

LCS

LAKE COUNTRY SCHOOL

4K HANDBOOK



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Lake Country School District

1800 Vettelson Road, Hartland, WI 53029
Phone: 262-367-3606 | FAX: 262-367-3205
www.mylakecountryschool.org

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Lake Country School's 4K program! Our program will strive to provide your child with a wide variety of opportunities to learn and explore. The goal of this program is to expose each child to positive and motivating educational and social activities, which will guide them towards a balanced readiness for our kindergarten program.

Lake Country School believes that parent involvement is a valuable component of a successful school. Parents are encouraged to ask questions and get involved in what your child is learning. They are also encouraged to visit the classroom throughout the year.

In this handbook, you will find information about our program. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

We look forward to working with you and your child. Together, we will make this a positive and exciting school experience.

Sincerely,
Kendria Bakken

PHILOSOPHY OF OUR 4K PROGRAM

Lake Country's philosophy of the four-year-old kindergarten program is to create a safe, nurturing, and enriching classroom environment. Students are given the opportunities and guidance to explore, manipulate and create with the goal of accomplishing kindergarten readiness and fostering a love of learning. Our curriculum is guided by the Wisconsin Model for Early Learning Standards.



LAKE COUNTRY SCHOOL
WILDCATS



SCHOOL INFORMATION

SCHOOL ADDRESS

Lake Country School
1800 Vettelson Road
Hartland, WI 53029

SCHOOL PHONE

262.367.3606

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATOR

Chad Schraufnagel
schraufnagelc@mylakecountryschool.org

TEACHER

Mrs. Kendria Bakken
bakkenk@mylakecountryschool.org

GENERAL 4-K INFORMATION

AGE CRITERIA FOR ENROLLMENT

Your child must be four years old by September 1st of the current school year. All children must be able to use the bathroom independently.

OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open enrollment to the 4-year-old kindergarten program will be based upon the District's open enrollment policy.

CLASS HOURS AND DAYS OF OPERATION

Class will meet Monday-Friday following the regular Lake Country School calendar.

- The **Morning 4K Class** will begin at **8:04 a.m.** and end at **11:10 a.m.**
- The **Afternoon 4K Class** will begin at **12:04 p.m.** and end at **3:10 p.m.**
- **Stay & Play** is available in the mornings from **8:04 a.m. - 12:04 p.m.** (lunch will be served)

DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP OF CHILDREN

All resident morning students will be eligible to ride the bus to school. Transportation will be provided in the morning by the regular school bus routes that all Lake Country School students ride. Parents may drive their child to school, and will be asked to follow the drop off and pick up procedures provided in the school handbook.

Resident afternoon students have the option to ride the bus home. If someone besides a parent or regular caregiver is to pick-up a child, the teacher must be informed in advance to ensure the safety of each child.

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Bus schedules are distributed before the start of the school year. This schedule lists bus stops by streets. Pick up times are also provided.

- Bussing is available for morning 4K students and Wildcat Care students *to arrive* at school, pick-up for morning 4K students at 11:10 a.m. is required.
- Busing is available for afternoon 4K students *at dismissal*, drop-off for afternoon 4K students at 12:04 p.m. is required.

BUS SEATING FOR 4K

4K students are seated at the front of the bus. If your child is in afternoon 4K and rides the bus home at 3:10 p.m. dismissal, the teacher or aide will provide support for the students in finding seats on the bus. The teacher or aide will point out to the bus driver 4K students who will be riding the bus.

SNACKS

Each day, children will be offered a snack during a specified time. Parents are asked to send a snack to school with their child each day. In addition, parents will be offered the opportunity to pay a small milk fee at registration. This fee covers the cost of milk once a day during snack time, for the entire school year. For those not interested in participating in the school milk program, water will be offered to their child at each snack.

A few ideas for healthy snacks...

- snack crackers (Teddy Grahams, Wheat Thins, Ritz Bits, Gold Fish)
- graham crackers
- pretzels
- fresh fruit or vegetables and dip
- cheese sticks

***These suggestions may need to be modified in the event we have a student in our class with specific kinds of food allergies.**

RECESS

4K students have one gross motor break per day. It can be held both indoors and outside depending upon the weather and scheduling. Students are expected to dress for the weather, as we do still go outside when winter arrives. 4K students should make sure to keep a change of clothes, including socks and underwear, for the occasional bathroom accident or slip in the mud and snow outside. As the temperatures drop 4K students are expected to have hats, gloves or mittens, snow pants, and boots. This allows them to be prepared for all temperatures as students will go outside as long as the temperature is not below zero degrees (with windchill).

BIRTHDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Birthdays are very special and exciting for children so it is our policy to make your child feel very important on their special day.

We will celebrate major holidays throughout the school year. If you have any concerns or issues with the celebration of a particular holiday, we can discuss it in advance so that it can be handled in a way that feels comfortable to all.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Communication between teachers and parents is a key component to helping children make the most of their school experience. When home and school are communicating, the parents and the teacher are better in tune with the needs of the child. The 4-K Program strives to keep the lines of communication open through newsletters, notes home, parent-teacher conferences, and an open door policy so that the needs of every child are being identified and met.

Newsletters will be sent out regularly. This detailed newsletter will notify parents of upcoming themes and academic focuses, offer ideas for fun activities to reinforce concepts already covered, offer helpful information about four year old children and provide reminders of upcoming events.

Parent/teacher conferences will be held twice during the year to discuss each child's progress in the classroom. Although there will be two scheduled conferences, parents should feel free to schedule a conference at any time throughout the year to discuss any concerns.

An open door policy is the most informal of the four communication methods mentioned; yet it is so important. It is important as a parent to know that you are always welcome in your child's classroom. What better way to know about your child's school experience than actually spending time in your child's classroom? We encourage parents to volunteer. Parents can be an invaluable resource in the classroom and young children truly love having their mom or dad spend time in their "school world."

THE FOUR-YEAR-OLD KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM OUR APPROACH TO A BALANCED PROGRAM

A balanced school program for four-year-old children should place an emphasis on academics, exploration, free play and social growth.

1. Academics will be based on developmentally appropriate approaches that take into account the needs of the individual child.

Literacy Development

1. Student demonstrates how to use a book.
2. Student recognizes that print has meaning.
3. Student uses pictures to predict a story.
4. Student sequences a 3-4 part story.
5. Student recognizes name in print.
6. Student recognizes some alphabet letters by their shape, especially those in his/her name.
7. Student begins to develop phonemic awareness by exploring language (i.e. alliteration, word games, nursery rhymes).
8. Student recognizes characters, setting, and parts of a story (ie. beginning, middle, end).

Language Development

1. Student demonstrates conversation skills.
2. Student uses appropriate volume and expression.
3. Student uses language to communicate and negotiate ideas for activities.
4. Student participates in songs, finger plays, and dramatic play.
5. Student tells a story about experiences, pictures or books.
6. Student listens attentively to stories.
7. Student follows an oral 1-2 step direction.

Math

Through the Everyday Math program, students will develop mathematical skills, including the following:

1. Student verbally counts in sequence to 20 and beyond.
2. Student counts objects with one-to-one correspondence.
3. Student recognizes numbers 1-10.
4. Student recognizes basic 2- dimensional shapes.
5. Student distinguishes and describes size attributes, and compares objects according to various size attributes.
6. Student recognizes and uses rules to sort objects.
7. Student uses rules to create and extend repeating patterns.
8. Student uses graphs to answer simple questions.
9. Student begins to solve and create simple number stories using concrete modeling.

Science

1. Student makes observations and predictions, then tests predictions using simple experiments.
2. Student collects and represents data in a variety of ways focusing on concrete and pictorial representations.
3. Student sequences events in time.
4. Student observes and investigates the properties of objects, both living and nonliving.
5. Student explores the concept of change in both living and nonliving entities and in the environment

Social Studies

1. Student identifies unique characteristics of themselves and others.
2. Student communicates about their family, including family roles and traditions.
3. Student becomes a contributing member of the classroom community.
4. Student demonstrates knowledge of his neighborhood and community.

Fine Motor Development

1. Student demonstrates consistent hand dominance.
2. Student prints first name.
3. Student starts to form letters.
4. Student uses scissors with control.
5. Student buttons, snaps and zips.

Music

1. Student sings and moves along to music.
2. Student develops an appreciation for music by listening to various types of music.

Handwriting

Through the Zaner-Bloser curriculum we prepare young learners for school. Writing requires many skills that are essential for school: physical, language, cognitive, social, and perceptual. This Readiness and Writing program uses multi-sensory manipulatives to teach all the core readiness skills including crayon grip, letter and number recognition, number and capital letter formation, and body awareness. Students learn that we read and write from top to bottom and left to right. Students learn how to hold crayons and form letters and numbers that are right side up and made correctly. We give them their first tools for learning

Art

1. Student explores various visual arts media (finger painting, drawing, sculpting).
2. Student develops an appreciation for various artists and illustrators.

Gross Motor Development

1. Student participates in movement activities that require gross motor skills such as hopping, jumping, marching, and skipping.
2. Student uses objects to demonstrate coordination.
3. Student participates in organized games.

2. Exploration will provide an opportunity for children to visit daily learning centers that reinforce areas of study, experimentation, enrichment, independence and student choice. Young children learn best through hands-on activities that enhance the growth of a child's educational development. Centers include dramatic play, art, sensory table, blocks, writing, math, reading corner, puzzles and science.

3. Free Play offers opportunities for cooperative play, encourages sharing and turn taking and sets the stage for children to develop conversational skills. Through free play children learn and practice appropriate coping skills. This time also allows children to learn how to handle the transition between work time and play time.

4. Social growth is an important aspect of our program. Our classroom exposes children to social and behavioral expectations and builds a "school sense."

Social/Emotional Development

1. Student demonstrates increased independence, responsibility, and self-direction.
2. Student exhibits positive interactions with other children and adults.
3. Student follows school and classroom expectations.
4. Student participates in group routines.
5. Student transitions through the daily schedule and routines with ease.
6. Student exhibits attending and focusing skills.
7. Student develops appropriate self-help skills.

5. Assessment 4K LITERACY ASSESSMENT

Wisconsin law requires that students in 4-year old kindergarten take an early literacy screener in the Fall and Spring of each school year.

You will be notified of the literacy screening dates prior to its administration. Your child's teacher will administer the assessment to students in a one-on-one setting. The developmentally appropriate, flexible administration schedule is untimed and designed to prevent frustration for students. Your child's performance on the literacy assessment will be shared with you on Skyward.

DAILY SCHEDULE

This is a typical daily 4K schedule.

Class Meeting

(Singing, calendar, group activity)

Table Jobs

(math/literacy/fine motor activities)

Large Group Instruction

(social/emotional or phonemic awareness instruction)

Bathroom & Snack

Read Aloud

Free Choice Centers

(Library, Art, Pretend, Blocks, Discovery, Puzzles/Games, Teacher led small group)

Large Group Activity

(games and songs focusing on learning themes)

Gross Motor

Goodbye

4K SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST

Please only label items marked **LABEL**

- Change of clothes in a **LABELED** gallon size bag
(pants, shirt, underwear, & socks)

- Crayons, Crayola, 24 count (1 box)
- Folder, pocket, PLASTIC (1) **LABEL**
- Glue Sticks, Elmer's, Giant (3)
- Spiral notebook, one subject (1) **LABEL**
- Markers, Crayola, washable, Classic colors (1 box)
- Playdough, 2 containers any color - 4 oz (standard size)
- Wipes, Clorox disinfecting (1 container) AM class only
- Kleenex (1) PM class only
- \$5.00 for special projects

In addition to above supplies, please consider donating any of the following items: dry erase markers, pip-squeak markers, stickers, kleenex, sanitizer, shaving cream