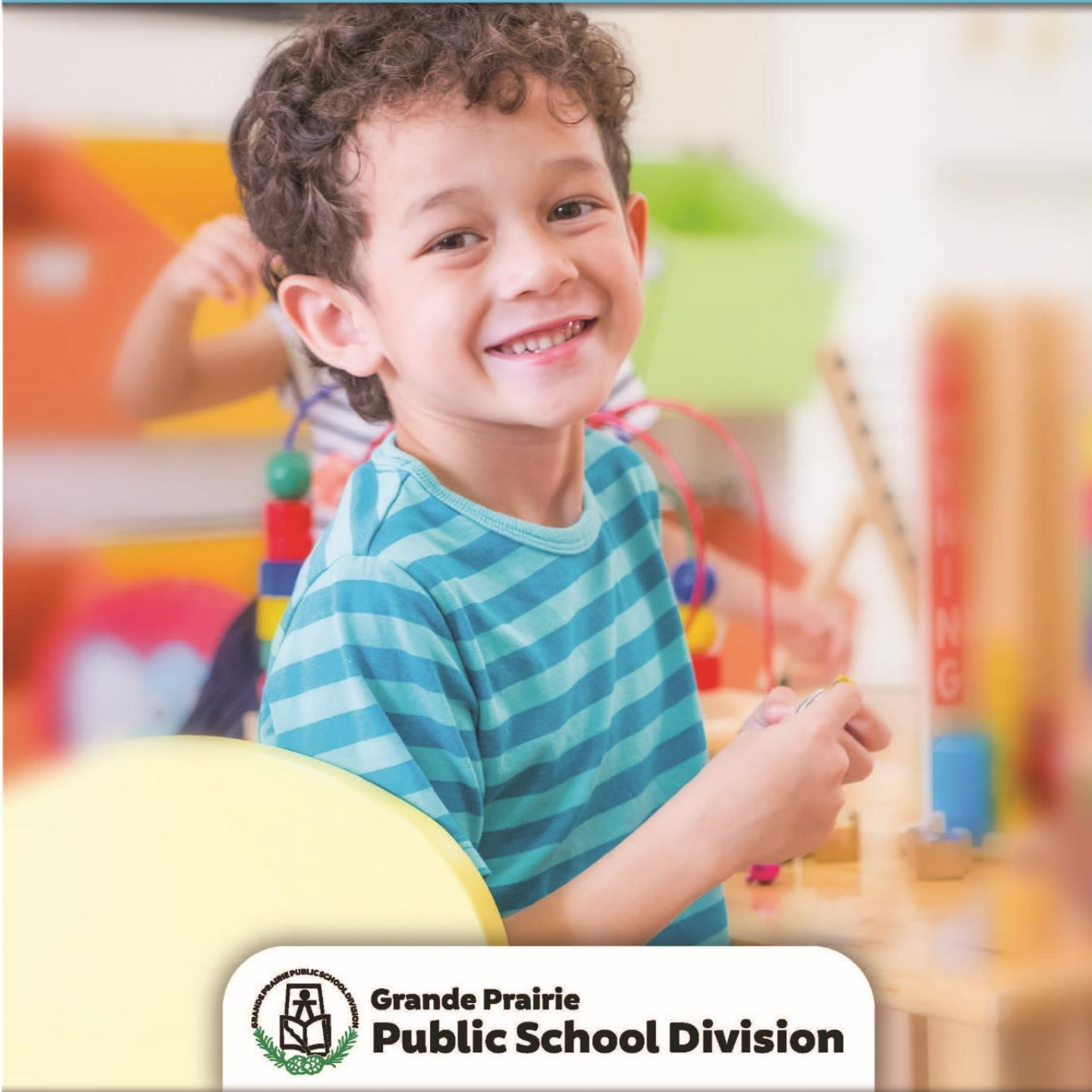


# KinderPAL

## Parent Handbook



**Grande Prairie  
Public School Division**

[www.gppsd.ab.ca/KinderPAL](http://www.gppsd.ab.ca/KinderPAL)



## Overview

KinderPAL is an early learning program of choice for kindergarten-age students, located in select GPPSD schools. The program provides full school day learning experience, where a child has regular kindergarten programming from a certified teacher for **half a day or full days every other day** and the other half is the KinderPAL experience; play and learn. The KinderPAL portion of the day is facilitated by a KinderPAL Instructor. KinderPAL programming supports student development as they co-construct knowledge through play in a peer-based classroom.

## Values and Guiding Principles

The principles of the KinderPAL framework are based on the FLIGHT: Alberta Early Learning and Care Framework and all values and guiding principles are direct from this resource (Makovichuk et al, 2014). The guiding principles are meant to inform and shape the work, decision-making and interactions that Early Learning Instructors make when working with children and their families.

- Shared values for early childhood communities as a place of diverse and meaningful participation and possibilities.
- Values for early learning processes that embrace children’s active explorations investigations, and representations of their everyday experiences.
- Value for meaningful relationships with students and families that promote children’s care, play and learning.

Early Learning Instructors use these to inform and shape KinderPAL work, content decision-making and interactions with families and children.

- Children’s life-long health, well-being, learning, and behavior are strongly connected to their early childhood experience.
- Childhoods differ depending on social, cultural, and economic circumstances.
- Children interact and learn in multiple learning communities and their learning is profoundly influenced by the relationships within and between these communities and, specifically, with respect to the relationship with the family.
- Children thrive when they are nurtured in close, consistent relationships, and their families benefit from these close caring relationships as well.
- Children are active co-constructors of knowledge through first-hand experience and in reciprocal relationships with people and things in their environment.
- Children are unique learners who construct and represent knowledge using multimodal literacies for exploration and expression.
- Children are citizens and active participants in society.

## Kindergarten Focus KinderPAL Focus



**All young children learn in the context of caring, responsive, and stimulating relationships as they explore the world around them.**

### **KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM**

The Kindergarten learning environment provides instruction that targets Provincial Kindergarten Curriculum through play-based learning.

#### **KINDERGARTEN TEACHER:**

- plans, develops and teaches whole group, small group and individual instruction to target learning expectations
- creates opportunities for students to accomplish new learnings through social interactions and cooperation with others
- provides meaningful learning opportunities to all students
- adapts and modifies instructional strategies to help meet the learning needs of students
- engages in on going assessment and evaluation of a child's learning and reports progress to parents
- designs and implements Individual Program Plans to support students with special needs.
- may receive services from members of the GPPSD Multi-Disciplinary Team based on educational impact (Speech, Occupational Therapy and/or Psychology).

### **KinderPAL PROGRAM**

The KinderPAL learning environment provides meaningful experiences in a play-based context.

#### **EARLY LEARNING INSTRUCTOR:**

- co-creates projects and interest-based centers by following the curiosity and imagination of the child
- fosters relationship skills with social-emotional learning
- provides authentic opportunities for problem-solving, risk taking, and critical thinking
- allows for creative expression through fine arts experiences - drama, music, art
- makes children's learning visible through documentation
- is guided by the FLIGHT: Alberta's Early Learning & Care Framework
- does not receive services from the GPPSD Multi-Disciplinary Team (Speech, Occupational Therapy or Psychological services)

## FLIGHT: Alberta Early Learning and Care Framework

The KinderPAL program follows the FLIGHT: Alberta Early Learning and Care Framework which is a strength based view of children and families and inspires educator to be alongside children in their learning experiences. Families may see documentation of children's learning in photos with written anecdotes that highlight the learning process and it's meaning. Core Concepts, Holistic Goals and Children's Learning Dispositions are at the forefront of all planning and programming found in the KindePAL program that support each child as a Mighty Learner.



### Holistic Student Goals:

- Well-Being
- Play and Playfulness
- Communication and Literacies
- Diversity and Social Responsibilities



### Children Learn by:

- Playing and Playfulness
- Seeking
- Participating
- Persisting
- Caring

## Registration Process

- Registration must be completed online. If new to the division, complete New Student Registration Form or the Kindergarten Registration Form if a current PreK student.
- School site will approve your registration and confirm program acceptance.
- Complete the KinderPAL Program Fee Agreement which allows families to pay in full or monthly.

## Enrollment Requirements

- Children who are entering Kindergarten September 1<sup>st</sup> this year.
- Children who expected self-toilet.
- Children who can communicate wants and needs in an appropriate manner.
- Children that are well- developed in the following areas: self-help, play and behavior.

## Two-Week Trial Period

We have structured the first two weeks of the KinderPAL programming as a **TRIAL BASIS** for the children. Your child will need to be independent with the following:

- Children who expected to self-toilet.
- Children who can communicate wants and needs in an expected manner.
- Children that are well- developed in the following areas: self-help, play and behavior.

### Communication Process

1. Instructors will be in contact with families during the first two weeks to touch base on how their child is adjusting to full time programming.
2. If either the family or the school determines that the program is not a fit, your child remains registered for kindergarten programming. Discussion on kindergarten placement will occur with school principal as it will be site-based decision.
3. Families will be reimbursed the remaining KinderPAL fee balance.



## Program Hours and Fees

### Hours

The KinderPAL program follows the GPPSD School Year Calendar and the school's regular start and end times.

### Fees - Installment Payments or Lump Sum Payment

As a parent you may choose to pay the \$3500.00 annual program fee in full upon acceptance in the program or you may choose the monthly installment payment option. Should you choose the latter, you agree to pay the annual program fee in 10 equal payments of \$350.00 (September-June) that will be **debited from your account on the first of each month. A \$25 bank fee will be added for all returned direct debit payments (NSF).** If you present the school with an NSF payment, your child's attendance from the KinderPAL program may be suspended until payment is received.

### Withdrawals/Refund Policy

Please understand that by enrolling your child in the KinderPAL program, the school plans for your child to attend the school for the full academic year. If your child will not be able to complete a full academic year, you cause hardship to the school. **As a result, you must provide (30) days written notice prior to withdrawal; please contact your school principal.** A withdrawal after May 1<sup>st</sup> will require May and June program fee payments. We do not provide make-up days, give refunds or adjustments for absences, illness, vacations, or holidays. If your child will not be able to complete a full academic year in the KinderPAL program, your child will continue to attend just Kindergarten.

## Transportation

Students who **live within the school boundary** who are Kindergarten students attending KinderPAL programming and are eligible for busing will be able to access busing daily.

Students who **live out of the school boundary** or students that would not qualify for busing (due to living too close to the school), may be able to apply for fee based busing.

## Supplies

The Kindergarten and KinderPAL student supply list will be shared with families on school websites.

