

### **What are the benefits of Four-Year-Old Kindergarten?**

4K provides children with quality early learning experiences that build a solid foundation for future success in school. Numerous research studies show long-term benefits for children who participate in high-quality early childhood programs, such as gains in cognition, knowledge, motor skills and language. Offering 4K through the school district ensures universal access to a quality pre-kindergarten program for all four-year-olds.

### **Why does the district offer 4K classes in preschools/child care centers?**

This approach, known as the community-collaborative model, builds on existing resources in our community. Through district partnership, parents are guaranteed that their child's classroom will have a highly qualified, DPI-licensed teacher and will implement a consistent curriculum framework incorporating the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards. In addition, centers will offer expanded family outreach activities, and certain sites will offer child care before or after 4K (wrap-around care).

### **Where are 4K classes held?**

Classes are held at partner preschools/child care centers:

#### **Agape Christian Preschool**

315 East Main Street  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572  
608.437.7100

[www.agapechristianpreschool.com](http://www.agapechristianpreschool.com)

Director: Amy Kellesvig

#### **Children's Community School**

211 Parkway Drive  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572  
608.437.4121

[www.ccsmounthoreb.com](http://www.ccsmounthoreb.com)

Director: Martha Pfaff

#### **Hearts & Hands Children's Center**

8900 Ridgeview Road  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572  
608.437.6401

[www.heartsandhandschildrenscenter.com/](http://www.heartsandhandschildrenscenter.com/)

Administrator: Julie Hamm

Director: Kim Treamer

#### **Academy of Little Vikings**

1991 Commerce Drive  
Mount Horeb, WI 53572  
608.237.1826

[www.littlevikings4k.com](http://www.littlevikings4k.com)

Administrator: Brenda Fritz

Director: Jessica Eiden

### **Who is eligible for MH4K?**

Any child residing in the Mt. Horeb Area School District or an approved open enrollee who is four years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> can participate in 4K.

### **What about a child who has not attended a pre-k program in the past and is 5 years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup>?**

If a parent elects not to send a child to regular kindergarten, it is possible for students who are five years old and who have not attended a 4K program in the past to attend MH4K. Parents should talk with the 4K Coordinator about their child's readiness for kindergarten. Children can only attend 4K for one year, the year immediately prior to starting kindergarten.

### **Is early entrance into 4K possible?**

No. Children must be four years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> to participate.

### **When, where, and how do I register a 4K student?**

Registration forms should be submitted during the enrollment window for priority placement. (The priority placement window closes March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.) You may complete the enrollment process by clicking the "How to Enroll" on the front page of the district website. You will also need to show your child's birth certificate and proof of residency to complete the enrollment process.

### **How are site assignments determined?**

While we strive to accommodate requests, we do not guarantee parents will get their top preference. MHASD will make final placement decisions. Site assignments will be based primarily on need for wrap-around services and previous program enrollment at a site. Other factors that are taken into consideration include (but are not limited to) place of residence, special programming needs, transportation, available openings at the site requested, and site occupancy minimums. Please request the MH4K Standard Operating Procedure for additional information about placement determination.

### **How many students will be in each class?**

Class size is dependent on the structure of the program. Traditional 4K model classrooms will have between 10-20 students per classroom, dependent on staffing (max 13 students per teacher). Every effort will be made to cap class sizes at 18. The Montessori (multi-age) classrooms will be capped at 21, with no more than 11 4K students per classroom. The number of 4K sessions will be determined by the enrollment of four-year-olds in the MH4K program.

### **When will we find out what site and session our child is in?**

Parents who submit a completed 4K enrollment packet for their child within the enrollment window will be notified of their child's 4K placement in mid-April. Parents who register their child after the priority enrollment window will be notified within 2-3 weeks of registration.

### **What are 4K programming days and hours?**

The MH4K program has to meet DPI requirements of a minimum of 437 instructional hours and 87.5 hours of parent involvement. All sites will follow the MHASD calendar, however there will be no 4K programming on early release days. Children will attend 4K programming Tuesday through Friday, for 3 hours and 5 minutes each day, following the school year calendar. There will be 3 4K Mondays during the 2021-2022 school year. See the district calendar for those dates. A choice of morning or afternoon sessions are available. The 4K morning sessions will occur from 8:05 am to 11:10 am for Agape, and 8:15-11:20 for Children's Community School, Little Vikings, and Hearts and Hands; 4K afternoon sessions will occur from 12:10 pm to 3:15 pm.

### **What are the attendance expectations?**

It is an expectation that each child will attend 4K programming when school is in session. The importance of regular attendance cannot be overstated; regular attendance at the four-year-old preschool level establishes healthy patterns of attendance that can last throughout the school years and into adult employment. Each location of MH4K maintains attendance records for enrolled children and forwards this information to the

district daily. Households will receive attendance reminder letters when a certain number of parent request days have been reached.

### **What is the cost?**

MH4K is tuition free. MHASD charges a ten dollar field trip fee. Centers will have their own fees for wrap-around services.

### **What if my child requires wrap-around care?**

It is a parent/guardian responsibility to contact and contract with a community site for wrap-around services. The school district is not responsible for providing or scheduling wrap-around child care.

### **Can religious instruction take place at religion-based sites during 4K?**

No, not during MH4K program hours. The program will comply with state and federal regulations that specify the separation of church and state.

### **What do the children learn?**

MH4K curriculum is based on the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards. These standards are based on current research and are developmentally appropriate practices. There are standards in each of the five developmental domains: health and physical development (e.g. fine and gross motor skills), social and emotional development (e.g. social skills and self-esteem), language development and communication (e.g. listening, speaking, and reading readiness), approaches to learning (e.g. curiosity, persistence, and creativity), and cognition and general knowledge (e.g. mathematical and scientific thinking and problem solving). The program will utilize Handwriting Without Tears for letter formation and recognition instruction. Several components of the Creative Curriculum program will also be utilized. There is a strong emphasis on social and emotional development. MH4K uses the Second Step Curriculum, the We Thinkers (aka The Incredible Flexible You), as well as many of the Pyramid Model strategies such as Tucker the Turtle Technique and the Solution Kit.

### **What is the Pyramid Model?**

The Pyramid Model is an evidence based prevention/intervention framework that prevents challenging behaviors and promotes healthy social and emotional development by supporting positive relationships, creating engaging environments, providing concrete teaching strategies, and if/when needed creating individualized interventions for children. The Pyramid Model is a way to enhance quality of care and promote optimal well-being for all children. It is a relationship-based model that focuses on evidence based practices to ensure a healthy foundation for future success of all children. The Pyramid Model is a parallel model to the district's PBIS model, with the focus being ages 0-5. Parents will have multiple opportunities to team with the MH4K to support their child's social and emotional development.

### **Who will teach 4K and when will I find out who my child has for a teacher?**

All 4K teachers will be hired by the 4K sites. Teachers that teach 4K are licensed Wisconsin teachers and must have the appropriate license to teach preschool aged children. Depending on class size, some sites may

include teaching assistants into their programming. An introduction letter from your child's teacher will be sent to your child in late July/early August.

### **What is *parent involvement* and how are the annual hours (87.5) of parent involvement activities provided?**

Parent Involvement is a support network for parents and families to expand the child's educational experience. The MH4K partners work collaboratively to offer 87.5 hours of parent education and involvement activities. Examples include, but are not limited to PTO meetings and events, family fun nights, training workshops, parent-teacher conferences, open houses, parent newsletters, activities calendars and information about community-wide services/opportunities.

### **Is my child eligible for district provided transportation?**

If the 4K child lives in the district's boundaries, transportation will be provided. Children attending 4K will participate in the school district's regular AM and PM routes. Mid-day pick up and drop off will also be available; door-to-door transportation will be provided on these mid-day bus routes. Families are also encouraged to provide transportation if possible. Please refer to School Board Policy, Bus Routing and Scheduling Policy (751.1) and contact Brian Toth, Director of Transportation (437-7057). Multiple or alternate day pick-up or drop requests will not be honored. The district requires that an adult has visual contact of your 4K child when picked up or dropped off by the bus.

### **Are 4K classes held when Mt. Horeb Schools are cancelled or delayed due to weather?**

If the MHASD school day is cancelled or delayed due to inclement weather, the MH4K programs will also be cancelled. For late start situations, there will be no AM 4K, however PM 4K will be held. For weather related early releases, there will be no PM 4K.

### **Will there be an open house for my 4K child?**

All 4K sites will host a Family Information Night in early-mid August. This will be for all registered 4K students and parents/guardians. Family Information Night dates and times will be listed on the district calendar, district website, and communicated to families in early August.

### **Who can I contact with specific questions?**

**Nicole Tepe, 4K Coordinator** 608.437.7692 [tepenicole@mhasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:tepenicole@mhasd.k12.wi.us)

**Sarah Straka, Director of Instruction** 608.437.7013 [strakasarah@mhasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:strakasarah@mhasd.k12.wi.us)

**Brian Toth, Transportation Director** 608.437.7057 [tothbrian@mhasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:tothbrian@mhasd.k12.wi.us)

**Tammy Beranek, District Registrar** 608.437.7028 [beranektammy@mhasd.k12.wi.us](mailto:beranektammy@mhasd.k12.wi.us)

Mount Horeb Area School District Website: [www.mounthorebschools.org](http://www.mounthorebschools.org)