

**Urbandale Schools Announce Dates For 2015-2016 Kindergarten Registration Meetings**

*Families within the Urbandale district, or those considering open enrollment, with kindergarten-age students for 2015-2016 are invited to attend an Urbandale Kindergarten Registration meeting*

**URBANDALE, Iowa – February 5, 2015** – As the [Urbandale Community School District](#) celebrates the highest achievement scores the district has seen for over a decade and a graduation rate above 98%, the district is thrilled to invite families to attend the upcoming [Kindergarten Registration meetings](#) as kindergarten students begin their journey of lifelong learning. Families within the Urbandale district, or those considering open enrollment, with kindergarten-age students for the 2015-2016 school year are encouraged to attend. All elementary schools within the Urbandale district will provide full-day kindergarten programs.

Families living in the [Jensen](#), [Karen Acres](#), [Olmsted](#) and [Valerius](#) neighborhoods should attend the meeting at Olmsted Elementary on Tuesday, February 17, 2015, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Although the meeting will be held at Olmsted, many kindergarten students will attend their neighborhood school when the 2015-2016 school year begins. Elementary principals and teachers will welcome all parents and share specifics about the full-day kindergarten program during a large-group, 30-minute informational meeting. Following the large-group meeting, parents will break into smaller groups based on their neighborhood school in order to meet with their elementary school's principal for the final 30 minutes.

“Besides attending the UHS graduation, this is the most exciting time of the year because we’re able to be a part of the educational journey that parents and their kindergarten child begin,” said Lara Justmann, Karen Acres Elementary Principal. “This event provides the principal, teacher(s), building secretary and nurse, all who are key in making kindergarten children feel safe and successful while at school, the opportunity to connect with families. Our goal is that parents will leave feeling more at ease about the transition their child will be making in the fall.”

Families living in the [Webster](#) neighborhood should attend the meeting at Webster Elementary on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Families choosing the flexible calendar offered at [Rolling Green](#), or living in the Rolling Green neighborhood, should attend the meeting at Rolling Green Elementary on Tuesday, February 24, 2015, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. In addition, families considering Rolling Green are invited to visit and see a classroom in action on February 9, February 12 or February 13, 2015, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must be 5 years old by September 15, 2015. To register, parents will need to bring proof of residency (mortgage statement, rental/lease agreement, or MidAmerican/water bill) and a copy of their child's birth certificate to the [Kindergarten Registration meeting](#). Immunization records are not required for this meeting, but the district would prefer to receive them by May 1, 2015. Immunizations required to begin kindergarten include 5-DTaP, 4-IPV, 2-MMR, 3-HEP B and 2-Varicella. Screenings required to begin kindergarten include blood lead testing and dental; vision is recommended. [Kindergarten Registration meetings](#) will be an excellent

opportunity for parents to learn more about kindergarten, but may not hold the attention of younger children, thus parents are encouraged to make child-care arrangements if possible during this time. If parents have questions prior to the meeting, please contact the building secretary at [your neighborhood school](#).

Following the Kindergarten Registration meeting in February, all elementary schools will be offering a “Help Night” in the spring to provide additional registration help for families of incoming kindergarten students. Translators, principals, building secretaries and district support staff will be available during the “Help Night” to provide assistance with the registration process. Incoming kindergarten students will also be invited to attend a “Story Hour” at each elementary school that will be held before the end of this school year. The “Story Hour” will be a wonderful time for incoming kindergarten students to experience a kindergarten classroom setting and begin to feel more comfortable as they prepare to begin kindergarten in the fall.

As numerous education studies indicate a consistent and steady decline in student enthusiasm and enjoyment, Urbandale is moving away from old paradigms that have outgrown their effectiveness in order to embrace proven, strategic methods that better prepare students for success. In Urbandale, [teachers and students are partners in education](#) where teachers serve as “facilitators of learning” by giving students greater ownership and voice in the process. By incorporating [Quality and Continual Improvement \(Q/Ci\) practices](#), Urbandale is redesigning learning environments to become more purposeful, relevant and inspiring. To learn more about the Kindergarten Registration meetings, visit: [www.UrbandaleSchools.com/register](http://www.UrbandaleSchools.com/register)

### **About Urbandale Community School District**

The Urbandale Community School District includes portions of Des Moines and Urbandale, Iowa. The district serves over 3,900 students in six elementary schools, one middle school and one comprehensive high school. The Urbandale district supports an increasingly diverse student population where 50 languages are spoken. Building on the existing foundation of excellence in education, Urbandale is transforming education throughout the district. By implementing innovative [Quality/Continual Improvement](#) strategies that create learning environments that more fully engage, challenge and motivate students, Urbandale is taking transformation from theory into practice. Urbandale prepares students for becoming lifelong learners and is a school district that brings learning to life for everyone. To learn more, visit: [www.UrbandaleSchools.com](http://www.UrbandaleSchools.com)

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