

Parent/Student 4K Handbook 2026-27



Addison Elementary School



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Addison Elementary! We are thrilled to have your child join us for 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) - their first big step away from home.

In 4K, children engage in social experiences where they learn to work, play, and share with peers. Physically, they develop through activities like playing with blocks, engaging in active games, and creating art with large brushes on large paper. Language development is fostered through interactions with peers, storytelling, using new words, and expressing ideas clearly. Additionally, through songs and movement, children learn rhythm and create many happy memories.

Our readiness material sets the foundation for reading and math, ensuring your child is prepared for future learning endeavors.

We have prepared a handbook to provide you with insights into the 4K program, its educational objectives, and ways to support your child in this exciting journey. Your active involvement will make learning more enjoyable and meaningful for your child.

Once again, welcome to Addison Elementary and the wonderful world of 4K!

Warm regards,

*Joel Dziedzic, Principal
Addison Elementary*



Addison Elementary School Philosophy
The Basic School Concept:
A Community for Learning

To assist us in accomplishing our mission, Addison Elementary has adopted the concepts and the principles of "The Basic School – A Community for Learning". The main premise of the Basic School is a shared vision of ***excellence for all***. Education, in this framework, is accomplished through a comprehensive plan that brings together the key components of an effective education.

To achieve excellence for all, the Basic School has four priorities that are considered the essential building blocks of the school. Fitted within these priorities are the components of an effective education.

The First Priority: ***The School as a Community***

A Shared Vision: The Basic School is a place everyone comes together to promote learning. In the Basic School, the separate classrooms are connected by a clear and vital mission.

Teachers as Leaders: In the Basic School, teachers are the leaders, with the principal as lead teacher.

Parents are Partners: In the Basic School, the circle of community extends to embrace parents, who are viewed as the child's first and most important teachers.

The Second Priority: ***A Curriculum with Coherence***

The Centrality of Language: In the Basic School, literacy is the first and most essential goal. All children are expected to become proficient in the written and spoken word, as well as in mathematics and the arts.

The Core Commonalities: In the Basic School, all students become well informed. They study the various fields of knowledge – reading, mathematics, language arts, science, and social studies, for example – which are organized thematically within a framework called "The Core Commonalities". This is not so much a new curriculum, as it is a new way to think about the curriculum.

Measuring Results: The Basic School is accountable to parents, to students, and to the community at large. High academic standards are established in both language achievement and general knowledge. Student progress is periodically evaluated, with assessment always in the service of learning.

The Third Priority: ***A Climate for Learning***

Patterns to Fit Purpose: In the Basic School, every student is encouraged to become a disciplined, creative, self-motivated learner. Class sizes are kept as small as possible, the teaching schedule is flexible, and student-grouping arrangements are varied to promote learning.

Resources to Enrich: The Basic School makes available to all students rich resources for learning—from building blocks to books. The school also gives students access to the new electronic tools that connect each classroom to vast networks of knowledge.

Support Services for Children: The Basic School is committed to serving the whole child. Beyond a solid academic program, the school provides basic health and counseling services and various enrichment programs for students.

The Fourth Priority: ***A Commitment to Character***

The Core Virtues: The Basic School is concerned with the ethical and moral dimensions of a child's life. Our nine core virtues – respect, self-discipline, friendship, kindness, acceptance, perseverance, honesty, responsibility, and cooperation—are emphasized to guide the Basic School as it promotes excellence in living, as well as in learning.

Living with Purpose: The core virtues of the Basic School are taught both by word and deed. Through curriculum, school climate and service, students are encouraged to apply the lessons of the classroom to the world around them.

In addition to the larger objective of excellence for all, the Basic School defines five sharply focused educational goals:

First, to communicate effectively: Language, defined broadly to include not just words, but also mathematics and the arts, is not just another subject; it is the means by which all other subjects are pursued.

Second, to acquire a core of knowledge: Students become well informed by learning a core of knowledge, while making connections across the disciplines and relating what they learn to life.

Third, to be a motivated learner: Students remain curious and develop both the desire and skills to study on their own. They learn how to gather information and become problem-solvers.

Fourth, to feel a sense of well being: Through school support, students become physically healthy, socially competent, and emotionally secure.

Fifth, to live responsibly: Students learn by word and deed the core virtues that promote good conduct and citizenship.

It is our hope that the Basic School can serve as the foundation and the framework for growth, improvement, and excellence in our overall elementary program. Please join us in helping us to reach our goals here at Addison Elementary.

School Mission

To assist us in accomplishing our mission, Addison Elementary School has adopted the concepts and principles of “The Basic School – A Community for Learning” by Ernest Boyer. The main premise of the Basic School is a shared vision of excellence for all. To achieve this, the Basic School is organized into four main priority areas, which are considered the essential building blocks of the school. They are: 1) The School as Community, 2) A Curriculum with Coherence, 3) A Climate for Learning, and 4) A Commitment to Character. It is our hope that the Basic School can serve as the foundation and framework for growth, improvement, and excellence in our overall school program.

School District of Slinger Mission Statement

The School District of Slinger’s mission is to successfully educate all children and, thereby, to graduate high quality, lifelong learners who are college and career ready. To do so, the district is committed to: challenging every student’s educational potential; hiring, developing, and retaining a high quality staff; supporting, involving, and utilizing the community; and providing a friendly, safe, and clean learning environment.

Addison Elementary Belief Statements

The Addison Elementary School Educators believe that cooperative interaction among students, teachers, staff, families, and the community is vital to the growth, development, and education of each individual learner.

We believe that education is a continuous process resulting in a lifelong desire for learning and that all students can learn, achieve, and succeed, if given the proper instruction, guidance, and nurture. Our focus is to help children transfer school experiences to their daily lives and prepare them to be productive, responsible, and sensitive citizens.

Success Indicators

A school that exemplifies this philosophy would have inherent in its programs, policies, and procedures these characteristics:

- An atmosphere of high expectations – academically, socially, and behaviorally.
- That all staff members are teachers. The educational process is a collaborative effort that involves all adults in the school community. We ultimately share the responsibility of taking care of students and educating them – whether a teacher, an aide, custodian, cook, or volunteer.
- A nurturing, safe, and secure learning environment, which is free from violence, harassment, and bullying. This type of school environment would allow each student to develop a positive self-concept, while achieving his or her highest potential.

- Tolerance and acceptance of individual differences, learning styles, cultural backgrounds, and the needs of the developing child. Children are accepted for who and what they are. Mutual respect for all is a cornerstone of this concept and character education is actively taught and modeled.
- The fostering of critical thinking, creativity, problem solving, planning, and decision-making.
- The enabling of an individual to understand, be sensitive, and contribute productively to a changing society.
- The realization and understanding that the total education of the child needs to include intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and artistic development.
- That school decisions are balanced between being both child-centered in nature and data driven or supported by research.
- An atmosphere, which emphasizes the importance of developing readiness skills in each child across all subject areas and promotes a lifelong love of reading.

Addison Staff Code of Honor

Being a staff member at Addison Elementary encompasses being a part of a larger, more meaningful group, which shares the responsibility for educating all children in the building and supporting the efforts of all staff. It also includes being professional in manner, deed, and attire, being a positive role model, and treating others with respect and dignity. Establishing professional learning communities and a culture of trust (through ongoing professional growth and development and collegial sharing) are viewed as critical activities in maintaining and developing the structure for school improvement here at Addison. While bricks, mortar, and the environmental setting help to make Addison Elementary a unique building; a positive, interactive, and proactive staff helps to make Addison a school.



4K Requirements

Child must be 4 years old by *September 1*.
Child must be a resident of the School District of Slinger.

4K Schedules

A.M. Session:

START: 1st Bell @ 8:30 am 2nd Bell @ 8:40 am
DISMISSAL @ 11:30 am

P.M. Session:

START: 12:45 pm
DISMISSAL @ 3:30 pm



Important to Know

When there is a delayed start, AM 4K Classes will be cancelled. If there is an early dismissal, PM 4K Classes will *likely* be cancelled depending on timing.

Students are to be dropped off at the school building between the 1st and 2nd bell. This allows a smooth transition to the start of the school day so learning can get underway in a timely manner.

Progress/Academic Reports:

4K student progress reports (Three times per year)



GOALS of the 4K Program

- ★ Provide positive first time school experiences
- ★ Assist children in their developmental process
- ★ Social-Emotional-Physical-Behavioral-Educational Needs
- ★ Promote Parental Involvement
- ★ Volunteer Opportunities
- ★ Attend student/parent activities
- ★ Participate in routine communication

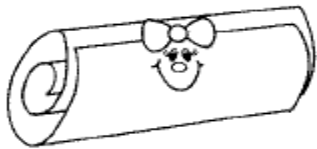
SUPPLIES

A list of required kindergarten supplies needed by your child is included in the registration packet. Supplies should be brought on the day of 4K's Open House during the last week of August.



NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

On occasion, photographers from the newspapers take pictures of children in various learning environments. Parents not wanting to have their child's picture and or/name in the newspaper should contact the Addison Elementary Office at 644-8037.



ABSENCES

Pupils are urged to attend school every day it is in session. Parents and pupils should understand that school is a full time job. However, it is recognized that absences under certain conditions are necessary. It is difficult to establish rules that apply equally well in all instances, but in general, the following are considered legitimate absences:

Illness (Fever, Throwing up, etc.)
Medical or dental appointments
Emergency in the family

** Please call Addison Elementary (644-8037) or the Attendance Line (644-1956) if your child is absent. We would ask you to call before 9:00 A.M., if possible.*

**If your child rides the bus, please be sure to notify the bus company as well.*



Incoming 4K Student Checklist

The following skill list has been developed as a tool for parents to use when considering if their child is ready to be an active participant in the 4K learning community.

School Readiness Skills:

- ☐ My child can independently use the bathroom.
- ☐ My child has body awareness (has the ability to stay in his/her own space)
- ☐ My child is able to stay actively engaged in a task
- ☐ My child can communicate with others for a variety of purposes (making requests, explaining needs, greeting someone)
- ☐ My child is provided opportunities to clean up toys, dress his/herself, and drink from a cup
- ☐ My child responds to and is beginning to recognize letters in his/her own name
- ☐ My child is able to move from one task to another task when requested to do so
- ☐ My child has been exposed to numbers (counting), letters (singing the alphabet song), colors, and nursery rhymes.
- ☐ My child is read to on a daily basis.
- ☐ My child has had opportunities to use a variety of tools such as: scissors, crayons, and pencils
- ☐ My child enjoys participating in group activities and has had opportunities to do so.

Social Readiness Skills:

- ☐ My child gets along with other children.
- ☐ My child has knowledge of ways to communicate and problem solve without being physically aggressive
- ☐ My child has had opportunities to spend time away from immediate family members

Local resources that will provide opportunities for developing these skills:

- ☐ Attending story time at public libraries
- ☐ Slinger provides Teddy Bear Time on Thursday evenings and Library Club on Wednesday mornings
- ☐ West Bend Library provides Preschool Storytime on Tuesday & Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings
- ☐ Hartford Library has an abundance of events. You can check out the opportunities at www.hartfordlibrary.org Then click on the Youth Services tab.
- ☐ Attending any activities in the local community
- ☐ The West Bend/Hartford Booster lists many local events taking place around the community - www.booster-ads.com
- ☐ Setting up a playdate with another child (at your home and at the home of the other child)

4K Readiness : Things to Consider

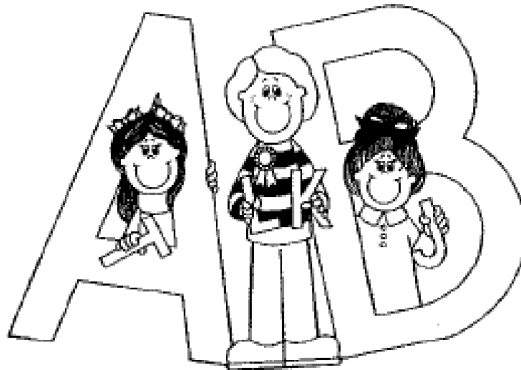
You know your child better than we could possibly hope to. Therefore, your decision to place your child in a 4-year-old kindergarten program depends on many variables that are unique to your family.

Some things for you to consider are:

- Birth date/Child's age
- Previous experiences
- Home experience
- Emotional stability
- Child's strengths/weaknesses
- Child's ability to separate from parent/home



In some instances, it may be appropriate to delay the start of 4K, especially if your child is not ready to meet the demands of the school day or has difficulties in any of the areas noted above or on the Incoming 4K Student Checklist. Please contact school personnel if you have any questions about your child's readiness for the 4K program here at Addison.



4K Daily Activities

List of Events

- Free Choice Center Play
- Large Group Math Lesson & Activity
- Learning Centers
- Snack
- Large Group ELA Lesson & Activity
- Recess

Examples of large group/center activities

- Dramatic Play
- Art
- Sensory
- Building Blocks
- Letter & Word Study
- Math & Games
- Library
- Calendar
- Music
- Movement
- Social Emotional Learning



Specials:

- **Character Building** - Lessons by our School Counselor.
- **Library** - Weekly story time and check out a book.



Daily:

- **Snack** - Parents send nutritious snacks for their children each day.



* *Speech/Language program available for identified students*

Recommendations

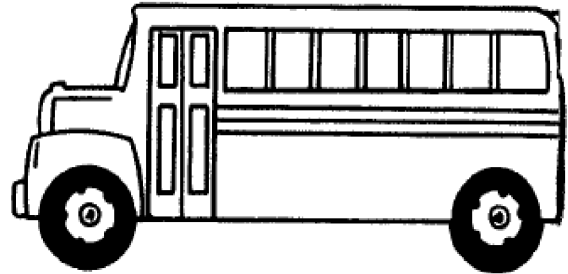
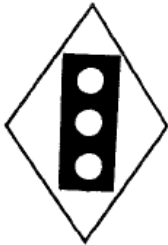
- Appreciate the work your child brings home. The school is trying to make his/her efforts important to him/her. Your attitude helps a great deal.
- The child should come to school well nourished and rested every day. We recommend that your child establish regular eating habits and that he/she be in bed at a reasonable hour at night.
- Birthdays are very special to little folks. It is not necessary, but if you wish to bring a treat, you may do so.
- Label or mark the name of your child on all clothing items, backpacks, etc. Buy boots large enough so that your child may put them on and take them off easily.
- Communicate to the 4K teacher any physical, mental, social, or emotional condition, which may affect the child.
- Take the child to as many educational places in the community as possible.
- Dress your child so that he/she will be warm enough to play outdoors at any time of the year. **WHEN SNOW BOOTS ARE WORN**, send shoes along to wear in the classroom
- Come to school neat and clean.



General Bus Rules

Reinforce with your child:

- ❖ **Keep hands and head inside the bus at all times when he/she is on the bus.**
- ❖ **No eating of candy or snacks at any time on the school bus.**
- ❖ **Help keep the bus clean.**
- ❖ **Remain seated when the bus is moving.**
- ❖ **Be absolutely quiet when approaching a railroad crossing.**
- ❖ **When leaving the bus and crossing the road, always walk in front of the bus at a distance that he/she can see the driver.**
- ❖ **Be courteous to others on the bus.**



- **A note must accompany any child WHO PLANS TO RIDE A DIFFERENT BUS OR GET OFF AT A DIFFERENT STOP.**
- **If you plan to pick up your child, please be at school BEFORE dismissal and WRITE A NOTE to the teacher.**
- **In case of an emergency or your plans change, call the school office 644-8037.**
- **Call the school principal if you have any questions regarding the bus schedule or problems.**

ADDISON 4-Year-Old Kindergarten Supply List

Your child will need to bring in the following supplies to use in the classroom
(do NOT label unless specified):

1 LARGE Backpack (wide/sturdy enough for a binder, no wheels, please **label** with child's name)

1 One Inch White Binder (please **label** with child's name)

2 Plastic, 3 Prong Fastener Pocket Folders (please **label** with child's name)

1 Spiral Notebook (please **label** with child's name)

1 Set of Extra Clothes- Winter and Summer Attire Together (please **label** gallon Ziploc with child's name)

1 Pack of 24 Crayola Twistables Crayons

12 Glue Sticks (Disappearing Purple)



Boys only:

*Pack of Large or Small Paper Plates

-not wax coated, plain white

Girls only:

*1 Container of Baby Wipes

Mrs. Reichelt's Students:

*1 Box of Tissues

Mrs. Rick's Students:

*1 Pair of Scissors (please **label** with name)

Wish List:

(Any of the following items are *greatly* appreciated, but not required)

-Glue Bottles

-Watercolor Paints

-Play-Doh

-Packing Tape Roll

-Gift Cards to Walgreens (For Photos)

-Paper Towels

-Velcro



**Please bring all supplies to your
scheduled 4K Open House meeting.**

☺ Your child's teacher will contact you during the summer to
schedule.