



North Judson-San Pierre Schools

Staff and Community Information Regarding Preschool and Daycare for 2023-2-24

For the past several months, NJ-SP School officials and school board members have been discussing and planning hosting preschool and childcare on our campus for the 2023-2024 School Year.

A recent trend is K-12 public school preschool programs. An even newer concept is to have school districts contracting with existing high quality providers in the community for the provision of preschool and childcare services. NJ-SP is already working with Seeds Early Learning in offering preschool on our campus. Next school year we will expand those services to include infant and toddler care as well. This new concept allows our school to offer a tot to teenager whole family model to support the needs of our parents and students enrolled.

Our rationale is twofold: First to offer preschool and childcare services to our staff in order to recruit and retain quality staff. Secondly, to provide additional preschool and childcare to our community, as current community programs are at capacity and have waiting lists. We know that access to high-quality early learning services are really foundational to children's success and our community needs access to quality preschool and childcare.

We are in an ideal situation to offer these services on our campus. With the newly renovated elementary school, we have a wing available that is fitting for preschool and childcare because of the existing infrastructure with classroom bathrooms and sinks. By having the early childhood programs in one location, we can offer proper "wrap around care" to our developmental preschool and school age children that need aftercare.

We also have extra rooms at our Middle School to move our 5th and 6th graders over. Moving the 5th and 6th graders over, not only allows space for the early learning programs, but also creates an opportunity to have our older elementary students in an environment that is conducive to their size, social needs, and behavioral needs—the MS is perfect!

Seven years ago, we vacated the middle school for budgetary reasons tied to staffing. While we will place the 5th and 6th grade back to the middle school, we can do so

without additional staff. The Central Office Administration team will be housed at the Middle School office next year, thus no need for additional office staff. Creative scheduling will mean that we can educate the 5th and 6th graders without the need to hire additional staff. The empty central administration building can be utilized in many ways: alternative school, special services building, staff health clinic, etc. Making good use of the building will not be difficult.

We are truly in a position to make this organizational change, while optimizing our school facilities.