

Welcome to Dimensions

2016–2017 School Year



Dimensions™
Education Programs

2016–2017 Calendar

2016

August 1–12	Closed
August 10 & 11	Orientation Nights
August 15	First Day of School Year Sessions
September 5	Closed
September 26 & 27	Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 17 & 18	Closed
November 12	Barnes & Noble Book Fair
November 24 & 25	Closed
December 21–January 2	Closed

2017

January 23 & 24	Evening Parent/Teacher Conferences
February 3	Eat & Explore Night and Classroom Visits
April 14	Closed
April 20 & 21	Nature Walkathon
May 12	Family Potluck Picnic
May 24	Last Day of School Year Sessions
May 25 & 26, 29	Closed
May 30	Summer Sessions Begin
July 4	Closed
Aug 4	Last Day of Summer Sessions

ALL EMERGENCY weather closings of LPS announced on the radio and TV will be observed by our program. If LPS is not in session we will follow the Catholic School weather closing announcements.

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Michelle Zimmer *Director* | **Chris Kiewra** *Research Coordinator*

Dimensions' Involvement Opportunities

At Dimensions, we understand the importance of a strong partnership between family and school to provide a fun and nurturing environment. Your involvement is critical to both the school and your child's development and growth while here at Dimensions. We encourage you and anyone else in your child's life—grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends—to be involved. If you have talents or interests that you would like to share, please let us know. We look forward to having a strong partnership with all our families. We will send involvement requests throughout the year to the email address you have provided.

Preschool Classroom Involvement

(Because of separation issues, we utilize Classroom Volunteers for Preschool only. However, we welcome and encourage parents of infants and toddlers to be involved in many other ways.)

Helping in our indoor and outdoor classrooms is one of the many ways parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles might enjoy being involved in Dimensions Education Programs. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn first-hand what children are experiencing during their time at Dimensions and a great way to support the teachers and the program.

There are several ways for you and other family members to be involved in the classrooms. These opportunities enhance children's experiences and support teachers. Visitors and volunteers should be planned in advance so that our classrooms will not be too full of adults and we can always provide the best possible experiences for children.

All volunteers and visitors MUST sign in and out at the East or West office.

- **Classroom Volunteers*:** Help with the groups MORE than one time throughout the year, in the classroom by serving snack and meeting other needs of the teachers.
- **Group Volunteers*:** Coordinate with the teacher and plan to come in MORE than one time throughout the year; to help with a project, read to the group, share an interest, etc.
- **Group Visitors:** Coordinate with the teacher to schedule a one-time visit with a group to share an interest, read to the group or help with a project.
- **Lunch Visitors:** Notify the teacher ahead of time, if possible.
- **Visitors:** Notify the office (in advance, if possible). It is important for the office to know who is in the classrooms as well as make sure the number of adults in the classrooms is not distracting for children.

Due to licensing regulations, **all volunteers coming more than one time** during the year must complete required forms and read required information **BEFORE** they can be in the classrooms. It is not possible for children to bring friends to visit for a day.

*Classroom and Group volunteers will receive an email to sign up online for the day(s) that work in their schedule.

Children's Library

At Dimensions, we want to provide appropriate quality literature for your children and are fortunate to have a large children's library. We need volunteers to help shelve books after children and teachers have used them and to repair our much-loved books.



Nature Explore Classroom/ Greenhouse Volunteers

You can help take our outdoor classroom to the next level by helping to maintain our spaces. We welcome any adult volunteers—grandparents, neighbors, past parents of the program, current families, friends, etc. There are many areas in which we need help, such as working with children as they learn to care for the space, helping on grounds and gardens, organizing workdays, and finding materials donations.



Staff Appreciation Committee

This committee helps our staff feel supported by providing meals during conferences, treats and other small tokens of gratitude throughout the year.

Advisory Council

The appointed Advisory Council meets at least four times a year. They advise on budget, program mission and goals, and help to ensure successful events throughout their two-year commitment. Contact Michelle Zimmer if you are interested.



Other ways to be involved...

The Arts at Dimensions

Dimensions programs incorporate meaningful, thought-provoking experiences for children to inspire creative thinking, with enriching experiences infused with elements of the arts as children participate in music, movement, outdoor and small group activities. In order to continue to provide for the coordination, planning and implementation of these activities we ask families to contribute \$15.00 per child toward the costs required to support the arts in our programs. (Please include \$30.00 if you would like to help pay this fee for a child currently receiving Tuition Assistance.)

Snacks

Children are so excited when it is their day to bring the snack for their group. Providing a healthy snack for your child's group is a wonderful learning opportunity for your child and helps defray program costs. We encourage you to sign up to bring a nutritious snack as often as you can. Each teacher or teaching team will have their own monthly online sign-up. Watch your email for the link.

Supplies

Watch your email for a list of requested supplies. If you would like to provide other much-needed donations to enhance children's experiences throughout the year, a list of requests will be posted on our website.

Sponsor-a-Child Fund

We work very hard to keep our tuition affordable by raising additional funds in a variety of ways. Our tuition covers only part of what it actually costs to provide a quality early childhood program. We also have many requests from families who would like to attend our program, but simply cannot because of the cost. Donations to this fund help families in many situations provide a safe and nurturing environment for their child.

Events

Barnes & Noble Book Fair (November 12)

Barnes and Noble will host our book fair this year at the 29th & Pine Lake location and online. Join us in the store for fun activities and a story time. Most purchases made will benefit Dimensions.

(When you check out, don't forget to mention that you would like the purchase to go towards Dimensions.)



Eat & Explore Night and Classroom Visits (February 3)

Enjoy an evening of food and fun. There will be many nature-inspired activities for all ages and an open house so families may visit classrooms.

Nature Walkathon (April 20 & 21)

Dimensions will hold its sixth annual Nature Walkathon this spring. This fundraiser is a great way for family, friends and neighbors to support our programs.



Family Potluck Picnic (May 12)

Gather with your friends, family and neighbors for an evening of fun in the Nature Explore Classroom.



Home Visits



Dimensions Education Programs offers the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher at your home at the beginning of the school year.

This will give your child the chance to get to know their teacher in a familiar environment and the opportunity for the teacher to meet your child and family before school starts.

Please refer to your emailed information for more details about this opportunity.

Beginning of Year Orientations



You and your child are invited to attend Orientation Night. This is an opportunity to learn about the daily schedule, tour the rooms and meet other children in your child's group. We hope that this evening will help children feel more comfortable on the first day of school.

We ask that you make this a special night for your child and make other arrangements for siblings. (It is just fine if only one parent or guardian attends this night if this is best for your family.)

Please refer to your emailed information for the date and time for your child's group.