

Loring Park Campus and Kindergarten Program FAQ's:

1. What are the benefits of the Loring Park Kindergarten location for my child?

- A full day program
- Increased outdoor time
- Dedicated early childhood play yard and garden space
- Access to a commercial kitchen to allow for cooking curriculum
- Adjacent to 34-acre Loring Park
- Walking distance to the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden
- Plenty of parking space with easy building access
- Outdoor drop off and pick up option
- Close to current CLWS location

2. Why is the school considering an offsite location?

- Our early childhood programs have a waiting list. This would enable us to provide Waldorf education to more children.
- The ability to increase outdoor playtime due to dedicated outdoor space on-site and proximity to Loring Park.
- Strong early childhood enrollment supports grades enrollment and school and community health.

3. Will the children at the Loring Park campus have the same services as the children in the main school building (Educational support, kindergarten sensory screening, Eurythmy)?

Yes.

4. What are the options for half/full day and extended day?

To be determined but right now our intent in creating a full day program is to best meet the needs of our children and families who, with increasing numbers, desire full day programs and care.

5. Is the 8:00 am start time set in stone?

The 8:00 am start time is not set in stone. We want to accommodate families who have students at both locations and assume that having an earlier start time may be helpful to some working parents.

6. Will the additional location increase early childhood tuition cost?

No change to tuition cost for the coming 2016-2017 school year.

7. If my child is in Miss Melissa's class, will my child be automatically placed in the Loring Park location?

No. Though we would love to have you join Ms. Melissa in pioneering this new program, you are free to choose what is best for your family.

8. If my child is not in Melissa's class, can they still be considered for the new Loring Park Campus Kindergarten program?

Yes! All kindergarten age children are eligible for the Loring Park Kindergarten.

9. Will my child lose his/her "place" in early childhood if I opt out of the Loring Park kindergarten location?

No.

10. Is the park safe? Do the teachers have a safety plan for taking children to the park?

Yes. The park is safe. We met with the First Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist, Renee Allen and Police Lt. Christopher House. Their biggest concerns were water safety (due to the lake in the park) and crossing 15th street to get to the park.

We will develop a safety plan that will include training in water safety, and safe houses around the park where we can go in case of inclement weather or other immediate concerns. There will be a minimum of two teachers with the class at all times.

11. Do homeless people congregate in the park and pose a safety concern?

Sometimes there are homeless people in the park taking a rest on a bench or under a tree. The police have provided us with a hotline number which connects to St. Stephen's Homeless outreach program. St. Stephen's has six teams of people serving the area who will ride over on bikes and offer assistance to homeless individuals in need.

12. How will ties with the larger school be nurtured?

- **Collegial Connection and Administrative Support**

City of Lakes Waldorf School staff who are at the Loring Campus program will be a part of the collegial circle, participating in weekly early childhood and full faculty meetings and in-services. Admissions and administrative staff will be working with Loring Park staff to ensure administrative support for teachers and families.

- **Communications, Festivals and Special Events**

Loring Park Campus families will receive all the same communications from the school and be invited to participate in early childhood activities and all school meetings and events.

- **Our Extended Campus**

We would like to view the Loring Park Campus as an extension of our current campus. We already have school activities that are hosted throughout our neighborhood. City of Lakes Waldorf School has long held a vision of being connected and integrated into our city environment, of providing service and being a beacon of beauty, goodness and joy to our neighbors. As we mature as a school, this vision is beginning to take new forms as it comes to fruition.

13. How will the Loring Park students be integrated into the rising first grade group, and are they guaranteed a spot?

If your child attends Kindergarten at the Loring Park Campus they will be eligible for a spot in our First Grade assuming there are no other barriers to success such as behavior or learning challenges that the school is unable to meet.

14. When will we know if the Loring Park kindergarten location is happening for sure? Would this be for the 2016/ 2017 school year?

We are currently planning on opening a Kindergarten classroom at the Loring Park location in September 2016.