



Wheatland Elementary School

Lead with confidence Learn without limits Love who you are

Principal: Emily Garrioch Vice Principal: Meagan Vesely

Wheatland Montessori Pre-Kindergarten



Welcome to our Montessori Pre-Kindergarten program. We offer a nurturing and enriching program, based on the Montessori philosophy, for children ages three and four.

What Is Montessori?



“The Montessori Method of education, developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, is a child-centered educational approach based on scientific observations of children from birth to adulthood. Dr. Montessori’s method has been time tested, with over 100 years of success in diverse cultures throughout the world. It is a view of the child as one who is naturally eager for knowledge and capable of initiating learning in a supportive, thoughtfully prepared learning environment. It is an approach that values the human spirit and the development of the whole

child—physical, social, emotional, cognitive.” - American Montessori Society

Our Pre-Kindergarten children learn through a process of exploration and self-discovery which focuses on nurturing a natural curiosity and love of learning in a social environment. The students are guided to work at their own pace as they learn to develop social-emotional and daily living skills. They also have opportunities to explore the senses, math, language, science, nature, geography, music, art & dramatic play. Our program includes child-directed, small group and individualized instruction through the use of hands-on tactile learning materials.

Registration Requirements:

The Wheatland Montessori Pre-Kindergarten program is a pay-per-use program and is not publicly funded.

Tuition is \$1,250 for the year. Parents are able to break up payments into a monthly fee (\$125). A one time Montessori material fee (\$25) will also need to be paid in order for your child to participate.



- Completed registration and FOIP form
- If parents have chosen to pay the \$1250 yearly fee by breaking it into monthly payments, the \$125 per month, need to be paid on <https://www.schoolcashonline.com/> (due by the 1st of every month)
- Wheatland Elementary School's Pre-K program is officially a licensed facility. Our program will continue to offer the same high-quality early childhood education, but eligible families will be able to receive a \$125 per month government grant to offset the cost.
 - This means eligible families will be able to access our program for free after receiving the grant.
 - To apply for this grant, please go to <https://www.alberta.ca/child-care-subsidy.aspx>
 - Our certificate number is ELCCA 70049449
- A \$25.00 non-refundable deposit/supply fee is required at the time of registration either by cash or cheque.
- Monthly installments may be made by submitting post-dated cheques for the first of each month or with our online portal (<https://wheatland.ghsd75.ca/>). If payment is not received by the 1st of each month, your child's placement may be up for review.

All of the above must be submitted to ensure your child has a space in the program. It is very important to inform the school if any of your contact information changes.

Times and Dates:

Monday/Wednesday

8:30-11:30 am

-or-

Tuesday/Thursday

8:30-11:30 am

The above class configurations may change, as they are dependent upon enrollment numbers.



We will be having a staggered entry to help ensure a smooth transition for children. This also provides an opportunity for your child to have more 1-1 time with the classroom teacher on their first day. Your child's staggered start date will be posted on their Seesaw Journal.

We will follow the Golden Hills School Division calendar. In the case of a holiday Monday, the Monday & Wednesday program will run Wednesday & Friday on those weeks.

Location, Entry, and Dismissal:

Our classroom is located in the school portable on the northwest corner of our building. Parking is available along Strathford Blvd. or in the parent parking lot. Please do not park in the staff parking lot. Our Pre-K staff will greet families at the NW Eco doors (portable entrance) after the 8:25 bell. If you arrive early, please allow our K-6 students time to enter the building first as their bell rings at 8:20am. You may briefly enter the school (boot room only) to help your child organize their belongings. Please sign your child in & out each day on the sheet provided, say a quick goodbye and exit through the NW Eco doors. Pre-k families may not use the front entrance of the school during arrival or pick-up time without administrator approval. This arrival and dismissal procedure is only for pre-k families. K-6 parents may not enter through student doors. Please be prompt for pick-up. If someone else will be dropping off or picking up your child, please let your child's teacher know in advance.

- [All children must be at least 3 years of age by Sept. 1st and completely potty-trained prior to the first day of school.](#) If your child is not ready, please contact our Pre-K coordinator at leanne.pinel@ghsd75.ca to request approval for a later start date.
- If a child should become ill while at school, parents will be contacted immediately, and if they can not be reached, the emergency contact may be asked to pick the child up from school.

Pre-Kindergarten Staff:

Our Pre-Kindergarten program will be led under the guidance of our certified teacher Mrs. Leanne Pinel who has been working with Wheatland Montessori since the program first began with a K-2 class in 2005.



Mrs. Pinel holds a Bachelor of Education degree from the University of Saskatchewan, Stage 2 Early Childhood certification in Montessori Theory and Methodology and Level 3 Alberta Early Childhood Certification. She has loved working in Montessori environments for the past 23 years. In addition to her role as our Pre-K Coordinator, Mrs. Pinel is our Montessori kindergarten teacher.



Mrs. Jocelynn Stor-Rank-Kowalski is our lead teacher in the pre-kindergarten morning program. She has been working at Wheatland Elementary since 2020. She has a diploma in Social Work and a Bachelors of Human Services. She has enjoyed nearly 10 years of working with families and their children in a variety of learning environments.

Please feel free to contact our pre-k teacher Mrs. Jocelynn Stor-Rank-Kowalski or our pre-k coordinator Mrs. Pinel with any questions or concerns throughout the school year on Seesaw or by email at jocelynn.kowalski@ghsd75.ca or leanne.pinel@ghsd75.ca

Some other Wheatland School staff involved with the program are:

Principal -	Mrs. Emily Garrioch
Associate Principal -	Mrs. Meagen Vesely
Office Staff -	Mrs. Melissa Pearson
	Mrs. Tammy Birch
Montessori Teachers-	Mrs. Jocelynn Stor-Rank-Kowalski (Pre-K)
	Mrs. Leanne Pinel (KM)
	Mrs. Devon Kirby (1/2M)
	Mrs. Michelle Herron (3/4M)



Program Structure:

Discovery Time-

As the students arrive they are invited to choose from an assortment of tray and shelf activities in our prepared classroom environment. They are encouraged to tidy up their materials and move on to other activities as they desire. Activities may include practical life trays, sensorial, language, math and culture materials. Play dough, painting, toys, puzzles, books, coloring, and dramatic play items are also available. During Discovery Time the classroom teacher and assistants will rotate and work with individual or small groups of children. Children will be guided toward the Montessori academic material as they seem interested and ready.

Circle Time-

Students tidy up their activities and meet for some group activities. These activities may include calendar tasks, songs, music, movement games, story time or planned teacher lessons related to a specific topic or theme.

Snack Time-

Students visit the school washrooms and wash their hands before returning to the classroom to enjoy a snack. Please limit snacks to 2 or 3 items. Items should be easy for your child to open independently. We encourage healthy eating, please limit sugary treats..

Social Emotional Learning-

We spend a little time each day focusing on Social Emotional Learning lessons and activities. This helps children gain knowledge about feelings and getting along with others. Social Emotional Learning is the process in which children are able to acknowledge and recognize the emotions of others, develop empathy, make good decisions, establish friendships, and handle challenges and situations effectively. These are very important skills to teach at the Pre-Kindergarten level before they enter the K-6 school program.



School Supplies & Child Belongings:

In order to promote healthy living and nutrition, please send a spill proof water bottle and a healthy snack each day. All students require an indoor pair of running shoes, which can be left at school. Please keep a complete change of clothing for your child, in a plastic zip-lock bag, in their backpack just in case of an accident.

It is important that all belongings are clearly labeled with your child's name.

All other student supplies will be provided. A classroom craft supply wish list is available from the classroom teacher if you would like to donate any items.

Please avoid sending toys and special belongings unless requested by the teacher for classroom activities or events. We can not be responsible for lost or damaged items.



Birthdays:

We like to celebrate your child's special day with a Montessori Birthday Circle. Your child will be guided through a demonstration of how the earth rotates around the sun by holding a globe and walking 4-5 laps around a candle. We will share a photo of this special celebration with you on Seesaw. Please let the teachers know if you would like to send in cupcakes or a special treat on your child's birthday.

Photographs:

Pre-Kindergarten students are invited to attend the Wheatland School picture day to receive an individual and class photo. This date will be announced early in the fall.



Seesaw Communication:

Seesaw sign up is our preferred method for the majority of home school communication. Please watch for teacher notes, reminders and photos of your child to be posted on your child's private Seesaw Journal. You may download, print or save Seesaw information and/or photos of your child. Group photos may be posted on occasion once F.O.I.P. parent permission has been granted. We ask that families do not share any of our group photos beyond Seesaw. As a schoolwide initiative we are trying to reduce the amount of photocopying. To support this initiative, the majority of Pre-K notices and parent information will be posted digitally on Seesaw.

Wheatland Elementary Website & Social Media Pages

Please stay updated with school information on our Wheatland Elementary website (wheatland.ghsd75.ca), Facebook and Instagram pages.

Parent Advisory Council: Wheatland PAC

If interested, pre-k parents are welcome to join our Parent Advisory Council, which meets each month. Please check the Wheatland Elementary website and social media pages for more info.

Wheatland Montessori Elementary K-3 Program:

Wheatland Elementary also offers Montessori programming from Kindergarten to Grade 3. This is a publicly funded program but includes an additional \$50 (grade K-3) annual Montessori Material fee. Please visit the school website for further details.

We are looking forward to a terrific year! Please let us know if you have any questions. You may call Wheatland Elementary anytime at 403-934-3318, or email leanne.pinel@ghsd75.ca.

220 Brent Blvd., Strathmore, Alberta T1P 1K6
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emily.garrloch@ghsd75.ca



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Leader in Me
School

