



**Saint Paul**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**Independent School District 625**  
360 Colborne Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299

**Pre-K@Rondo**

560 Concordia Ave  
Saint Paul, MN 55103

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Phone: (651) 744-1230 | Fax: (651) 325-2401 | [ryan.fell@spps.org](mailto:ryan.fell@spps.org)

## Welcome to the 2020-21 school year!

All of us at Pre-K@Rondo look forward to seeing students on Thursday, September 10th. I am Ryan Fell, and this is my first year as the Program Manager at Pre-K@Rondo. I'm incredibly excited to join the dedicated and talented team at Pre-K@Rondo! We understand that starting the school year from a distance may present challenges, and we will be here to support you and work through challenges together. Your child's teacher will be in touch soon to set up an individual welcome meeting time. We are excited to meet you and your child, and we look forward to learning together and preparing your child for kindergarten through the 2020-2021 school.

Saint Paul Public Schools has been developing plans for most of the summer in anticipation of your return. Typically, this message discusses schedule pick-up dates, school supply lists, immunizations, etc. This year I realize that instead of those items, you need as much information as possible about what school will look like as we will start in distance learning.

You can find more detailed information and updates about the new school year at the following websites:

- [spps.org/prekrondo](https://spps.org/prekrondo)
- [spps.org/reopen2020](https://spps.org/reopen2020)
- [spps.org/distancelearning](https://spps.org/distancelearning)
- [spps.org/virtualllearning](https://spps.org/virtualllearning)
- [spps.org/backtoschool](https://spps.org/backtoschool)

I will be sending more details about our plans in the coming weeks. I will also be posting updates on our [school website](#). Our staff is ready to work with your family, and we look forward to seeing you virtually to start the school year, and hopefully in person later this year if the pandemic is in better control.

The first day of school can be overwhelming for students, and there is no doubt this year will bring some new and additional challenges. Here are a few things to know so you and your child can prepare.

### Student and Family Distance Learning Checklist

Please view and use this technology checklist as a guide to make sure you are ready for the first day of school. This checklist is available at [spps.org/fallchecklist](https://spps.org/fallchecklist).

## iPad Help

This year, all Pre-K students will have access to an iPad for distance learning. If your iPad is damaged or needs to be replaced, please report the issue by emailing or calling Saint Paul Public Schools Technology Services:

- Email: [familysupport@spps.org](mailto:familysupport@spps.org)
- Call: 651-603-4348 from 7 a.m. – 4 p.m.. Please leave a detailed voicemail and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

If you are having problems with your iPad, you may also contact your student's teacher or our school. After a report is made, a member of the SPPS technology support team will contact you about replacement options to continue distance learning in Saint Paul.

If you are having issues logging into Seesaw, Schoology or other district-approved apps, please see the information on [spps.org/ipadhelp](https://spps.org/ipadhelp).

## School Contact Information

Relationships and timely communication is more important than ever in a distance learning environment. If you have questions or need to contact someone at school, please call (651) 744-1230 and leave a message and your call will be returned as soon as possible. You can also email me directly at [ryan.fell@spps.org](mailto:ryan.fell@spps.org).

Please check our school website regularly, [spps.org/prekrondo](https://spps.org/prekrondo), for information and updates.

SPPS uses Blackboard Connect to alert families about important school news and information, events, weather cancellations, emergencies, and more through email, phone, and text. Update your phone number, email, and other contact information with Krystian Johnson by email at [krystian.johnson@spps.org](mailto:krystian.johnson@spps.org), by phone at (651) 744-1230 or through Campus Portal.

- For more details, and to update your information, visit [spps.org/onestop](https://spps.org/onestop).

You may also download the MySPPS app from Google Play Store or the Apple App Store. You'll have instant access to school news and updates. Just search "MySPPS" in the app stores. Learn more at [spps.org/MySPPS](https://spps.org/MySPPS).

## Curbside iPad and Learning Kit Pickup

With Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) starting the 2020-21 school year in distance learning for all students, there are learning materials our students will need before the start of this school year. SPPS has developed a plan to have student learning materials available for curbside pick up at our school in a streamlined manner while following social distancing guidelines. Student iPads and Pre-K learning kits will be ready for pickup.

The scheduled time frame for pickup at Pre-K@Rondo is:

- Wednesday, September 2nd from 12:00 p.m to 6:00 p.m.

- Friday, September 4th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Pull up outside of the red Benjamin E. Mays doors and stay in your vehicles. Please wear a mask and follow social distancing guidelines when waiting in line. Pre-K@Rondo staff will come to your car to assist you.

If you are not able to make one of the scheduled dates, please call Pre-K@Rondo at 651-744-1230 and leave a message. A staff member will return your call as soon as possible with guidance on how to receive your student's supplies.

## Open House

Pre-K@Rondo will host a virtual open house to welcome students and families to Pre-Kindergarten on Thursday, September 3rd from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Families are welcome to drop in anytime between 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. by going to [meet.google.com/gqm-ghmy-jav](https://meet.google.com/gqm-ghmy-jav) or by calling 929-252-0786 and using the pin 472 251 978#. At the open house, you will have an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, learn more about Pre-K@Rondo, and ask questions.

## School Hours

We are following our school's regular start and end times from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., regardless of whether students are distance learning or in hybrid or in-person learning scenarios. Instructional availability for learning occurs during this time.

## Childcare

**Elementary only:** SPPS Community Education will offer two childcare options for families this fall while students are in distance learning. Both programs are open to enrolled elementary age students.

- Essential Kids Care will operate at three sites this fall for children of Tier 1 essential workers. Care is free during normal school hours, and transportation is available. For more information: [spps.org/ekidscare](https://spps.org/ekidscare)
- Discovery Club will be available at four sites this fall for PreK-5th graders. The fee-based program does not include transportation. For more information: [spps.org/discoveryclub](https://spps.org/discoveryclub)

Both options will be staffed by non-licensed childcare staff. Children will remain with the same small group each day. Masks will be required for all students and staff, and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines for childcare programs will be strictly enforced.

A portion of the day will be set aside for students to work on their independent learning, and the remainder of the time will include enrichment and physical activity. Breakfast and lunch are also provided. For questions, please contact Discovery Club at [discovery.club@spps.org](mailto:discovery.club@spps.org) or call 651-632-3793.

## Meals

Nutrition Services will continue to provide weekly meal boxes through home meal delivery and curbside pickup while SPPS is in distance learning. All students eligible for free or reduced-price meals will receive meals at no cost.

Every SPPS family should complete an application for Education Benefits/Free or Reduced Price Meals -- regardless of family income. Not only does this help us identify families in need of assistance, it also allows SPPS to receive federal dollars for classroom programming.

Applications are available online on [SchoolCafe](#), and paper applications were mailed to homes in August.

## Class Schedule

We are still working to finalize daily schedules and your child's teacher will provide more information at your family's individual welcome meeting.

## Distance Learning 2.0

- All PreK-12 students will be issued an iPad
- Distance Learning 2.0 will be a balance between any time (asynchronous) and same-time (synchronous) learning
- Students will receive daily same-time (synchronous) instruction from their teachers
- There will be daily student-to-student interaction
- Students will have access to enhanced WiFi options

More details about Distance Learning 2.0 will be shared and updated on [spps.org](http://spps.org) as it is made available. To view information about Distance Learning 2.0, visit [spps.org/distancelearning](http://spps.org/distancelearning).

If you have questions that you cannot find answers to on our website, please call Pre-K@Rondo at (651) 744-1230. You may also call the Parent Help Line at 651-767-8347 or email [family.engagement@spps.org](mailto:family.engagement@spps.org) for assistance.

## Virtual Learning School

The [SPPS Virtual Learning School](#) is an option for PreK-12 students who prefer to remain in 100% distance learning for the entire 2020-21 school year. **Students who enroll in the Virtual Learning School will begin the school year with their currently assigned class at Pre-K@Rondo.**

Virtual Learning School students will stay in their currently enrolled home schools and classrooms until a transition is made to a hybrid model. As the district moves through the various levels of hybrid learning, students enrolled in the Virtual Learning School will transition to their Virtual Learning School classes.

- Learn more at [spps.org/virtuallearning](http://spps.org/virtuallearning)

- [Register for the Virtual Learning School \(spps.org/virtuallearning\)](https://spps.org/virtuallearning)

## School Calendar

A copy of our calendar is posted online at [spps.org/prekrondo](https://spps.org/prekrondo). Please note that dates may change as the year progresses, and updates may be posted from time to time. For the full district calendar, visit [spps.org/calendar](https://spps.org/calendar).

## Health And Wellness

### Immunizations

Even though SPPS students will start the year in distance learning, it's important to make sure your child's immunizations are current and provide records to your child's school. Learn more at [spps.org/studentwellness](https://spps.org/studentwellness).

### COVID-19 Student and Family Guidelines

Saint Paul Public Schools is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our students, staff and their families. To ensure this commitment is met, we have developed and will continue to revise the [COVID-19 Guidance for Students and Families](#) in response to the everchanging Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

### COVID Testing Resources

Visit the [Minnesota Department of Health website](#) to find a location providing free COVID-19 testing. Reminder: Check with your insurance provider before making an appointment to make sure the office visit fee will be covered.

### Student Mental Health

We recognize that school closure, distance learning, and COVID-19 may cause extra stress to many in our school community, including families, students, and staff. Reach out to Emma Conway ([emma.conway@spps.org](mailto:emma.conway@spps.org)), our school social worker for support for your child's mental health and to be connected with [community resources](#), where appropriate.

## Face Coverings in SPPS

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz has directed that masks or face coverings must be worn throughout Minnesota in all indoor public spaces - including school buildings. This new executive order applies to all visitors, staff and students (kindergarten and older). SPPS staff and visitors have been expected to wear face coverings since April. Pre-K students are not required to wear face coverings under this order.

- Read more about Face Coverings at [spps.org](https://spps.org).

Attached to this letter you'll find the following important documents::

- Your child's iPad password and login information
- SPPS guardian account information

I am looking forward to welcoming you and your child to a new school year **Thursday, September 10, for Pre-K**. I'm so proud to be part of this wonderful school community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Fell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'R' and 'F'.

Ryan Fell, Program Manager  
Pre-K@Rondo