New Lenox School District 122
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Lori R. Motsch, Ed.D., Superintendent

October 26, 2026

Dear New Lenox School District 122 Families,

I am excited to share that District 122 will begin full-day kindergarten in the 2027–2028 school year. Kindergarten classes will be held at Cherry Hill School and Spencer Trail School.

This is a meaningful moment for our district. Cherry Hill opened as our first district-wide kindergarten center in 1998, and Spencer Trail followed in 2006 as New Lenox grew. When enrollment later declined, we brought kindergarten classes together at Spencer Trail and began serving students with specialized needs in our own district schools. Now, we are preparing both buildings to welcome kindergarten students again.

Illinois requires districts to offer full-day kindergarten beginning in 2027–2028. The Board of Education also knows that many families have hoped for this opportunity for years. We are pleased to make it a reality, and we want to answer the questions we know families have.

Where will current programs go?
The Excel classrooms serving grades 1–8 will join the Oster-Oakview School community, utilizing the specialized lower-level space that was renovated for special education programming in 2012. We have communicated directly with our Excel families regarding the move. Our state-funded Preschool for All program will become part of Spencer Pointe School. Our intention is to keep our other early childhood programs at either Cherry Hill or Spencer Trail for the 2027-2028 school year. We have not yet finalized which programs will be at each building and will know more once we receive official kindergarten enrollment numbers. All current EC/Preschool half-day programs will remain half-day. We know that becoming part of a new school community is a big transition for families, and our staff is dedicated to working closely with families and students to ensure a smooth, supportive transition.

How will kindergarten schools be assigned?
Our *tentative* kindergarten boundaries generally follow the junior high attendance areas:

- Cherry Hill: Students who later attend Haines and Oakview, or Nelson Prairie and Nelson Ridge, and then Liberty Junior High.
- Spencer Trail: Students who later attend Tyler and Bentley, or Spencer Pointe and Spencer Crossing, and then Martino Junior High.

Current projections suggest enrollment will be fairly balanced between the two schools. We will confirm assignments after we know how many children are entering kindergarten. If enrollment differs substantially from projections, some adjustments may be necessary; we will communicate directly with affected families.

What should families do now?
If your child will turn 5 on or before September 1, 2027, please mark your calendar for Kindergarten Information Night on Thursday, February 18, 2027, at Spencer Trail School. Families from both attendance areas are invited. We will share the time and additional details closer to the event.

We are eager to meet our incoming kindergartners and begin this new chapter together. If you have questions, please email fulldaykquestions@nlsd122.org.

Sincerely,

Lori Motsch

Lori Motsch, Ed.D.
Superintendent