

Kids Welcome:

Before School 6:30-9:35

After School 4:00-6:00

Enter Door #3

Lake Harriet Lower Tribune

October 2015

Minneapolis Kids
Minneapolis Community Education

HTTP://MPLSKIDS.MPLS.K12.MN.US



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Off to a Great Start

Thanks for making this an amazing start to the school year and what great weather we have had. Please continue to send in any communication about your child and changes to their schedule.

Kids are having a blast with all the different options available to them. A kiddo suggested that the younger kids should be able to go to the lunchroom to play (currently grades 2-3 only). We came to a good compromise and those in grades K-1 may go there on Fridays. We do lis-

ten to the kids, so keep the suggestions coming.

Remember we go outside every day after school so be sure to send weather appropriate clothing as it gets cooler outside.

Thanks to those who stopped by our table at the Curriculum Night/Mpls Kids Open House. They had great questions and we unveiled our NEW and IMPROVED Non School Day Calendar, which is also posted on our website. Ask us for a copy if you didn't get one yet!

Communication

We always want you to be in the loop on what's happening here at Lake Harriet Lower Minneapolis Kids. A few of the things we are doing are the monthly newsletter, parent table notices, school messenger emails, REMIND texting, and our website. To receive messages via text, text @mplsk to 612-999-2887. You can opt out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe@mplsk'.

We also have a white board in our entry way featuring riddles submitted by the kids, a weather indicator telling us what we need to wear, the project of the day and any other information that would be important for all to know. Most importantly, it tells you the name of the person who is there to greet you and answer any questions you may have.

October Non School Days

(aka "Release Days")
LHL & LHU are together at Lower Campus.

Please see our Non School Day Calendar for all the details. It is posted on our website.

Wednesday, October 14

At LHL—I Spy With My Little Eye

Thursday, October 15

10:15-3:30 Sever's Corn Maze

Friday, October 16

At LHL—World Food Day

Thursday, October 29

11:00-3:45 Good Times Park

Friday, October 30

At LHL—National Frankenstein Day

Homework

Children are able to do homework anytime they are with Minneapolis Kids.

In the afternoons, the children can opt out from going outside to complete their homework in the lunchroom in peace and quiet. Let us know if you would like your child to work on homework while she/he is with Minneapolis Kids.



Lights On Afterschool

On October 22, Minneapolis Kids will host an Open House as part of Lights On Afterschool, a nationwide rally for afterschool programs that is expected to include some 7,500 events this year. In all, one million Americans are expected to join in events across the country to draw attention to the need for more afterschool programs.



Tracking System

Our number one job is your child's safety and we take it very seriously with a splash of FUN!

The tracking system has many purposes. It gives ownership to the child along with choices, tells parents where the child is (most of the time), and it shows staff exactly who is in the room if an emergency were to occur.

Our magnet boards on the hallway wall are their gateway to the world. There is a place for a name license and spaces to move the colored dot to the room they are destined for.

The little magnet with a name on it is visual permission to move to a new space. It is carried while traveling and given to the staff person when arriving at the destination.

When the child wants to move to another room, she asks the staff to leave who then hands her the license and walkies her to the main magnet board. After reaching the board, she asks the adult there to go to the desired room. The child moves her dot to the new room space as the staff walkies her name. Upon arrival, a staff person places her license on the room board and walkies the child's arrival.

When a child needs to leave the room to use the bathroom, staff are instructed to put an identifying magnet over the child's license until she returns. In an emergency, we know where to find her and the room board is easily removable from its space to take with the group.

Our ideal goal is to have the room

Accreditation Corner

We decided as an organization to take a "pause" on the Accreditation process last year for a few things to be clarified. We are now going forward and plan on a final validator visit sometime this winter.

dots on the main boards match up with the licenses in the rooms.

What if a license is lost? We tell the children that it is similar to an adult losing her driver's license. The adult is unable to drive until a new one is issued. The child's name is written down in 114 as needing a replacement license and she is unable to move from 114 to other rooms until a new one is made. There are many options to choose from in 114 until that happens.

Thanks for supporting your child in using the tracking system. We hope not to have an emergency in the near future, yet we know we are ready!

A Glimpse at Afternoon Check In

Every child must be accounted for **EVERY AFTER-NOON!** All 120 little darlings daily with a high day of 140. Most families typically have 2 or 3 kiddos. Now tack on another 118 to track and that's a lot of kiddos!

When a child does not show up for Minneapolis Kids after school, we consider them "missing" and have a very short window of time to locate the child. There are several procedures we follow and here is a glimpse of what happens daily.

- ⇒ Check with the school secretary to see if they were missing from school
- ⇒ Check with the school nurse to see if they were sent home sick
- ⇒ Check email
- ⇒ Check with their teacher
- ⇒ Touch base with Paula the bus coordinator
- ⇒ Check to see if the child is in a community ed class.
- ⇒ Check to see if any other school activity is taking place

- ⇒ Call the parent if all the above are unsuccessful.
- ⇒ If the child was placed on the bus by the teacher, we call LHU Mpls Kids to have them take the child off the bus. When it arrives at LHU, staff keep them until a parent picks up or we call the bus back to LHL to drop the child off with us at the end of their route. A big thank you to LHU for their continual support.
- ⇒ If we are unable to get them at LHU or the bus won't return to LHL, staff go to the child's home. We cannot transport children in our own vehicles so we stay with the child until an adult arrives or walk them back to school.

Please continue to email both Jenn and Karen with all information, even if a change has been made with the main office or Paula (bus coordinator). We are proud that we have a great relationship with the school, but on occasion that information doesn't get relayed to us. If you don't hear back from us, take that as we never got the message. Typically we are tracking down 5—10 missing kiddos every afternoon so every bit helps. Thank you for your email when your child will be gone!

Our Mission: To provide high quality school age child care for families. We offer a safe, nurturing, educational and recreational experience where children are encouraged to pursue interests and develop friendships, independence, and confidence.