this grant also means that there will be NO tuition charges or fees for preschool.

We will be registering all of our current students who will still be PreK age next school year first. Then we will enroll students not in our program in this order: 1) The child must be screened by our Preschool team and paperwork is filled out by the parent; 2) children that will turn four years old by September 1, 2023 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, behavior concerns and points are awarded based on the weighted eligibility criteria.

Students who do not meet #1-3 above will be put on a waiting list until after the final August PreK screening to assure that we do enroll all of the 4-year olds first and then the most "at risk" 3-year olds.

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 12:15 a.m. – 2:45 p.m. The full day session runs from 8:15 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. and offers a hot breakfast and a hot lunch, along with an afternoon snack.

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:

- Four highly qualified teachers who have their Bachelor's Degree and/or Master's Degree in Child Development. Ms. Preston, Ms. Fahler, and Mrs. Chasteen are our three half-day Preschool Teachers. Mrs. Cullinan teaches our full day PreK program.
- 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 Monday through Friday.
- Our program uses the Early Learning and Development Standards to build lesson plans designed with incremental learning. Our program uses the curriculum called *Big Day for PreK*. Teachers implement a curriculum which focuses on child involvement and hands-on experiences. A 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. Technology is limited for our students as we try to only allow 30 minutes of screen time per week.
- 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 are able to experience checking out books from our school library at Northview. Adults read to children every day. Language and literacy skills are developed through meaningful participation 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 opportunities 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 have in the past. 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 40 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 282). We are really looking forward to a successful 2023-2024 school year!

Sincerely,

Sara M. McDonald, Principal