Welcome to Kindergarten!

2027-28

BLOOMINGTON

Public Schools

Please **join us!**

We invite you to join us at the kindergarten welcome event at your neighborhood school.

District-wide Kindergarten Preview
Virtual Meeting
Oct. 22, 2026
6-7 p.m.

Hillcrest School Choice Lottery & Info Night
Oct. 27, 2026
6-7 p.m.

Hillcrest Community School
Feb. 9, 2027
6-7 p.m.

Indian Mounds Elementary School
Jan. 28, 2027
6-7 p.m.

Normandale Hills Elementary School
Jan. 21, 2027
6-7:15 p.m.

Oak Grove Elementary School
Feb. 2, 2027
5-6 p.m.

Olson Elementary School
Jan. 28, 2027
6-7 p.m.

New Code Academy Online School - virtual Q&A sessions
Jan. 29
12:30-1 p.m. and 4:30-5 p.m.

Poplar Bridge Elementary School
Jan. 26, 2027
6-7 p.m.

Ridgeview Elementary School
Feb. 4, 2027
6-7 p.m.

Valley View Elementary School
April 8, 2027
6-7 p.m.

Westwood Elementary School
Feb. 4, 2027
6-7 p.m.

Welcome to **Kindergarten!**

Welcome to the Bloomington Public Schools community! Kindergarten is an exciting step in your child's school journey.

We are dedicated to challenging, inspiring and supporting all learners to achieve their hopes and dreams and thrive in a rapidly changing world.

We believe strong school-family partnerships are vital to our students' success. Please join us at your school's Kick-off to Kindergarten event. We look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely,

Don Gramenz, Hillcrest Community School
Liz Lodermeier, Indian Mounds Elementary
Cristin Caruso, Normandale Hills Elementary
Brian Cline, Oak Grove Elementary
Paul Meyer, Olson Elementary
Roberto Cantu, Poplar Bridge Elementary
Brian Ingemann, Ridgeview Elementary
Kelly Tennison, Valley View Elementary
Hugh Roberts, Westwood Elementary

Kindergarten in **Bloomington**

Neighborhood Schools

Our elementary schools offer a positive, inclusive, caring environment where children love to learn. Our kindergarten and first grade class sizes are among the lowest of our neighboring districts.

Computer Science Immersion

The Computer Science Immersion program at Indian Mounds and Poplar Bridge elementary schools is grounded in weekly computer science lessons co-taught by a specialist and the classroom teacher. Our teachers use innovative instruction to develop computational thinking skills using the best of computer science education in other subjects like science, reading, writing, social studies, and math.

Hillcrest Community School

A nationally recognized Artful Learning school that welcomes students from throughout the Bloomington community. Students are selected from a lottery applicant pool. Free bus transportation is available for any Bloomington residents attending Hillcrest Community School who live outside the Hillcrest walking distance.

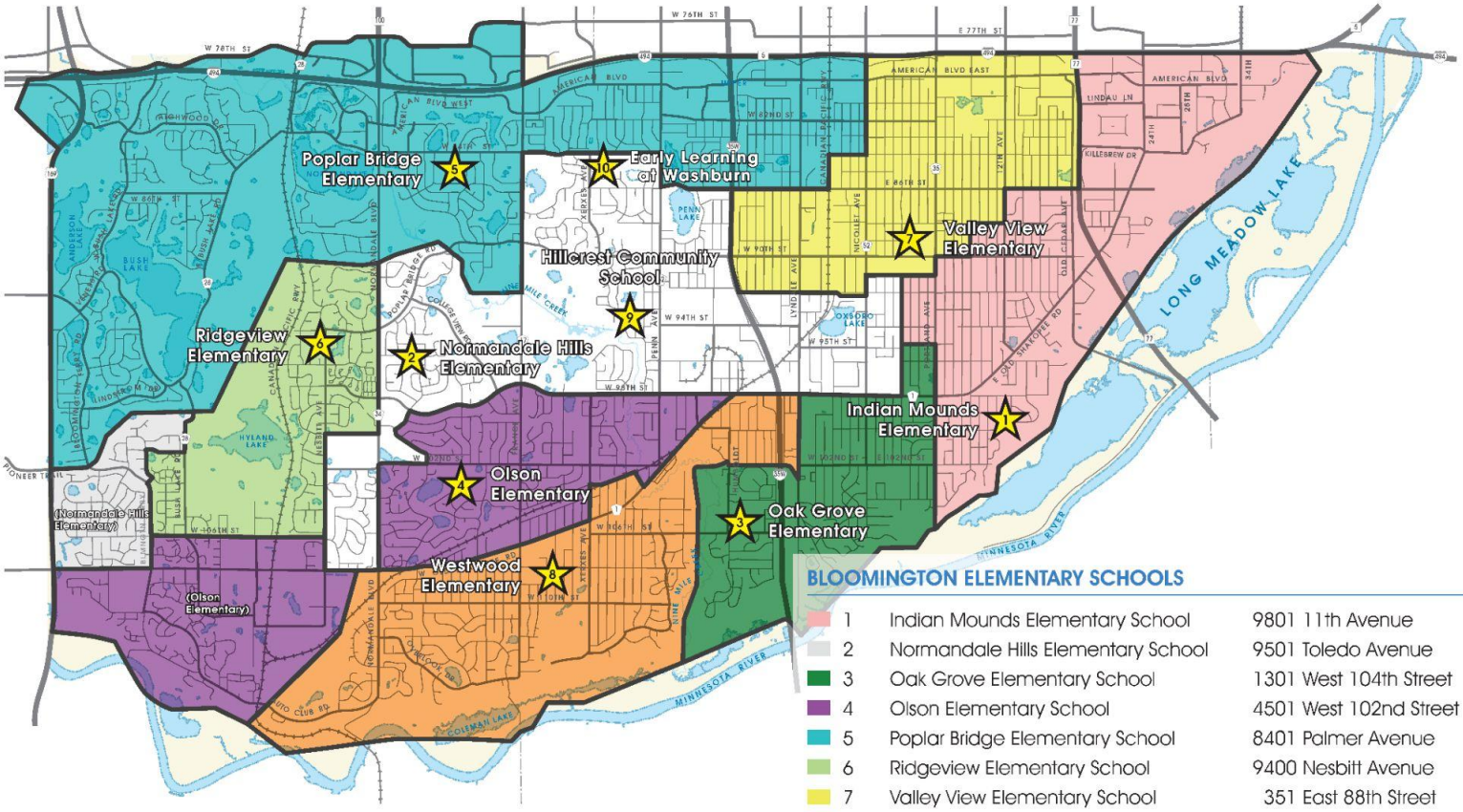
New Code Academy

Our fully online K-12 school offers curriculum aligned with BPS and Minnesota state standards taught by BPS teachers and designed to meet the same high levels of academic rigor as traditional school.

Find your **School**

BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS



BLOOMINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

1	Indian Mounds Elementary School	9801 11th Avenue
2	Normandale Hills Elementary School	9501 Toledo Avenue
3	Oak Grove Elementary School	1301 West 104th Street
4	Olson Elementary School	4501 West 102nd Street
5	Poplar Bridge Elementary School	8401 Palmer Avenue
6	Ridgeview Elementary School	9400 Nesbitt Avenue
7	Valley View Elementary School	351 East 88th Street
8	Westwood Elementary School	3701 West 108th Street
9	Hillcrest Community School*	9301 Thomas Road

**District-wide Attendance Area*

EARLY LEARNING CENTER – DISTRICT-WIDE ATTENDANCE

10	Early Learning at Washburn	8401 Xerxes Avenue

BLOOMINGTON Public Schools

bloomingtonschools.org

Why choose **BPS?**

Students Thrive Here

At Bloomington Public Schools, we keep students at the center of everything we do. Nine of our schools are Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence and another six have received Minnesota School of Excellence designations. Our dedicated and talented team of teachers, support staff, and school and district leaders consistently earn state and national recognition for outstanding achievements.

Pride in Diversity

Our mission is to help prepare all learners to thrive in a rapidly changing world. We strive to ensure the most safe and supportive school system possible for every student and to provide each student with equitable access to high quality and culturally relevant instruction, curriculum, support, facilities and educational resources.

Unique Academic Opportunities

We challenge and inspire all learners to achieve their highest potential with culturally relevant, rigorous academics, engaging experiences and innovative programs.

Technology Enhanced Learning

Our students have access to innovative technology tools that amplify their learning experiences. Under the guidance of teachers and school staff, students use these toolsets to solve problems in the community, demonstrate their learning and seek out new knowledge.

Strong Community and Parent Support

We have a long history of strong community support for education and our parents consistently give high marks on our academics, climate, safety and communications in annual parent satisfaction surveys.

Ready for **Kindergarten**

BLOOMINGTON

Public Schools

Kindergarteners **learn…**

We're ready for kindergarteners of all abilities! Families and caregivers can help children practice these these skills and milestones they'll learn in kindergarten.

- ❑ Understand letters, sounds and numbers
- ❑ Count to 10
- ❑ Recognize colors
- ❑ Recognize basic shapes
- ❑ Positive about school and kindergarten
- ❑ Practice writing letters and numbers
- ❑ Practice writing name
- ❑ Practice using bathroom independently with door closed
- ❑ Practice zippers, tying, buttons
- ❑ Practice putting on winter weather clothes
- ❑ Practice opening food wrappers
- ❑ Practice using a scissors
- ❑ Practice packing items in backpacks
- ❑ Read with your child for at least 15 minutes daily

Kindergarteners **learn...**

Literacy and Reading

- How to recognize letters and sounds and write letters for letter sounds
- How to recognize and produce rhyming words
- How to identify the beginning, middle and ending sounds of words
- 60 frequently used words
- How to draw, write and narrate a story
- How to spell words phonetically
- How to ask and answer questions about a reading

Math

- Read, write and show numbers
- How to create, complete and extend patterns
- How to count forwards and backwards
- How to find one more or one less than a number

Health

- How to identify healthy behaviors
- Listening skills

Kindergarteners **learn...**

Social Studies

- How to demonstrate civic skills in a classroom
- Identify examples of rules in the school community and explain why they exist
- Distinguish between individual needs and wants
- Compare and contrast traditions in a family with those of other families

Science

- Sort objects in terms of color, size, shape, and texture
- Weather and the seasons
- Differentiate between living and nonliving things
- Observe and compare plants and animals.

Life Skills

- How to use time effectively
- How to follow directions
- How to show respect to self, staff and peers
- How to work cooperatively with others
- How to work independently

A Typical **Kindergarten Day**

- Breakfast
- Morning jobs
- Morning meeting
- Calendar
- Reading groups
- Literacy stations
- Snack
- Specialists: gym, art, music, media
- Writer's workshop and phonics
- Read aloud
- Lunch and recess
- Rest and quiet time
- Math
- Theme time: science, social studies, health
- Choice time
- Get ready to go home

Safety, Childcare & Transportation

Safety and Security

The safety and well-being of your child is our top priority. Our schools all have secure, monitored, single-point entry during the school day. Students are not allowed to leave during the school day unless signed out by an authorized adult. All visitors must sign in at the school's main office and wear a visitor badge.

Before & After-School Care

Kids' SAFARI is our fee-based before-and after-school care program for children in kindergarten through grade 5, offering enrichment opportunities and creative learning experiences designed to increase social interaction and lead children to discover friendship, independence and confidence.

Kids' SAFARI is open to students attending an elementary school in Bloomington.

Busing & Transportation

We provide transportation to resident elementary students (K-5) who live in the school's attendance area and live at least half a mile from school.

Students living in the walk area – less than half a mile for elementary – may be eligible for busing through our pay-to-ride program.

Kindergarten **Registration**

Children who will be five years old on or before Sept. 1, 2027, may enroll in kindergarten for the 2027-28 school year.

Kindergarten registration items required before school starts

- Complete Early Childhood Screening if not already screened.
  - If screened in another district please provide a copy.
- Complete Online Registration as soon as possible.
  - Children who have participated in a BPS community education early childhood program (ECFE, ECSE) or BPS preschool do not need to complete another online registration.
  - Go to: olr.isd271.org
  - Call the school office if you don't have computer access or for help with registration
- Send copies of immunization records OR notarized exemption form.
  - State law requires: 5 DPT, 4 Polio, 2 MMR, 3 Hepatitis B and 2 Varicella shots or the date of chickenpox disease, or notarized exemption form.
  - Free immunizations are available at Pond Health Commons: 952-681-6277.
- Provide a copy of child's birth certificate and proof of Bloomington residency (utility bill, etc.)
- Schedule Elementary Assessment with your school.

Please send the required documents by email, mail or drop off in person to our school office.

How to **Register**

Online Registration

- Visit bloomingtonschools.org and select **Enroll Now**
  - Bloomington residents: Select your neighborhood school
  - Non-residents: Visit the Open Enrollment page to register
  - Or visit **olr.isd271.org**
- Complete Early Childhood Screening
- Complete meal benefits application or opt out
- Submit immunization records

Please contact our enrollment team at 952-681-6555 or enrollment@isd271.org for assistance.

Para ayuda en español respecto a la inscripción, llame al 952-681-6409.

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