



**Saskatoon Public Schools**  
Inspiring Learning

## News Release

March 18, 2022

### **New programs for early learners coming in September**

Saskatoon Public Schools is introducing new programming for its youngest students and expanding a popular learning opportunity.

Starting in September, Lakeridge School will be home to a new Montessori program for kindergarten to Grade 3 students. Lakeridge will become a dual stream school – offering the regular K-8 program parallel to the new Montessori early years program. The school division already offers a Grade 1-8 Montessori program at City Park School, which has a wait list for spots each year. The Montessori kindergarten program, known as Casa, will be the first offered in a Saskatchewan school division.

Also starting in September, Lawson Heights School will offer nature-based learning programs for its prekindergarten and kindergarten classes. The new programs will provide learners with indoor and outdoor experiences that nurture emotional, physical, and academic development while fostering curiosity and wonder.

It is based on the current nature-based program at Buena Vista School, which began in prekindergarten and kindergarten classes in September 2021. Due to the popularity of the program, Buena Vista School will be expanding its nature-based learning programs up to Grade 5 starting in the fall.

The school division will also have more full-day prekindergarten and kindergarten spots available at King George School this fall. Through the Saskatoon Public Schools Foundation's Early Learning Equal Start Program, full-day prekindergarten and kindergarten programs are available at 13 schools. Full-day prekindergarten and kindergarten at Westmount School is offered thanks to the support of Metis Nation – Saskatchewan.

Full-day early learning programming is also available at wâhkôhtowin School through the Nêhiyâwiwin Cree Language and Culture program. For further language offerings, French immersion is available at 10 elementary schools starting in kindergarten.

"A child's first experience in school is significant. Families know their children best and understand the types of programming and environments that will help them thrive. Saskatoon Public Schools is proud to offer a variety of early learning opportunities for students. We believe our varied approach to early learning supports families in making these important decisions," said Superintendent of Education Trish Reeve.

Saskatoon Public Schools is the largest school division in the province. We operate 49 elementary schools, 10 secondary schools, one associate school and one alliance school. We serve more than 26,000 students and employ approximately 2,600 professional and support staff. Learn more at [www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca](http://www.saskatoonpublicschools.ca).

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