

# Prekindergarten News

Rochester City  
School District



*Message from the Executive  
Director, Dr. Robin Hooper*

### Welcome Prekindergarten Families and Students!

During September and October prekindergarten programs in district elementary schools and community based organizations held orientations, open houses and other program-based events providing opportunities for families to communicate with their child's teachers. Communication between parents and teachers is key to student success in the prekindergarten program.

Teachers display their daily routine in the classroom and at this time students are beginning to learn the parts of the routine in their classrooms. Student work is displayed in prek classrooms and sent home to parents. Student paintings provide an opportunity for conversation. Ask children to describe their art work for you, discussing the colors used in their pictures and listen to their responses.

Each prekindergarten classroom has a parent lending library to support our "Read 1,000 Books before Kindergarten Campaign." Books will be sent home with families and prek students to read and return. Adults can log the books read on Reading Logs and students can record their books read using bubble sheets provided by your child's teacher. I encourage all prek families to participate in the parent lending library and the 1,000 Book Campaign!

Before each school vacation break prek students will receive books to take home and keep for their home libraries. Students will each receive a copy of the *Snowy Day* written by Ezra Jack Keats, *Healthy Foods A to Z* written by Stephanie Maze and *Biggest, Strongest, Fastest* written by Steve Jenkins before the December vacation break. Enjoy reading these books and others with your child this year!

Lastly, the district will be implementing a prekindergarten program for three-year-old students beginning on January 4, 2015. Requirements for eligibility in the three-year-old program include city residents who will be three years old on or before December 1, 2015, eligibility for free or reduced lunch, a language other than English spoken in the home or eligibility for preschool special education services. A lottery will be held to select students for participation in the program early in December. Please call 262-8140 to learn more about the free six hour prekindergarten program for three year old students.



"If a child is to keep his inborn sense of wonder he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in."  
Rachel Carson

## OUR PRESCHOOL DAY



Throughout the day students engage in purposeful play that supports their learning. They have meaningful interactions with both adults and peers; solve conflicts; learn to express their wants and needs; empathize with each other; and begin to share and take turns. They learn about self control, accepting limits and following directions. All of these skills are important for their success in Kindergarten.

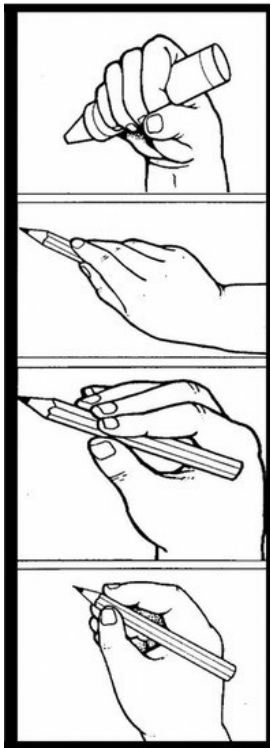
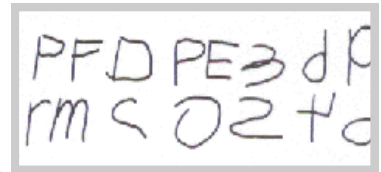
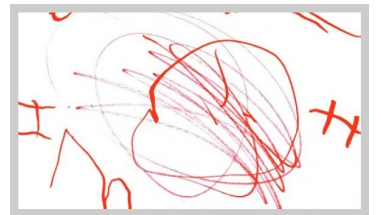
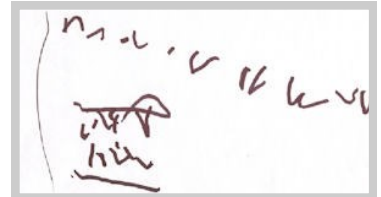


To find out more about how the activities your child engages in at preschool supports their growth talk to your child's teacher and visit the classroom regularly.



# STAGES OF HANDWRITING

None of us would expect an infant to walk. We are excited when babies roll over, creep, and crawl. There is no expectation for a baby to walk before they go through those stages. When it comes to writing, however, we are sometimes not as patient.



There are stages that children move through when it comes to handwriting. Just as a baby must crawl before he or she walks, children first scribble and make forms that imitate writing before they learn to write their names or any other letters of the alphabet. They will hold a pencil, crayon or marker in the fist and may move through the stages pictured on the left before becoming able to use a conventional grip.

When parents and teachers offer children many opportunities to write, and accept all of their markings as writing then children are more likely to be confident in their abilities and successful.

The next time you notice your child holding a pencil in the fist and making random marks you can confidently say, "Look at your writing!"

# 1000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN

The year is off to an exciting start for this preschooler and his grandfather. He is looking forward to reading the book he is borrowing from his classroom's lending library. All UPK classrooms have lending libraries from which children may borrow books. The forms below are a way for families to keep track of how many books they are reading with a goal of reading 1,000 books before Kindergarten. Please be sure to connect with your child's teacher to learn more about this wonderful opportunity.



1000 Books Before Kindergarten

500 Books Before Kindergarten: Home Record  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Book Title	# of times

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Every child is a work of art.  
Create a masterpiece.

### Our Vision

Prekindergarten Programs empower young children to successfully contribute to their families, school, community and environment.

### Our Mission

Prekindergarten Programs provide opportunities for young children to participate in challenging, stimulating programs, designed to support their language, cognitive, and social development while being sensitive to their strengths and needs.

Visit our website at  
[www.rcsdk12.org/PreK](http://www.rcsdk12.org/PreK)

## Learning at Small Group Times

The UPK daily routine includes 2 small group times. Each small group meets in a consistent space every day to explore the use of planned materials. Math and English Language Arts concepts are presented in ways that support each child's unique development. Creativity and imagination are fostered by staff. Daily conversations around these experiences help children gain confidence in their ability to learn.

