



www.portlandkinderschule.com

Dear Parents and Friends of Portland Kinderschule

We are soon enrolling for Portland Kinderschule - our full German immersion preschool Coop located in SW Portland - for September 2008 and I would like to take the opportunity to provide you some information about our wonderful school.

Our Mission

Our goal is to provide a nurturing environment where children learn through multi-sensory exploration and social interaction. The preschool's full-immersion German language setting allows both non-German speakers a chance to learn a second language at an age when it comes most easily and also supports German speakers who are learning the language from their parents outside their native country. Through listening to stories, playing games, drawing, singing and playing, children will develop fine and gross motor skills, learn about relationships and feelings, and gain language and critical thinking abilities that will serve them throughout their lives.

Our Teachers

Our first teacher is Brigitte Bonfield from Nuremberg, Germany.

Brigitte has a big heart for children! She holds a Master's degree in Art, Illustration and Photography. During her years as an Art Director, she worked very closely with and for children, developing children's games and illustrating children's books; she also organized art projects in her son's Kindergarten.

Brigitte was an Au-Pair in London for 2 years where she worked for a family with 3 children, both providing childcare and teaching the children the German language.

She has also served as a teacher at the German Saturday School in Portland, where she worked with both native and non-native speaking children. For more than 10 years, she has also been a member of the Immotion Dance Group, a modern dance group based on the teaching of Rudolf Steiner's eurhythm. With her considerable experience in the arts, Brigitte can offer your child the right instrument to enhance a creative mind.

Our second teacher, Brigitte Duncan, is a native Bavarian who has lived in the States for years. Brigitte has volunteered in the Portland Public Schools and volunteered and substituted at the Deutsche Sprachschule (Saturday School) of Portland where they use an immersion method of instruction. Brigitte has co-op experience from years as a parent helper in her own child's preschool. In addition, she earned a nursing degree from Krankenhaus Rosenheim before moving to the U.S. The first aid and medical knowledge she gained while working for years as nurse are a great asset in the classroom too. Brigitte takes great pleasure in nurturing each child and works to aid in their social, emotional, academic, artistic, and physical development.

Our Curriculum

Our daily four-hour schedule follows a creative and flexible curriculum designed to meet the needs of the individual child within a multi-age environment. With loving support and creative exploration we provide an environment where children can grow at their own pace, in their own way and each become their own special person.

The child's cognitive development is promoted by using all their senses in their activities. By verbalizing the action, activity, or observation, the child learns the meaning of language in a fun and playful way in the process of socialization and increases his/her vocabulary in the German language. Activities in sorting, classifying, and divisions will introduce your child to mathematical concepts.

Non-German speakers will be immersed into the program and learn the language through repetition of our daily routines, songs, and interactions with other children, parents and teacher. Each child will learn the language at his/her own pace. First, the child will come to understand the meaning of the words much like an infant and toddler does in its beginning stage of language development. Once the child becomes more familiar and comfortable with the language, he/she will begin to speak it too.

Music and movement are a large part of the program as it helps during transition times and provides for a fun expression of what we are learning. At times it may be just silly songs to have fun with words and action. Learning songs in German also assists in building vocabulary.

As a part of a cooperative preschool, parents are involved in many aspects of the program. You and your child will have the opportunity to participate in many fieldtrips and be part of an active audience for the many guest speakers that are anticipated throughout the school year.

In the Portland Kinderschule's loving and caring environment, children will learn to trust and open up to new experiences, learn to recognize their own inner resources and so reduce the level of frustration. Children will be encouraged to develop their own individuality while also developing relationships within the group. During situational conflicts they will learn to accept compromises.

Daily 4-Hour Schedule

Arrival: 15 minutes

15 minute arrival window for your child – free play

Activity Time: about 1.5 hours

Children are free to play in areas involving blocks, dramatic play or a manipulative task or they can choose from the activities offered – these are detailed in the weekly lesson plan

Circle Time: 15 minutes

The day's date is discussed as the classroom calendar is updated. Group activities in a circle.

Snack Time: 30 minutes

Children bring their own healthy snack – please no candy

Group Time: 15 minutes

Story time and finger play

Outdoor play: about 30 minutes

If weather doesn't permit, indoor gross-motor games, yoga, action-based songs

Group Time: about 15 minutes

Story time, games and songs

Lunch: about 30 minutes

Children bring their own snack and lunch. As they finish, they clean up and join Teacher in quiet area until they are picked up by a parent.

Guidance and Discipline

Children will be given clear and age-appropriate expectations to follow. As disciplinary problems occur, they will be dealt with right away by letting the child know why his/her behavior was not appropriate. The child may be redirected, or given the words needed to express his/her frustration. At times it may call for group-time to discuss and establish new expectations.

Location of Portland Kinderschule

Portland Kinderschule is located at Fulton Community Center, 68 SW Miles, Portland, OR 97219.

Tuition

#Days/Wk	Monthly fee	Approximate Help Days
2 Days	\$200	1 Every 5 weeks
3 Days	\$260	1 Every 3 weeks
4 Days	\$305	1 Every 2 ½ weeks
5 Days	\$350	1 Every other week

Once a year registration fee of \$75 per family

Cooperative Preschool Parent Responsibilities

As a member of the Portland Kinderschule, Parent/Guardian agrees to

1. To work Parent/guardian share of days for classroom **parent helping**, and to be available on scheduled alternate days. If parent/guardian is unable to help on scheduled days, it is parent/guardian's responsibility to find a substitute helper, and notify the scheduler and teacher of the change.
2. To attend the **orientation sessions** at the beginning of the school year. Any person who will parent help during the school year must attend the orientation sessions.
3. To **participate actively** as a member of one of the preschool's **job** committees or in a leadership (board or chairperson) position.
4. To participate in **fundraising activities** and participate in other school support activities as reasonably requested by the Board of Directors.
5. To attend general meetings, approximately 3 during the year. Prior notice of the meetings will be distributed.
6. To provide a completed **immunization record** for student(s) prior to the beginning of school.
7. Board may request to complete an Oregon Department of Education Criminal History Background Check form to parent help or drive to field trips. The results of the background check will be confidential, and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Any report of crimes against a minor will be confidentially reviewed by the Board of Directors.

Portland Kinderschule does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin.

Please forward this information to any parents who might be interested in Portland Kinderschule and please contact us if you have further questions.

Viele Gruesse,

Susan Stober

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