

Bloomer School District Four-Year Old Kindergarten



Welcome to the Bloomer School District Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Program

The focus of the Bloomer School District Four-Year-Old Program is the physical, emotional, social and early learning of children. The early childhood years are very important for children and their parents. When children experience success in responsive, nurturing programs they gain essential skills and knowledge.

Four-year-old kindergarten programs have been growing throughout the state of Wisconsin. Research of these programs conducted during the past years has shown that four-year-old kindergarten definitely helped the children, the school and the community.

The Bloomer Elementary Four-Year-Old Program will serve children in two locations. The two locations are Bloomer Elementary School and St. Paul's Catholic School (no affiliation with the parochial school or curriculum). This program is a tuition-free-four-year-old kindergarten program available to every four-year-old in the school district. This partnership allows all children the opportunity to participate, if their parents feel it is right.

The Four-Year-Old Handbook has been written to provide parents and other interested parties with information regarding our program. If you have questions not answered in the Handbook, please do not hesitate to ask a four-year-old (4K) teacher or direct your questions to the elementary principal at the Bloomer Elementary School at 568-1042.

Josh Hartman
Bloomer Elementary Principal

Bloomer Four-Year-Old Program Philosophy

The Bloomer School District believes that every child in the Bloomer School District has a right to high quality, developmentally appropriate preschool education. All community children will be allowed to participate in the 4K program and the associated activities regardless of handicap, race, color, national origin, religion, or gender. Every child and parent will be treated with an attitude of respect and care.

It is the intention of the 4K program to use the Wisconsin Early Learning Standards and Creative Curriculum as a guide for classroom focus. The classroom teachers will strive to create an environment, which stimulates creativity and learning for the children. It has been concluded that the curriculum will be play-based as children learn best through experiences. We believe a 4K program provides the beginning steps toward being a life-long learner.

Our 4K program values the family-school connection and encourages parents to attend parent-teacher conferences, parent outreach activities, and to volunteer in their child's school.

Curriculum of the 4K Program

The goal of our early childhood curriculum is to create an environment that promotes learning and social skills appropriate for our four-year-olds. Children learn by doing... they use all of their senses to explore and get information. The Bloomer School District is committed to promoting a high quality preschool education for all children.

The teachers for the 4K program will use the Creative Curriculum and the Wisconsin State Early Learning Standards as a curriculum guide. All teachers have four-year degrees in early childhood/kindergarten and are highly qualified to work with preschool age children.

Each child will be given the opportunity to learn at his/her own pace and in the way preschoolers learn best--through play! Actually, what looks like play has been planned by professionals to develop specific skills that your child will need for later school years and into adult life. Your child's daily schedule will include a balance between the following types of activities:

- Active and quiet times
- Large group activities, small group activities, as well as time play alone or with others
- Indoor and outdoor playtime
- Time for children to select activities on their own and time for the children to participate in teacher directed activities
- Library and Phy Ed

Each day we will have many and varied opportunities for your child to learn new things. They will be exposed to many stories, the alphabet, numbers, participate in field trips and engage in large and small muscle play.

The following are a few examples of how what appears to be play is actually a learning experience that helps the child prepare for school!

When Children Do This -----They Are Learning To:

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| --Put blocks in a truck and dump them out | --Understand size, weight, and number concepts (math & science) |
| --Put pegs in a pegboard | --Eye-Hand coordination (reading & writing readiness) |
| --Finish a puzzle | --Complete a task from start to finish (study habits & self-esteem) |
| --Play beside other children | --Get along with others (social skills) |
| --Follow directions in a recipe by adding ingredients | --Understanding measurements (math) |
| --Turning pages of a book | --Learning to read from right to left |
| --Scribble on paper | --Using writing as a means to communicate, fine motor coordination |
| --Listen to a story and talk about what happened | --Love of books, remembering details, expressing ideas (language) |
| --Put on dress-up clothes | --Small muscle development (writing & self-help) |
| --Make play-dough | --See how materials change (science) following directions (listening comprehension) |
| --Separate cups and plates | --Grouping objects into categories (math) |

Placement of 4K students at a Site

Those families who enroll earliest will be given their first choice of placement at one of the two sites. When one site is full children will be placed at the second site. The District has a target enrollment of 20 four-year-olds to one licensed teacher and one teacher's assistant. If the site space limitation allows for fewer students, the site will be considered full when that number is reached.

Final determination of site placement will be made by the elementary principal. Consideration of bus routes, present sibling placement, and service to disabled students will all be taken into account when making placement decisions.

Program Locations

Bloomer Elementary School
401 8th Avenue
Bloomer WI 54724
Phone: 715-568-1042
Fax: 715-568-1045

St. Paul's Catholic School
1210 Main Street
Bloomer WI 54724
Phone: 715-568-3233
Fax: 715-568-3244

Eligibility

Students participating in the Bloomer 4K program must be four years of age by September 1st. **There will be no early admissions.** Participants must be residents of the Bloomer School District or apply through Open Enrollment, if eligible. Four-year-old kindergarten is open to all students without cost for the program.

What if My Child Has a Special Need?

If your child has a special need we will need to determine how we can best serve your child. Special teachers will be available to help with speech and other health issues. As parents you will be able to sit with the teachers and determine the services to ensure success for your child.

Program Days and Hours

School Hours Mondays through Thursdays:

AM Classes	7:50-11:00
PM Classes	11:50-3:00

Absence Call-In

It is an expectation that children enrolled in the 4K program will attend every day school is in session. If students are going to be absent from school for any reasons, parents are required to phone in the absence to the school office prior to or on the day of the absence. Please report the absence on the correct menu selection when calling the school office.

Absence phone number:

Bloomer Elementary School	715-568-2800
St. Paul's Catholic School	715-568-3233

Please be sure you have explained who is able to pick up your child if an illness arises. Also be sure to communicate any special medical problems your child may have so we know how to help in an emergency.

Weather Related Information

School cancellations, delays, and early closings are made based on the best information available to the school district and bus operators. The decisions are made as soon as possible in order to allow parents to make special arrangements for their children. Parents can access weather information from the following media sources:

RADIO:

I-94/WUAK-94.1FM/WEAQ-1150AM/WECL-92.2FM

WAXX-104.5/WATT-790AM
WCFW-105.5FM
WJMC-96.3FM.1240AM
WAQE-97.7FM/1090AM
WWIB-WOGO-103.7FM/680AM
WMEQ-880AM/92.1FM/B-95-95.1FM
WISM-98.1FM
Z-100-100FM

TELEVISION:

WEAU-CHANNEL 13

The automated phone system will also notify families at their primary phone number.

If the Bloomer School District cancels school for the day, all Bloomer programs will also be canceled. If the public school system delays school in the mornings, AM and PM sessions of Bloomer 4K will be canceled. If the public school system closes school early for the day, Bloomer 4K afternoon sessions will be canceled.

Family Outreach Program

An important component of the Bloomer 4K program is the Family Outreach program. The focus on the program is to provide parents and children with opportunities to grow as a family. Throughout the school year activities and presentations will be open to all families. Each family is encouraged to participate. The activities will be scheduled in the evenings when most families are available. There will be 87.5 hours of outreach opportunities throughout the year.

Attendance

Regular school attendance is essential to a child's success in school. The importance of regular attendance cannot be overstated; regular attendance at the four-year-old preschool level establishes healthy patterns of attendance that can last throughout the school years and into adult employment. Each location of the Bloomer 4K program maintains records for enrolled children. A child's absence is designated as "excused" or "unexcused."

IF YOUR CHILD IS GOING TO BE ABSENT OR TARDY FROM SCHOOL PLEASE CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE AT 568-2800 BEFORE 8:30 A.M. TO REPORT THE ABSENCE OR TARDINESS ON THE APPROPRIATE MENU SELECTION.

TARDINESS AND AN ABSENCE MUST BE REPORTED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE NOT THE CLASSROOM TEACHER. IN ADDITION TO REPORTING THE ABSENCE TO THE OFFICE, PARENTS MAY NOTIFY THE TEACHER IF THEY SO WISH, BUT THE SCHOOL OFFICE MUST BE THE PREDOMINATE LOCATION TO REPORT AN ABSENCE OR TARDINESS.

IN ADDITION TO CALLING THE SCHOOL OFFICE WHEN YOUR CHILD IS **TARDY, HE/SHE MUST ALSO HAVE A WRITTEN NOTE FROM THE PARENT UPON ARRIVING**

AT SCHOOL. THE NOTE FOR **TARDINESS** SHOULD BE BROUGHT DIRECTLY TO THE OFFICE TO HAVE OFFICE PERSONNEL SIGN IT BEFORE TAKING IT TO THE CLASSROOM TEACHER.

PARENTS: PLEASE HAVE THE NOTE WRITTEN BEFORE YOUR CHILD ARRIVES AT SCHOOL—DO NOT WRITE THE NOTE IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE OR YOUR CHILD’S CLASSROOM AS THIS CAN BE DISRUPTIVE.

IN ADDITION TO CALLING THE SCHOOL OFFICE ON THE DAY YOUR CHILD IS **ABSENT**, WHEN YOUR CHILD RETURNS FROM AN **ABSENCE** A NOTE MUST ACCOMPANY HIM/HER. YOUR CHILD SHOULD TAKE THIS NOTE DIRECTLY TO THE CLASSROOM TEACHER. AGAIN, PLEASE HAVE THE NOTE WRITTEN BEFORE YOUR CHILD ARRIVES AT SCHOOL.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE POLICY COULD RESULT IN A STUDENT RECEIVING AN UNEXCUSED ABSENCE. THIS, IN TURN, MAY LEAD TO A TRUANCY ISSUE.

VALID REASONS FOR AN ABSENCE:

- Personal illness
- Serious illness or death in the family
- Absence approved in advance by building principal or the district superintendent
- Medical or dental attention
- Observation of religious holidays

NOTE: EMAILS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AS NOTES FOR AN ABSENCE OR TARDINESS SO PLEASE DO NOT EMAIL YOUR CHILD’S ABSENCE OR TARDINESS.

It is important that your child attends school, but if your child is ill, he/she should stay home. A day of rest, fluids, and lots of loving care may be the “best medicine” available.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Communication between the parents and the 4K classroom is of utmost importance. Communication between parents and teacher should take place as often as possible. Parent/teacher conferences are scheduled during the first and third trimester. The parent’s attendance at conferences is very important. A parent may request a conference with their child’s teacher at any time during the school year. Please call the teacher for an appointment if a conference is desired. Likewise, a teacher may sometimes find it necessary to request a special conference with a parent. Please make every effort with the teacher if you receive such a request.

Report cards are issued following the completion of each trimester. Please carefully review your child's progress and contact the school if you have questions regarding anything listed.

Transportation

Transportation will be provided to those children in the 4K program.

Child Guidance

The Bloomer School District promotes the philosophy of positive guidance of children where children develop self-control of their actions and increase their self-esteem. The goal in every classroom is to develop appropriate social skills so the children can become independent and well-adjusted individuals.

The classroom teachers and paraeducators have the responsibility of guiding children's behavior and ensuring the safety of all the children and adults in the classroom. The classroom teacher has the primary responsibility of determining what developmentally appropriate behavior guidance techniques will be used in each specific situation.

Techniques used in prevention:

- Giving clear and reasonable expectations
- Teaching the correct behavior
- Making the children feel important and respected

Non-confrontational techniques used by staff:

- Ignoring
- Redirecting
- Shadowing
- Modeling
- Praising
- Suggesting
- Changing the environment
- Providing logical and meaningful consequences
- Staying calm

Individual Child Behavior

It is the goal of the Bloomer 4K Program to work in collaboration with parents or guardians in promoting positive child guidance strategies, both in the classroom, and in the home, and in the community.

An Individual Behavior Plan will be used with those children who demonstrate repeated or significant behavior problems in the classroom. Adults will use observations of the child to document the child's behavior in a variety of situations. Conferences will be held with staff and

parents to review classroom observations and to develop appropriate intervention strategies to address the individual needs of the child.

The following procedures will be reviewed and incorporated as needed in the Individual Behavior Plan:

- Staff documentation, including behavioral observations and anecdotal notes
- Conferences between staff, parents, and consultants
- Review of the child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) if the child has a documented special education need
- Additional staff support in addition to the classroom staff--the School Psychologist, Program Coordinators, and/or consultants may provide observations and technical assistance
- Consideration of any recent parent initiated physical examinations by a physician to rule out any medical cause of the behavior
- Modifications in the classroom setting, classroom schedule, or physical environment
- Changes in classroom staffing patterns (shadowing, break times, office times, etc.) and/or transportation procedures for the child
- Changes in program options may be available
- Referral to appropriate outside agencies (school district, medical facilities, mental health agencies, family agencies, etc.) for evaluation and services

All procedures utilized in regard to the Individual Behavior Plan will be properly documented in writing by the staff. Parents/guardians will be actively involved in and informed of all procedures.

Special Occasion Treats

The Bloomer School District recognizes the benefits of healthful foods in our schools and classrooms to assure that our children can grow, learn, and thrive.

If parents desire to send a food item for a child's birthday or special event, the food should be low in sugar and fat. Due to an increase in food allergies in the general population, *foods containing nut products or nut byproducts will not be allowed* in the classroom.