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Audrey and Krista are being very careful to not let the snowman fall in the Peshtigo Little Paws program.

Peshtigo offering wrap-around childcare

4K parents will have an option for their kids

PESHTIGO — Starting this fall, Peshtigo 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) parents will have another option: enroll their children in a wraparound childcare setting for the other half of the school day. Young Bulldogs enrolled in 4-year-old kindergarten will have the option of enrolling in Little Paws Wraparound Daycare onsite in Peshtigo Elementary Learning Center (PELC).

Finding transportation for children to and from school who are enrolled in 4K for either the morning or afternoon session is challenging for the schedule of many families.

“Our overarching motivation is to provide support for our families and their children,” PELC principal Kate Willett said. “In this case, we needed

to think beyond the school environment. Our extensive research process included surveying families in our community and visiting other schools with similar programs that were already well established, in addition to the formation of a planning committee to work through fine details.”

4K Teacher, and Little Paws Center Director, Justin Woulf said, “We’ve listened to our parents. Childcare providers in the area have waitlists. If parents both work full time, it’s difficult to arrange transportation for their children to or from school to daycare.”

Students enrolled in 4K wraparound can now take the bus or accompany siblings to and from school. Students enrolled in Little Paws will use the same transportation and eat lunch with other students.

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“Four-year-olds are learning how to interact with others and express themselves,” Woulf said, adding that they’re learning through social and emotional development activities, working on motor skill development, and learning academics through play. Children who enroll in Little Paws will be engaged in lessons following the same themes taught in their 4-year-old kindergarten class. It will be in a more relaxed learning environment, but will be a childcare environment coordinated with lessons in the 4K classrooms.

“We are anticipating a high volume of requests to enroll in Little Paws Wraparound Childcare,” he said.

Woulf expects more families who are interested than spots available. If necessary, a randomly selected lottery system will be used to fill available slots.

“All families, regardless of their district resident/district non-resident status, will be entered into the randomly selected lottery process if they have successfully registered for 4K and Little Paws by June 30,” he said.

People can find more information on the Peshtigo School District’s website.

This article was submitted by the Peshtigo School District.