



Grande Prairie  
Public School  
Division



# GPPSD

# KinderPAL!

Play & Learn

Full day, all day programming

# PARENT HANDBOOK



## Information for parents and guardians

KinderPAL is an early learning program of choice for kindergarten-age students, that provides a full school day learning experience.

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# Overview

KinderPAL is a fee based early learning program of choice for kindergarten-age students, located in all GPPSD elementary schools. (based on sufficient enrollment numbers) that is offered in both English and French Immersion.

The program provides full school day learning experience, where a child has regular kindergarten programming from a certified teacher for half of their time and the other half is the KinderPAL experience; play and learn.

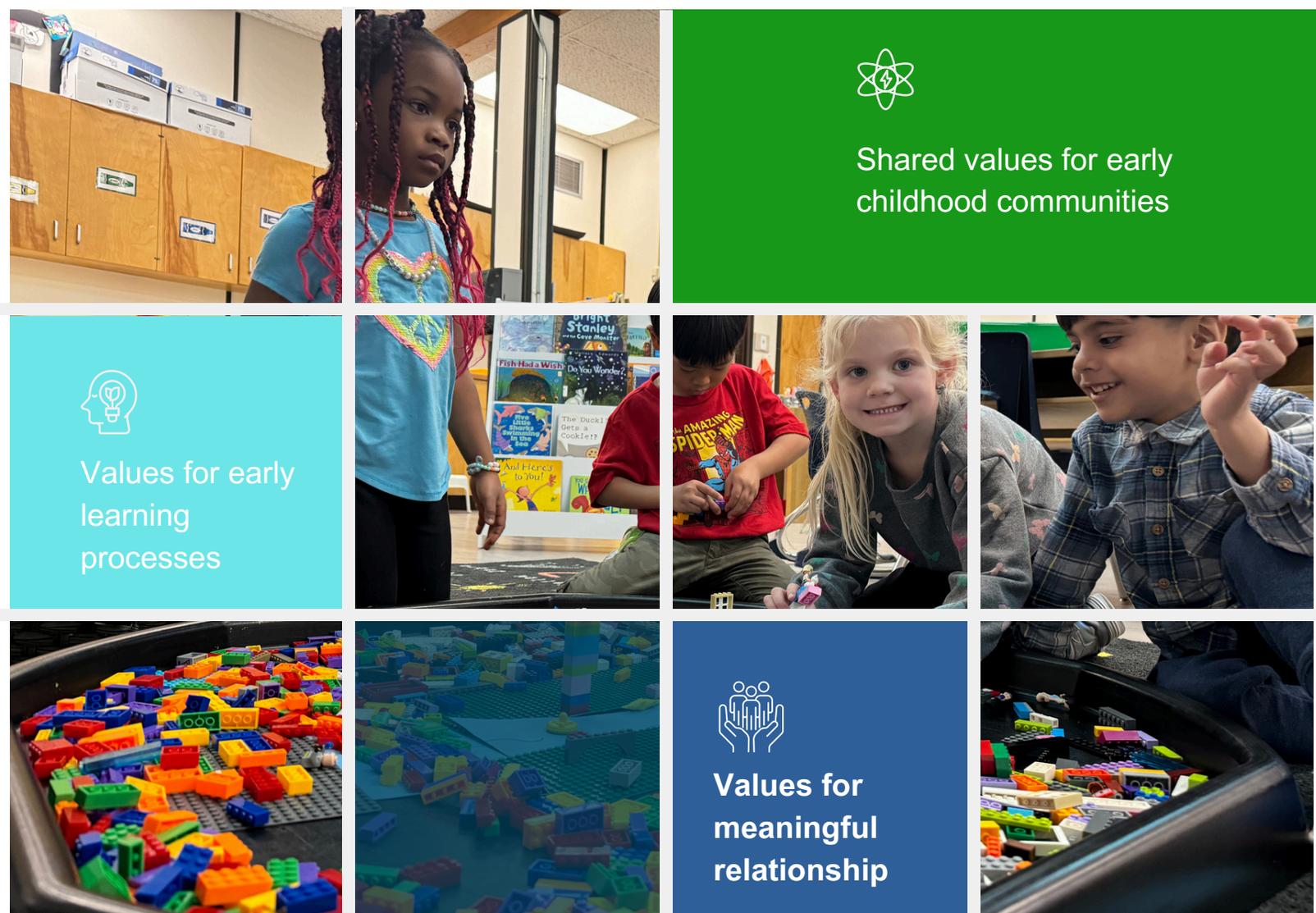
Half day students will have half day Kindergarten and half day KinderPAL. Students that attend full day programs will have two days of Kindergarten and two days of KinderPAL, with some adjustments for Fridays.

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



Early Learning Instructors use these to inform and shape KinderPAL programming, 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.
- Children’s lives 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.



# Section 1: Kindergarten vs KinderPAL Learning

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

The experience of Kindergarten and KinderPAL enrich the growth and development of children through a full time program.



# Kindergarten Focus vs KinderPAL Focus

## 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

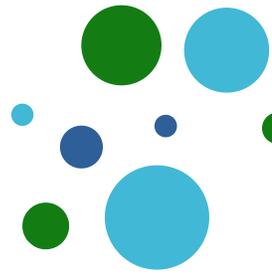
The KinderPAL learning environment provides meaningful experiences in a play-based context.

### 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

# Section 2: Program Eligibility

The KinderPAL program is for children who are entering Kindergarten in a Grande Prairie Public School Division school for the school year.

Children must meet the following independent developmental milestones in order to be eligible for the program:

- Children are expected to 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 behaviour.

If you have questions about the eligibility requirements, please speak with your neighbourhood school.



# Two Week Trial Period

The first two weeks of the KinderPAL program has been structured as a TRIAL BASIS for the children. Your child will need to be independent with the three milestones listed.

- Children are expected to 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 behaviour.

## 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, the 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 any KinderPAL fees that were paid.



# Section 3: Registration

In Grande Prairie Public School Division we offer KinderPAL in all of our elementary schools either in English or French Immersion. (based on sufficient enrollment numbers)

In order to register for KinderPAL you **must complete the Kindergarten registration** for your child. Registering for KinderPAL will be part of your Kindergarten registration form.

Registration for students is online through the Grande Prairie Public School Division Website at <https://www.gppsd.ab.ca/registration>

The process will be different depending if:

Your **child is a new student to GPPSD** (never attended with us previously and there are **no other siblings in GPPSD**)

or:

Your **child is a current student in GPPSD** (attending one of our Preschool or PUF Pre-Kindergarten programs.

or

Your **child is new to GPPSD, but there are siblings attending** at one of our GPPSD schools.



# Child of a New Family to GPPSD

Refers to a family with a child who has never registered a child at a Grande Prairie Public School and has not created a SchoolEngage parent account.

- New Kindergarten students who have never attended a GPPSD school, (see [Kindergarten Registration Page](#) for current age being accepted and details on the registration process)

On the GPPSD Website go to <https://www.gppsd.ab.ca/registration>

Select the button “Register a Child (New GPPSD Family)”

**Please choose the correct button below:**



Follow these steps:

- Create your SchoolEngage account
- Verify your account via the email
- Sign into SchoolEngage
- Click ‘Add Student’ to add the new child
- Click ‘Student’ in the menu
- Select the student you wish to complete the form for
- Select the **New Student Registration Form** from the forms menu on the right.

*Important: Please ensure you are entering information into the **correct school year** New Student Registration Form.*

**On Page 2** of the Registration form you will see the information on Programs of Choice and KinderPAL. Click the Button

I want to register my child in the fee-based KinderPAL Program

Or

I want to register my child in the fee-based French Immersion KinderPAL Program.

Review and sign the KinderPAL Registration agreement and continue to fill in the form, then ‘Submit’ when all information has been entered.



# Child of a Current GPPSD Family

Refers to a family with a child who is current attending a Preschool, PUF Pre-Kindergarten or Play Partners program at a Grande Prairie Public School. Families will have an active PowerSchool Parent Portal account.

- Families will receive an email in late February, with instructions to pre-populate your child's Kindergarten Registration form for the upcoming school year. (please check your email junk folder if you cannot find it)

Log into your PowerSchool Parent Portal at <https://powerschool.gppsd.ab.ca/public/>

## Follow these steps:

- Sign into your [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) account
- Select the SchoolEngage button on the left navigation menu
- Click 'Student' in the menu
- Select the student name (child who is registering for Kindergarten)
- Click on the **Kindergarten Registration form** from the right side forms menu .

## To select KinderPAL

**On Page 2** of the Kindergarten Registration form you will see the information on Programs of Choice and KinderPAL.

Click the Button

- I want to register my child in the fee-based KinderPAL Program

Or

- I want to register my child in the fee-based French Immersion KinderPAL Program.

Review and sign the KinderPAL Registration agreement and continue to fill in the form, then 'Submit' when all information has been entered.



# Additional Child of a Current GPPSD Family

For families who currently have children attending a school within the Grande Prairie Public School Division and need to register an additional child for school (i.e. you have a current GPSPD PowerSchool Parent Portal)

Your family may have a child in grade 2 and now you need to register your second child for Kindergarten for the upcoming school year.

Log into your PowerSchool Parent Portal at <https://powerschool.gppsd.ab.ca/public/>

Follow these steps:

- Sign into your PowerSchool Parent Portal
- Select SchoolEngage on the left menu
- Click 'Add Student' and complete the information to add the new child
- Click 'Student' in the menu
- Select the name of the student
- Complete the **New Student Registration Form** for the child registering for Kindergarten.

*Important: Please ensure you are entering information into the **correct school year** New Student Registration Form.*

**On Page 2** of the Registration form you will see the information on Programs of Choice and KinderPAL.

Click the Button

I want to register my child in the fee-based KinderPAL Program

Or

I want to register my child in the fee-based French Immersion KinderPAL Program.

Review and sign the KinderPAL Registration agreement and continue to fill in the form, then 'Submit' when all information has been entered.



# Registration Approval

The school will review your child's registration form to ensure all information meets the guidelines and correct documentation is attached to the form.

Once the Registration form is 'Approved', parents will get an email indicating that your child has been approved for Kindergarten.

- For New Families to GPPSD you will also receive an email that your PowerSchool Parent Portal is now 'Active'
- From that moment on you will sign in through the PowerSchool Parent Portal to access forms.

Log into your PowerSchool Parent Portal at <https://powerschool.gppsd.ab.ca/public/>

# KinderPAL Program Acceptance

Families that have applied through their child's registration forms to attend KinderPAL will be vetted by the school, to ensure that all KinderPAL enrollment requirements are met, and that the child is a good fit for the program.

Once the child is accepted into the program, parents will then need to arrange payment of the KinderPAL fee to complete the final step of securing their child's spot in the KinderPAL program.



# KinderPAL Fees

KinderPAL fees are **\$3500.00 per year** and are paid by monthly installments through pre-authorized debit or a lump sum payment.

Parents will receive an email from the school, requesting they complete the **KinderPAL Fee Agreement Form**.

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. This can be chosen through the fee agreement form.

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. Banking information must be attached to the form.

A \$25 bank fee will be added for all returned direct debit payments (NSF).

## IMPORTANT

If you present the school with an NSF payment, your child's attendance from the KinderPAL program may be suspended until payment is received.



# KinderPAL Fee Agreement Form

Once you receive the email indicating your KinderPAL Fee Agreement Form Requires your Attention, log into your PowerSchool Parent Portal at <https://powerschool.gppsd.ab.ca/public/>

- Select the icon for SchoolEngage on the left menu
- Click 'Student'
- Select the student's name that needs the form the completed.
- Complete the form it will allow you to choose payment in full, or monthly payments.

*Important: If you have chosen to pay your fees monthly through pre-authorized debit, you will need to attach your banking information prior to your form being processed.*

Once the KinderPAL Fee Agreement form is submitted the school will process it and sent it to GPPSD's finance department. Parents will then get an 'Approved' email indicating all steps have been completed.

## Program 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 1st 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.



# Section 4: General Information

## Hours and Calendar

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

See your school website and search Bell Times and Calendar for more information.

## 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.





# **Grande Prairie Public School Division**

## **Acknowledgement**

We are grateful for the expertise and dedication of teachers, administrators, and leaders across GPPSD, who fostering quality teaching and leadership. Guided by Alberta's Professional Practice Standards and GPPSD's mission, Every Student Succeeds, this framework reflects our commitment to student growth and achievement.