



District 428 / Northern Illinois University
PARTNERSHIP SCHOOL
www.partnershipschool.niu.edu

Have You Heard About the New School?

District 428 families will have an exciting new option next fall for students in kindergarten through fifth grades: A new elementary school, jointly developed by District 428 and Northern Illinois University, will open on the site of the former Malta High School on Route 38. A contest to name the school is currently underway.

Drawing on the rich resources of district and university experts in curriculum development, teacher education, fine arts and technology, the Partnership School will offer students a unique and valuable educational experience.

Special offerings at the new school will include:

- All-day kindergarten
- Extended-day programs, including before- and after-school activities
- Expanded offerings in fine arts and technology
- Expanded individual attention and innovative educational practices
- Access to a wide range of NIU and community resources

To the extent possible, enrollment at the Partnership School will be voluntary. While the actual application process will begin in January, the district has already begun to assess parent interest in the new school.

If You're Interested ...

If you think you might be interested, please fill out the form on the back of this sheet. You can mail it to the District 428 Education Center (901 S. Fourth Street, DeKalb, IL, 60115 – Attention Partnership School); drop it off in the outdoor Education Center food service drop box (same location); send it back to school with your child; or submit the same form online at www.partnershipschool.niu.edu. You'll then be contacted with more information within the next few weeks.

In the meantime, you can find additional facts about the Partnership School by visiting the web site listed above. You can submit questions, read about the district and NIU teachers and staff involved in planning the school, and peruse news articles about the partnership.

Some of the most common questions we've received so far are listed on the back of this sheet, along with brief answers.

Partnership School Questions and Answers

Q: What kind of name is “Partnership School?”

A: A temporary one! A “Name the School” essay contest is currently underway in district elementary schools, with a final name to be chosen in January. Information about the contest is available at each elementary school, and on the Partnership School website.

Q: How will children be chosen to attend the new school?

A: To the extent possible, enrollment at the Partnership School will be voluntary. In an effort to keep siblings together and minimize disruption to families, district staff will begin recruitment efforts with parents of children beginning kindergarten next fall. They will then recruit for the first grade, then second grade, and so on, with the thought that upper grades will partially fill with siblings of the younger children. The school has a capacity for 275 students.

Q: Who will be teaching at the new school?

A: All classroom teachers and specialists will be District 428 employees. The hiring process will begin in January and conclude by March. The Partnership School’s new principal has already been chosen – Mr. Scott Kubelka, currently principal at Tyler Elementary.

Q: What will NIU’s role be?

A: In addition to helping plan and create the new school, NIU will provide on-site experts to help teachers find ways to improve learning by all students; specialists in areas such as literacy, speech and hearing, wellness and science; and experts in fine arts and technology to help make those disciplines a part of students’ daily experience.

Q: Where is this new school, anyway, and what about transportation?

A: The Partnership School is located in the former Malta High School building, Route 38 (Lincoln Highway) about 4 miles west of DeKalb – a 7 - 10 minute drive from the district’s Education Center on South Fourth Street, for example. The district will provide bus transportation to the new school.

Q: What about the building itself?

A: As part of the Partnership School development, District 428 is spending \$1.2 million to renovate the building and retrofit it for K-5 students. And yes, students – that includes construction of a new playground!

Yes, I’m interested and would like more information on the Partnership School!

Parent/Guardian Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ Email address _____

I am interested in: ___ Kindergarten ___ 1st ___ 2nd ___ 3rd ___ 4th ___ 5th
(mark all that apply)

*I understand that this is not an actual application to the Partnership School,
but simply an expression of interest and a request for further information.*

Please drop off or mail this form to: District 428 Education Center, 901 S. Fourth Street, DeKalb, IL 60115
Attention: Partnership School. You may also submit this form online at www.partnershipschool.niu.edu, or
send it with your child to school.