



*Come to play. Stay to learn.*

*Southwestern School District is further developing their 4K program by adding more time for play based learning. This will increase the current 2 full day program to 4 full days. Your child will have more opportunities to grow and learn through play.*

## What's New?

Southwestern will continue its current academic curriculum along with adding more time for students to build relationships, enhance language skills, and improve physical and mental health through play. With the increase in time we are able to provide a more consistent academic experience to promote the retention of skills and exposure to a wider variety of hands on learning encounters. We will also be adding in more time for rest in order to allow your child the chance to recharge and reset throughout the day.

## Second Step

This will help our littlest learners harness their energy and potential by teaching them to: listen, pay attention, manage their behavior, and get along with others

When students enter kindergarten with the self-regulation and social-emotional skills taught with evidence-based Second Step Social-Emotional Learning (SEL), they're set up for success.

### Books, Music and Activities

Your child will get to experiment with instruments and movement in a whole group setting. We will also play games to increase comfort level and strengthen social skills.

Students will have the opportunity to engage with a wide a variety of texts to promote speaking and listening skills, as well as concepts of print and theme based vocabulary.

### Sensory Table/Games/Toys

**Sensory time allow students the opportunity to use senses to take in, experience, integrate and regulate responses to the environment.**

**Games and Toys give students the opportunity to learn to cooperate, follow rules, develop self-control and build relationship with their peers.**

*More on back!*



## Early Literacy and Math Exploration

Students will learn letter names and sounds. We also will work on other early literacy skills by making books, looking at big books and identifying words and symbols in print. Children will participate in hands-on, creative activities that will prepare them for basic math skills. We will focus on number sense, pattern recognition, simple graphing and simple geometry (shapes) concepts.

## Language

Students will be provided opportunities to enhance their listening and understanding as well as their speaking and communicating skills. Including: vocabulary, positional words, following directions, sequencing and telling stories.

## Free Play and Guided Play

Children will have a variety of play opportunities throughout the day.

Free play promotes creativity and imagination. Guided play allows adults to participate in, as well as model appropriate play skills.

### Benefits of play

- Smarter, faster learning and better memory, more creative.
- Better communication, vocabulary and language.
- Greater impulse control and emotion regulation.
- Greater social competence, more empathy, happier.
- Better health.
- Life lesson learning.
- Better relationships.



## Fine-Motor

Fine motor skills are movements students make with the small muscles of the hands. Strengthening these muscles help children perform important tasks such as, feeding themselves, buttoning and zipping clothes, writing, and drawing.

Gross motor develops large muscles in the body. By providing students opportunities to run, jump, crawl, climb etc., they gain strength and confidence in their body. Physical activity also promotes a healthy body and mind. Developing these skills increases student's ability to do more complex skills in future activities.

## Gross-Motor

## Upcoming Events

Southwestern School District will be providing informational meetings for parents and community members. With an additional parent and student orientation in May.

- March 7 @ 10:00 am in the Multi-Media room at the High School
- March 25 @ 6:00 pm at PJ's Pub in Kieler
- April 16 @ 7:00 pm in the Multi-Media room at the High School

## Contact Info,

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. ***Check out our video on our school website!***

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## Resources

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/books/serious-fun>

<https://usplaycoalition.org/>

<https://dpi.wi.gov/sites/default/files/imce/fscp/pdf/ec-wmels-rev2013.pdf>