
Our Mission

Centerpoint is a dynamic community of learners who nurture creativity, independent thinking and social responsibility through a supportive environment, the development of learning tools, and the use of systematic educational processes.

At Centerpoint, we foster a child-centered learning environment - where children's ideas, interests and abilities help determine the curriculum. Activities are geared towards the children's physical, social, and emotional levels rather than on what a textbook publisher says children in that grade should learn. Our teachers serve as instructors, facilitators and guides.

Centerpoint is a supportive community that allows us all to be teachers and learners. Class meetings, K-5 family groups, and celebrations are just a few of the ways we maintain this community. Take a look inside to learn more about our philosophy and curriculum.



Assessment

Assessment is an integral component of the teaching/learning process. We monitor each child's progress over time through tests, projects, surveys, self-assessments and teacher observation.

Parents, children and their teachers have conferences in the fall and the spring to set goals and assess progress. The children present their work during portfolio nights in January and May. Outcome-based progress reports are also sent home three times a year.

Parent Involvement

Parents are an integral and essential part of our school. We believe that when parents share their time and talents, they enrich and enhance the educational process.

Parents commit to volunteering 40 hours per year per family, either at home or at school. A variety of flexible volunteer opportunities are available from leading a family group to publishing student books.

For more information and to schedule a tour of the school, contact Gayle Chapman at:

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Centerpoint

**Child-Centered
Elementary School**



A Community of Learners

*A White Bear Lake School District
Parent-Choice Elementary School*

Centerpoint Philosophy and Curriculum

At Centerpoint, we believe that each child is unique. We work together to meet a variety of teaching and learning styles and give children the opportunity to develop their physical, mental and emotional potential.

Curriculum

Centerpoint's curriculum is dynamic and research-based. Much of our curriculum is developed thematically by staff around program outcomes and student interests.

Multi-age learning

A Multi-age class is a community of learners of different ages and abilities. Centerpoint's current grade structure is K, 1, 2/3, 4/5.

Combining grade levels has many benefits. Teachers know their children better so they spend less time assessing and more time teaching. Children and their families are familiar with the teachers so they are more comfortable and spend less time learning routines.

The wider range of ages and abilities in multi-age classrooms encourages children to develop social skills and to focus on their own growth rather than compete against each other.

Balanced Literacy Philosophy

Centerpoint is a whole language school. We believe that learning is easiest when it is from whole to part, when it is in authentic contexts, and when it is functional for learners. At Centerpoint, you'll find students reading and writing for real reasons. Examples of whole language in classrooms include:

Reader's Workshop

- Daily Read Aloud
- Daily Silent Reading
- Book Clubs

Writer's Workshop

- Book Publishing
- Collaborative Writing
- Independent Writing
- Sharing of Learning

In our classrooms, children become proficient readers and writers by reading and writing every day. They use language to accomplish real tasks, such as planning and building a prairie, writing and performing a play, or researching and sharing topics that interest them.



Thematic Units

Thematic units are designed to integrate all areas of learning into an overall area of study. Examples include units on water and waterways, the prairie, space, performing arts, architecture, social justice and cultures.

Math

Centerpoint uses Investigations as a base for its math curriculum. Investigations was developed using best practice research and National Council of Teachers of Mathematics standards, with support from a National Science Foundation grant.

Art Enrichment

Centerpoint offers parent-led art classes on a regular basis. Students use a variety of concepts, tools and techniques to express their art in meaningful ways. An annual spring art show culminates the year's art activities.

"One of the things my kids like most about Centerpoint is the opportunity to interact with peers of different ages. The teachers are supportive and challenge the kids to be creative and to stretch their imagination."

~ Davis Shryer, Centerpoint parent

"Centerpoint is a fun school! I love my teachers and especially like family group and book club!"

~ Stephanie, Centerpoint student