

BEGINDERGARTEN

1. What is Begindergarten?

Begindergarten is a program offered to children who are not developmentally, socially, or academically ready for kindergarten. Begindergarten offers children a “Gift of Time” to grow and develop to ensure continue success throughout their school career.

The Begindergarten program is usually followed by a year of Kindergarten; giving the child two consecutive years of schooling before attending first grade.

2. What are the requirements to enroll in Begindergarten?

Begindergarten is designed for students who are eligible to attend Kindergarten but have birthdays during the months of May, June, July, and August.

According to MN statute a student must turn 5 by September 1, of the current school year, to be eligible to attend Kindergarten.

The Begindergarten program serves typically developing students. The program is not intended for students who are currently being served with an individualized education plan. The one caveat to this is a student who is receiving speech services may be considered for enrollment to this program.

3. What would a student learn in Begindergarten?

Begindergarten is an academic based program that exposes students to the kindergarten Common Core Standards. Students will receive instruction in reading, math, writing, science, and social studies. Concepts are introduced at a slower pace than Kindergarten.

The curriculum chosen to introduce these topics would typically be different than the current Kindergarten curriculum.

Students would be exposed to the common core standards. Mastery is NOT expected on these standards like it is in kindergarten.

Students would have the opportunity to have physical education, music, and media one time per week. They would have access to the SMART room on a daily basis.

4. What are the benefits of Begindergarten?

- *Begindergarten gives children the "gift of time".
- *Increases child's success in school and in life.
- *Research studies show a decrease in the need for retention in Kindergarten and less need for remediation in later grades.
- *Provides a bridge between preschool and Kindergarten.
- *Kindergarten classrooms where children have higher learning, productivity, and proficiency equals teachers who can spend more time on learning and less on classroom management.

Research

88% of children who are poor readers in first grade will remain poor readers in 4th grade. 74% of poor readers in 3rd grade will remain poor readers in high school.

5. What does typical Begindergarten day look like?

8:30-9:00 Morning Meeting
9:00-9:15 Calendar
9:15-9:30 Bathroom Break
9:30-10:00 Math
10:00-10:30 Centers
10:30-11:00 Language Arts/Social Studies
11:00-11:15 Shared Reading
11:15-11:45 Recess
11:45-12:15 Lunch
12:15-12:30 Bathroom
12:30-1:00 Rest Time
1:00-1:30 SMART Room/Media/Music/Phy. Ed
1:30-1:45 Snack
1:45-2:00 Science
2:00-2:30 Language Arts
2:30-3:00 Centers/Prepare to Go Home

6. Current Data

* 7 preschool students that could be enrolled in Kindergarten but parents have decided to wait

*10 students who are currently enrolled in Kindergarten, have summer birthday's, and teachers feel could have benefited from a Begindergarten program

*5 students currently enrolled in Kindergarten this school year but could have attended during the 12-13 school year. They are performing at a high level both academically and socially.

7. Survey

[Parent Survey](#)

