

Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

For Immediate Release

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D200 announces preschool tuition programs and registration process for 2023-2024 school year

Woodstock Community Unit School District 200 will begin accepting applications for its 2023-2024 tuition preschool program on Jan. 27.

In addition to the long-standing, grant-funded preschool program open to children ages 3-5 who qualify through a pre-screening process, two other program options are available to interested parents. Details about all programs can be found on the Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center website at <https://www.woodstockschoools.org>

A dual language program for 4-year-olds is offered, as well as the tuition-based preschool program for children ages 3-5. All preschool programs are taught by the certified staff of Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center, primarily located at 2045 N. Seminary Avenue, Woodstock.

Eighteen English language learners and 18 Spanish language learners will be accepted into dual language preschool, which will run five days a week with morning and afternoon sessions. Instruction will be presented in both languages with the goal of helping students become proficient in a second language. To be considered for the program, a child must be 4 years old by Sept. 1, 2023 and live within District 200 attendance boundaries.

Parents/guardians of all applicants for the dual language preschool must attend a virtual mandatory meeting on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 6 p.m. Information about the program, registration requirements, fees and bus transportation will be discussed and questions answered.

The tuition-paid preschool program will be open to children ages 3-5 whose families reside either in or outside of District 200 boundaries and don't qualify for the grant-funded program. Morning and afternoon sessions will be offered, and parents may choose a five-, three- or two-day-a-week program.

Families who want to enroll their 3, 4 or 5-year-olds in the tuition-free grant-funded preschool must first schedule a preschool screening appointment to determine whether their child is eligible. The free screening assesses a child's developmental skills and identifies whether he or she would benefit from some early assistance prior to entering kindergarten. Eligible children may then be registered for preschool depending upon classroom availability.

Preschool screenings are conducted at the Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center. Parents must call the school at (815) 338-8883 to schedule an appointment.

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Applications for the dual language preschool will be accepted at Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center from Friday, Jan. 27 through Thursday, Feb. 16. If there are more applications than spaces available in the dual language preschool program, a lottery will be held to choose student participants. If applications are received after Thursday, Feb. 16, those students will be placed on a waitlist. Letters will be sent out by the end of March indicating placement and will include information about registration.

Optional bus transportation will be available to families at an additional cost. More information is available by contacting the Transportation Department at 815-338-4777.

For more information about preschool options and the registration process, contact the Verda Dierzen Early Learning Center at (815) 338-8883 or visit the school's website at www.woodstockschoools.org/dierzen .

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