

Dear Parents/Guardians of preschool aged children,

First of all, I want to announce that Marissa Schaelling has been selected to be the teacher of Knappa School District's preschool, ***Knappa Early Learning***. Two instructional assistants will be named later. Ordering of curriculum, gathering of furniture and selection of supplies has begun. It's exciting to get more details in place.

I want to provide some new information and clarifications regarding financial options that may help more people participate in Knappa School District's new preschool, ***Knappa Early Learning***.

Previously I shared a sliding scale that allows for some financial aid to be awarded to those that qualify. Last week I obtained some information that allowed me to revise the sliding scale so that more families may be eligible. Please take a look at it. (*Sliding Scale Revised 6.11.21* is attached). I am again sharing a page from the IRS website that explains the new *Advance Child Tax Credit* that begins this July. I encourage you to learn about the changes that were made in March 2021.

Last week, the district learned that it will have **5 preschool slots that will be paid for by Oregon's Preschool Promise program**. The slots are available to children from families with incomes that are 200% of the poverty level and below. Tammy McMullen and I worked out a process for families to confidentially apply for the slots. Families that may qualify for Head Start (130% of the poverty level and below) are encouraged to follow the same confidential process. To determine if a family may qualify for either Preschool Promise or Head Start slots, please look at the attached *Family Income Chart*. If you wish to apply for either Preschool Promise or Head Start complete the *Preschool Promise Full Application* in either English or Spanish. All applications will be reviewed by NW Early Learning Hub. They are contracted by the state to confidentially determine eligibility. If a family is eligible the family and school district will be notified. If the family is not eligible, the family will be notified.

In addition, the district is pursuing approval to receive Employment Related Child Care (ERDC) funds for families that may qualify for ERDC support. These funds are available through Oregon's Department of Human Services (DHS), Self Sufficiency program. We are working with the Astoria office of DHS on this matter and will share more information soon.

Lastly, I want to say that I am working to create a list of possible child care provider options that some families have indicated they may need. I will share that at a later time but want you to know that I am working on that as my own way of helping families and child care providers make connections.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have questions, please send an email to knappapreschool@knappak12.org

Take care,
Dan Gaffney
Preschool Planning Director