

Sun Prairie Elementary Schools

Kindergarten & First Grade

- No identification unless subject/grade accelerated
- Resources and ideas provided for teacher differentiation



Second through Fifth Grade Opportunities

- Identification
- Differentiation: A.L.P.S. work with classroom teachers
- Resources: for classroom teachers
- Beast Academy (math) resources
- Front Row (or similar adaptive resources)
- Exemplars/ Projects
- Successful Habits small group (different schools may handle this differently)

Additional 4th Grade Opportunities

- Math 24

Additional 5th Grade Opportunities

- Math 24
- Math Meet
- Yahara River Writers Anthology Contest

New Elementary Schools

- A.L.P. services at all elementary schools; same services look different from building to building because of scheduling and classroom differences
- Learners do not have to be “re-identified” because they will attend a new school

Some tips to help ease her academic concerns:

- If your child has an Individualized Education Program (IEP), meet with the middle school IEP team no later than the spring before your child enters the new school. Discuss the qualities of the “ideal” teacher for your child to help ensure the best placements.
- Meet with teachers early in the school year. Give them a profile of your child’s strengths and where she needs help.
- Encourage teachers to continue using strategies that have worked for your child in the past, such as writing homework assignments on the board, or assigning your child a “homework buddy” she can contact if she forgets what her assignments are. If the school has a homework hotline, make sure your child knows how to use it.
- Help your student with time management skills. Work together on a schedule for study time, break time, chores, etc.
- Work out an organizational system with your student. Acknowledge and make allowances for her anxiety; at first, she may need to carry everything for all classes all the time in order to feel prepared.
- Avoid overreacting to grades. Making sure your child gets a handle on how to meet the demands of the new school is the critical factor in the early weeks.
- Stay connected to your child’s school work. Try to teach your student to work more independently while supporting her enough to give her confidence.

- Go to back-to-school night, open houses, parent-teacher conferences and other events where you can connect with your child's teachers.
- Help your child be her own advocate. Encourage her to discuss problems and solutions with teachers on her own, but be ready to step in and help as needed.

The first few weeks:

1. Be prepared for stormy weather. "You might find kids are withdrawn, more sensitive, not doing as well in school, being uncooperative," says Suzy Martyn, founder of [Mother's Friend](#). This will pass as they settle in.
2. Stick to your routine. If rapid changes have left your child reeling, knowing what's expected at home can provide a soothing anchor.
3. Find any excuse to socialize. Throw a "new in town" or homecoming party, invite someone over for a playdate, or ask if your child wants an early birthday party. Socializing on home turf is often easier for kids and socializing one-on-one can be less intimidating than trying to break into a new group, while hosting a party is a great way to ingratiate oneself with a crowd.
4. Get involved with the school. If you're able to volunteer in the classroom, you'll get to know the teacher and your child's classmates firsthand. Networking with other parents can be a great way to meet other kids, too.
5. Be patient. "I would expect most children to have a hard first six weeks or so, although some who adapt and make friends easily may adjust much more quickly," says Jennifer Shewmaker, Ph.D, Director of School Psychology Training at Abilene Christian University. "If a child was still really struggling, crying and complaining of lack of friends, after six months, that might cause me concern." In that instance, talk to your

child's teacher and the school counselor – but remind yourself that the odds are he'll adjust just fine.