

Holmen Public Preschool
4K & Early Childhood Services
500 East Wall St.
Holmen, WI 546

Ms. Sue Eitland, Principal
eitsue@holmen.k12.wi.us
608.526.3316, ext. 4133



October 2nd: National Custodians' Day

October 7th – 11th: Fire Prevention Week

October 8th: EC/4K Visit from Fire Department

October 9th: District Early Release Day
No school for EC/4K Students

Join our staff at the Upper Mississippi River
National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
N5727 County Rd Z, Onalaska, WI (Brice Prairie)
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Family/Teacher Conferences

October 10th: Picture Retake Day

October 10th:
Family/Teacher Conferences
2:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

October 15th:
Family/Teacher Conferences
2:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

October 21st – 25th:
National School Bus Safety Week
Scholastic Book Fair in LMC

October 22nd: Vision Screenings with the Lion's Club

October 31st: Wear **Black & Orange**



From the principal's desk...

Dear Families,

Happy Fall! With the temperatures getting cooler, please remember to send along a sweatshirt and long pants if your child is not already wearing these items. The indoor temperature also fluctuates, so it's nice to have clothing layers available when needed.

Family-Teacher Conferences

The staff is looking forward to meeting with you during the Fall Family/Teacher Conferences on October 9th, 10th, and 15th. Please make certain to sign up for a time using the Sign-Up Genius Link that was emailed out to you.

We respectfully ask that families arrive and leave the classroom on time as each teacher has almost 40 Family-Teacher Conferences and we don't want them to get behind. The teachers will work with you to follow up with a phone or in-person conversation should additional time be needed to discuss your child.

In order to prepare for your child's conference, I would encourage you to speak with your child about his/her favorite things about school or about anything they are wondering. You may also want to reflect on what growth you have noticed in your child since beginning school, as well as areas in which you would still like to see more learning. The teachers will talk to you about social/emotional development as this is a primary focus in Early Childhood and 4K. Know that we welcome your questions and will take suggestions into consideration, so feel free to share input with us!

Sue Eitland
Principal ~ Holmen Public Preschool Program
eitsue@holmen.k12.wi.us or 608.526.3316, ext. 4133

October 28: No School For Students



“Meet the Staff”



Hi! My name is Allyson Wozney and I am an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher. I joined the Holmen Public Preschool team in 2023. I support young students with IEPs in our Early Childhood program, in 4K classrooms, and in children's homes and other settings. I live in Onalaska with my family. My husband and I have a son and daughter and two naughty cats. I am excited for another great year with the HPP team in Holmen!

Hello! My name is Vanessa Jagim, I am an early childhood special education teacher in 4K and Early Childhood. My husband and I live in Holmen with our two girls who attend Evergreen Elementary. I am a big animal lover and I have two dogs, a beagle named Riggins and a yorkie named Zoey. I stay very busy coaching my kids' sports and taking them to their activities. In my free time I like to do DIY projects at home and get outside with my family. We enjoy going hiking, geocaching, and going to the pool during the summer. I love being a part of the early childhood team and I am excited for another great year!



Hi! I am Ms. Jodi, one of the Early Childhood Special Education teachers. I have been working with the district since 2017 and absolutely love being a part of the Early Childhood/4K program. I enjoy getting to work with many children to help them learn and grow! I currently live in Holmen with my husband Matt, our 11 year old son, Soren, our dog Marley and a new bearded dragon named Jack. Soren started 5th grade this year and it's been so exciting to watch him grow and become more independent! In our free time, we enjoy hiking, biking, boating and anything outdoors! I also enjoy reading, as well. I am looking forward to continuing to get to know your child and your family this school year!

Hi! My name is Jackie Guetschow and I am an Early Childhood Special Education Teacher. I have been teaching at Holmen Public Preschool since 2010! This year I am doing all of our Early Childhood evaluations, working with our Early Childhood teachers on planning for the best ways to support our students with IEPs and providing some inclusion support for young learners with Vision disabilities. I live in La Crosse with my husband Jeff. We have been married 29 years this past June. I have 3 adult daughters; Naomi, Jasmine and Kira, and two sons-in-law. I love working here because we have a wonderful team who gives their all to support our students!



“Meet the Staff”

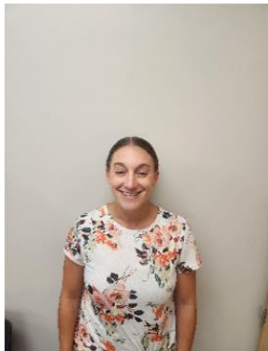
Hello. I am Missy Micatka, a special education assistant. I have spent most of my years in Illinois. While there, I worked in the elementary school for over 16 years. We moved to Holmen over two years ago and just love the area and community. My husband and I have two sons. Our family enjoys the outdoors, and we are big tv sport watchers.



Hello! My name is Emily Shaw, and I am one of the 4K and Early Childhood EAs. This is my 4th year working here. In my free time I love to be outside and spend time with my husband and 3 cats

Hello families!

My name is “Ms. Debbie” Butzler and I am a Special Education Assistant in 4K and Early Childhood at Viking Elementary. Some of our families may also have spoken to me at the bus stop as I pick up or drop off your child for school. I have been working with the Holmen Public Preschool since the 4K program started 18 years ago and I subbed in the District for 4 years prior to that. My husband Jack and I live in Holmen. We have two sons and one daughter: Zachary, Matthew and Jenna. Zachary is married and lives and works in Minneapolis while Matthew lives and works outside of Chicago. Jenna lives and works in the Holmen area. Our family likes to go hiking in our nation’s national parks and also in our parks in Wisconsin. Some of my additional hobbies include gardening, antique shopping and upcycling. I truly enjoy helping support children in their learning and I look forward to meeting the new students and their families each year.



Hi, my name is Ashley Mathis. I worked as a substitute teacher in the Holmen School District last year. I am excited to be working as an Early Childhood Special Education Assistant at Viking this year. I greatly enjoy working with children and I am thrilled to be a part of the team! I live in Holmen with my two children, Mackenzie and Jaxon. We love to spend time hiking, camping, swimming and going to theme/water parks. I am looking forward to getting to know the children and helping them learn and grow this year.



CHILD FIND – Holmen's Early Childhood Developmental Screening

Do you have a child who is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 years old and lives in the Holmen School District?

The School District of Holmen offers Child Find, which is a free, universal development screening for all children between the ages of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5 years old. All information shared is confidential and only viewed by professional educators in our district.

Please share this information with others you know who have children in this age range.

Purpose of the Early Childhood Screening:

Specialists in the early childhood field will review information regarding:

- Typical development
- Child's level of development (based on questionnaires completed by guardians)
- Services and resources available in the community for families and young children
- Any questions or concerns parents may have pertaining to their child

When does the screening take place?

Screenings will be completed throughout the year on an individual basis through developmental questionnaires. Early Childhood specialists will review your responses, as well as provide support and complete screenings when applicable. **Our first scheduled Child Find will be on October 15th, 2024, during Family Teacher Conferences (2:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.) Contact us to schedule an appointment.**

*** Please note, this developmental screening is not mandatory for 4K or 5K enrollment, but is highly encouraged for children over 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ years, whether or not you have concerns regarding your child's development.*

Contact Information for Questions or to Schedule an Appointment:

Call: 608.526.3316 E-mail: ecinfo@holmen.k12.wi.us

Holmen Public Preschool ~ School District of Holmen



Wednesday, October 9th is a District Early Release Day.

Therefore, **EC/4K students will not have school!**

We hope your child & their care provider will be able to join us from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. at the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge on Brice Prairie! We will explore the beautiful visitor center and participate in a scavenger hunt and nature walk.

Let's hope for a beautiful day!



October 7th – 11th

Each October, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) sponsors a fire prevention campaign to highlight the importance of fire safety education. **This year's campaign is Smoke Alarms: Make them Work for You!**

On October 8th, the Fire Department will visit Holmen Public Preschool with a big red fire truck. They will talk about staying safe and making sure families have working smoke detectors and a plan to get out of the house in the event of a fire.

During Fire Prevention Week, the Holmen Fire Department will also be conducting fire drills throughout the school district. These drills allow us to test and maintain the procedures established by the school and the Holmen Fire Department.

Allow us to help you with some safety tips:

1. Start a home fire escape plan.
2. Practice it at least once a month.
3. Install smoke detectors.
4. Change the battery in the smoke detectors twice a year.
5. Install fire extinguishers.
6. Keep matches in a safe place.
7. Cook safely.
8. Never leave the stove unattended.
9. Read and help us teach your children about fire safety

Health Office News

Nurse: Emily Hanes, RN

Prescription and Over-the Counter Medications:

Medicines such as cough drops, pain relievers, and other over-the-counter remedies to be administered at school require the completion of a School Medication/Treatment Form by a parent/guardian before the medications can be administered. A parent must sign the form, and if it is a prescription, the doctor must sign it as well. Forms may be obtained from the health office, the district webpage, or from your healthcare provider. All medications must be in the original container and labeled with the child's name. **ALL** medications must be brought to the health office by an adult, they cannot be transported with students.

Vision Screenings: Hearing screenings will be done for kindergarten and 1st grade students this fall. Vision screenings will be done for EC, 4K, Kindergarten, 1st, 3rd and 5th graders. The Lion's Club is planning to return again this year to help complete the vision screenings. Vision and/or hearing problems can affect a student's educational success and their ability to learn. Parents/guardians or teachers may request screenings for any student at any time during the school year if concerns arise. If you have questions, please contact the health office.

PreK PTO

While we do not have a regular monthly meeting for the PreK PTO, we do have some opportunities for families to get involved with the Early Childhood/4K program throughout the year.

These options include:

- Reviewing fall and spring teacher mini grant requests to approve or deny them;
- Providing a meal/funds/food or beverage items toward a meal for staff during Family-Teacher Conference evenings (1 day in fall and 1 in spring)
- Helping with fundraising opportunities

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Ms. Eitland at eitsue@holmen.k12.wi.us or 608.526.3316, ext. 4133. Our staff sincerely appreciates your support!

School Bus Safety Month



The School District of Holmen Transportation Services share in the pride of providing a service that benefits the children of the communities that we serve. Safety is a year-round priority for school transportation. At this time of year, we are reviewing bus expectations and safety with our students.

Drivers will be conducting emergency evacuations of school buses the week of October 16th-20th. These drills are practiced once in the fall and again in the spring to help keep students familiar with the proper use of safety exits and how to respond safely in an emergency. Drills take place on morning routes as children proceed to school. Buses practice these safety procedures in parking lots and other designated areas. Students are generally interested in the drills and take the process seriously, but we encourage you to let us know if you or your student have any questions.

While at school, your students may also spend time learning about PBIS/Pyramid Model and safety on the bus. A bus and driver will be provided so students will be able to practice how to board safely, how to sit, and how to socialize quietly and safely with their friends. This is a great opportunity for your students to build their bus riding skills and ask questions!

Families may receive a phone call from a driver or EA if they have concerns about a student's behavior. We understand many students may need additional coaching or explanation than we are able to provide while on route, and we appreciate your support to help us clarify expectations. By doing so, you and your family are helping your students have a safe bus ride home.

Parents and community members also play a very important role in bus safety, as they comprise the driving public that shares the road with the yellow bus. Please be cautious when you see a bus and be ready to "ALWAYS STOP WHEN RED LIGHTS ARE FLASHING."

Please select transportation from one location to school and one location from school. The morning and afternoon locations may be different. Most importantly, we strive for the bus ride to be consistent each day so the students and families know where the student will be before and after school. In previous years, there has been more than one occasion where a young child has been confused as to which bus to ride home or which house to get off at. Frantic searches have taken place which included contacting the sheriff's department to find missing children. Obviously, this has resulted in excessive worry by parents and transportation personnel, which we try to avoid. Additionally, we will not allow students to ride buses other than those to which they are assigned. This includes after school activities (i.e. having friends over, Scouts, or birthday parties).



"A Consistent Ride Is a Safe Ride"

We strive for the bus ride to be consistent each day. For that reason, we will not allow students to ride buses other than those to which they are assigned. The safest ride occurs when the regular riders are the only ones on the bus.

If you require a change in schedule, then we suggest picking your child up at school or daycare on these days. That keeps your child safe, which is our number one priority.

Speech & Language

Holmen Public Preschool Resource

Provided by: Liz Dahlen and Caitlin Mosel, Speech Language Pathologists

Try This Activity

Arts and crafts is the perfect way to practice following directions. Give your child the steps to complete a craft. Here's some ways to incorporate directions into arts & crafts:

Give them directions to color a picture. "first color the apple red then color the cup purple"

Cut and paste activity. Give them the steps one by one, "first cut triangles for the eyes, then a circle for the nose."

Let your child be the teacher! After modeling how to give a direction a few times, let them direct you on how to color a picture.

Focus on RECEPTIVE SKILLS

Receptive language refers to what we can understand separate from what we express. For example, your child may be able to point to a picture of a car on command but is not saying the word "car" just yet. Typically, a child's receptive skill level is higher or more well developed than their expressive. This is very common among both typically developing children and those with language delays. Here are some skills to focus on receptive language:

Following directions is an extremely important skill that will follow a child all the way through schooling. Being able to focus in, comprehend and execute an auditory direction may be a challenge for your active preschooler. Try giving directions one concrete step at a time. Rather than the broad, "clean up your toys," say, "put the blocks in the bin" "put the dolls in the house."

Receptive vocabulary is very important to building later language skills. Point out new vocabulary words to your child during book reading.

Comprehending concepts such as, prepositions, "on, in over, under", quantitative sums "more, less" and qualitative words "big, little, fast, slow" are important for describing and following directions.

BOOK NOOK

Press Here
by Herve Tullet

An interactive book great for following directions. The child is directed to touch the dots in a specific way, which causes the dots to change position or size on each page. Your little one will love the interactive nature of the pictures and they'll be following directions to boot!

STRATEGY OF THE MONTH: FOLLOW THEIR LEAD

Following the child's lead refers to engaging her in what she is interested in rather than trying to divert her attention to something else. Research has shown that when we use a preferred toy, a child is more likely to produce language and use communication acts more frequently than with a non-preferred toy.

Use this strategy to your advantage and get down on the floor with your child. Pay attention to the toys she gravitates to and attempt to insert language into the play. Start by labeling the actions and toys she is playing with, then try to prompt her to verbalize.



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CONTACT INFO: Liz: daheli@holmen.k12.wi.us Caitlin: moscai@holmen.k12.wi.us

Virtual Backpack

The School District of Holmen utilizes a “green” approach for distributing flyers from community organizations, and has discontinued the process of sending paper flyers in your student’s backpack, unless they are school related. The information is divided into three sections, by grade levels, and updated on a regular basis.

Click on this link: <https://www.holmen.k12.wi.us/community/pre-k-elementary-school-flier.cfm> to be directed to the actual webpage which is housed in the COMMUNITY/PARTNERS tab of the homepage.

Note that most of these advertisements are not district publications (unless marked). The District enables their online distribution as a community service to inform you of educational opportunities, activities and events available in our area.

Vision and Mission

You will notice that many workplaces have a vision and a mission to help guide them to success. The Holmen Public Preschool vision and mission statements help ground us. When making decisions as a team, we often refer to our vision and mission to make certain we are in alignment with our values and beliefs.

Vision defined: what we hope for the Holmen Public Preschool to accomplish

Mission defined: how we plan to accomplish our vision

Holmen Public Preschool Vision: Play, Learn, and Grow Together

Our Mission: Holmen Public Preschool collaborates with families & the community to build a foundation of success for all children. We balance social-emotional growth and academic skills within a play-based, creative, and nurturing environment.



EC/4K Vision Screening with the Holmen Lion’s Club

will take place at Viking Elementary on October 22nd.

Families do not need to be present. Instead, the classes go together with their teacher and assistants. The school nurse, Emily Hanes, works closely with the Lion’s Club during the vision screening process and will reach out to you if there are any concerns noted.

WISCONSIN PYRAMID MODEL NEWS

Your children are growing and learning at an amazing pace! They have been working hard to learn the routine and expectations of their classroom, learn, play and build friendships. In the Holmen Public Preschool program, we teach our students positive expectations for all parts of their day while at school to help them be safe, respectful and responsible. This is all part of our Pyramid Model approach, which is a framework we use to ensure multi-level systems of behavioral support. We also put into place support for students who are still learning how to be safe, respectful and responsible. If you have older children, you may have heard them call a similar framework PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports). Pyramid Model is similar, but is more developmentally appropriate for our younger learners.

Below are a couple of examples of how we recognize individuals and the whole group when we see them being safe, respectful and responsible.

- Individual Recognition - Bucket Filler Stickers: These stickers highlight your child being safe, responsible or respectful while at school. Enjoy celebrating with your child when they get a bucket filler sticker and ask them what they did to earn it!
- Whole Group Recognition – Classrooms have 2 bucket filler jars(1 for AM and 1 for PM). When the entire class is demonstrating bucket filling behaviors, the teacher will place a star or a heart in the jar. Once it is full, the class will have a celebration of their positive behaviors. Classroom teachers will provide additional details when the class reaches that goal!

If you, as the family adults, are interested in learning more about teaching your child to identify and express emotions, we encourage you to check out this great link from Vanderbilt University!
https://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/documents/teaching_emotions.pdf

You may also reach out to one of our Pyramid Model Leadership Team Members for specific questions regarding 4K/EC Pyramid Model implementation: Kylie Harrison, Deb Butzler, and Sue Eitland

Happy Autumn Everyone!

