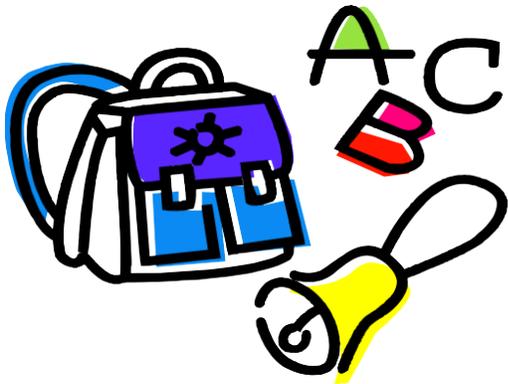


Learning for Leadership Charter School

EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

PARENT INFORMATION PACKET



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Thank you for your interest in Early Admission to Kindergarten. We are pleased to partner with you for your child's school success and hope these materials will help you in this decision-making process. Please read all of the enclosed information, and return the completed packet to Learning for Leadership Charter School. Once this packet has been reviewed and your student has been tested pursuant to Minnesota Statute, you will be contacted as to whether or not your student's early admission to kindergarten has been accepted.

Learning for Leadership Charter School's Vision and Mission

Vision:

Learning for Leadership Charter School: A Twin Cities kindergarten through grade twelve school that is successful in developing student's basic skills and leadership skills. Our program will assist and challenge youth to live their lives with the highest level of authenticity, integrity, and courage.

Mission:

The mission of the teachers, parents and community leaders working at Learning for Leadership Charter School is to successfully assist each student to develop and to attain the skills necessary for postsecondary success. Students will be prepared through academic rigor and through opportunities for experiential learning around leadership activities, building a public school together, and giving back to society.

PURPOSE OF EARLY ADMISSION

The purpose of Early Admission is to provide flexibility to enroll children who do not meet the entrance age requirement, but reach the age of 5 years on or between September 2 and September 30 of the school year for which enrollment is sought.

Early Admission policies and practices are an option offered to parents by Learning for Leadership Charter School. While the State of Minnesota is permissive in allowing districts to offer an early admission option, it is not a requirement under the law.

Parents are asked to fully consider all aspects of their child's development in completing the checklist and application for early admission. It is important to remember that your child will be among the youngest students in class throughout his/her school career. This makes it necessary for you to carefully consider the possible ramifications of having your child enter kindergarten early, not only for the coming year, but also for how this may impact your child in later school years. Children entering under the Early Admission process will need to consistently demonstrate ability beyond age expectations in the areas of emotional and social maturity, as well as intellectual and physical performance.

If, after reading the packet, you have questions, please contact the school director for further information. We are pleased to have you with us at Learning for Leadership Charter School and look forward to working with you in the coming years to promote your child's learning success.

Learning for Leadership Charter School admits students to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to all students in the schools. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, age, or disability in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, athletic programs, or in any other way.

PROCEDURE FOR EARLY ADMITTANCE TO KINDERGARTEN

1. A parent/guardian may request early admission to kindergarten under the following conditions in accordance with Learning for Leadership Charter School Early Admission Process
 - 1.1. The child's fifth birthday is on or between September 2 and September 30 of the school year for which enrollment is sought.
 - 1.2. The parent/guardian completes the District Early Admission Packet available in Learning for Leadership Charter School's office.
2. The following procedure will be used for processing requests:
 - 2.1. The director and school team will review the completed District Early Admission Packet. The principal will inform the parent if the child will be considered for early admission enrollment. Parents may expect a response within two to three weeks following submission.
 - 2.2. Children approved for early admission consideration will attend kindergarten during the month of September. During this time, school staff will gather additional information about the child's readiness to continue for the full school year.
 - 2.3. The director, with input from the school staff, will determine if early admission to kindergarten is appropriate to the child's readiness. The decision to continue or discontinue the early admission to kindergarten will be shared with the parent during the first week of October.
 - 2.4. The parent may appeal decisions in accordance with Learning for Leadership Charter School's commitment to due process.

SOME FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN MAKING A DECISION ABOUT EARLY ADMISSION

- What may be developmentally appropriate for one child may not be for another.

Children mature at different rates and in different ways. Learning for Leadership Charter School uses continuous learning plans that take children where they are in the learning process and extends the learning from that point forward. This provides for acceleration as appropriate while allowing students to remain with age like peers.

- Health, stamina, maturity, and readiness to be in a kindergarten-learning environment.

The structure of the school day places physical demands on children for concentrated periods of time on a consistent daily basis. Students who require a nap, tire easily, or do not readily maintain attention to a task may benefit from the pace of a pre-school experience.

- Expectation is for consistent daily attendance.

Students who attend school regularly, beginning in kindergarten, develop a more positive outlook about school and themselves as capable learners. Pre-School is an appropriate choice for families who wish to provide their child with enrichment experiences through travel, informal play and other individual and social family experiences that would cause the child to miss school.

- Kindergarten is a journey not a race.

At the kindergarten level we seek to foster a lifelong love of learning and joy in discovery leading to school success across the grades. The early childhood education years are important for a child's development of self-confidence, skills of independence and persistence. Informal play and time with family are an important part of the early years that help students develop social skills, independence and resilience

CHECKLIST FOR EARLY ADMISSION TO KINDERGARTEN

Directions:

- Please complete the following checklist and return it to the school director.
- Use the back or extra paper as needed.

Date checklist completed _____

Student's full name _____

Student's date of birth _____

Name of parent/guardian completing checklist _____

Home Address _____

City, Zip _____

Phone Number(s) _____

Pre-school attended (if applicable) _____

Please check all that consistently apply to your child. Please leave those items your child does not demonstrate or that you are unsure of blank.

- Fairly independent of adults – does not require a high level of adult attention to problem solve social situations, sustain attention to task, or to make positive choices
- Responsive to adult direction and modeling
- Plays cooperatively with other children, shares toys and materials
- Copes well with rebuffs from other children
- Demonstrates empathy
- Generally positive in mood and outlook
- Has multiple friendships
- Has positive, successful approach in meeting new children
- Ability to give clear reasons for actions
- Appropriately self assertive
- Takes turn
- Able to negotiate compromises
- Uses words to appropriately express frustration and anger
- Completes responsibilities such as putting toys away, dressing, tying shoelaces, and using the bathroom independently

- Attends to and finishes tasks taking 20 minutes or more
- Child has a working vocabulary of 3000 words and uses sentences 5 to 6 words in length.
- Child communicates effectively with adults and children (i.e., uses the same words to refer to concepts and ideas as others, adjusts communication to increase understanding).
- Child engages in fine motor tasks such as coloring, painting, and drawing willingly and sees most projects through to completion.
- Child demonstrates correct pencil grasp
- Follows three part verbal directions such as "Please take off your coat, select a picture book, and sit down at the table or "Please clean up your art project, put your paper on my desk, and come sit in the circle."
- Able to retell a story in sequence – beginning, middle, end.
- Knows the names of colors and basic shapes
- Can draw a circle, square, and triangle when a model is provided
- Can rote count to 1-10 and understands number concepts up to 5 (Example of number concept of 5: If you have three dimes, how many more of my dimes do you need to have 5?)

_____ Total tally of the checkmarks

CHECKLIST REVIEW

The following guidelines are to assist parent and the principal in the decision making process for entering kindergarten for the month of September.

Directions for Checklist Review

- There are 25 checkpoints.
- Count each checkmark as a 1 and each blank as a zero.
- Tally the total number of checkmarks.

Total checkmarks 20 –25: Pending a comprehensive academic assessment, the child may be enrolled for the month of September with a final decision by the director regarding enrollment for the year by the first week of October.

Total checkmarks 16 – 19: Pending a comprehensive academic assessment, we recommend careful consideration as to whether to proceed with the process. The child may or may not be best served by early admission. However, the child may be enrolled for the month of September with a final decision by the director regarding enrollment for the year by the first week of October.

Total checkmarks 15 or less: Recommend the child engage in a variety of enriching activities such as preschool and extended care activities at this time.