

Dear Planning Commissioners:

Greetings. I am Selvei Rajkumar, a resident of Naperville since 1998 writing this letter to you to give an introduction about us and our proposed project in the City of Naperville. We have applied for annexation and zoning with the City of Naperville team on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018. We met with a few neighbors in October, sent a letter to all the neighbors and hosted an open house to present our project. We are in the December 19<sup>th</sup> agenda for the Planning commission. I am attaching the recommendation letters from a few families from our Plainfield school and a recent news article regarding children being prepared for Kindergarten.

**Who we are:** My husband Kumar and I are the founders of KLA Schools of Plainfield, a franchise of KLA Schools; which is a Reggio Emilia Inspired preschool serving North Plainfield and the surrounding communities. We opened our doors in 2013 with the vision of *“Leaving traces in the community by nurturing young minds to be responsible, respectful, caring citizens and leaders”* and have been dedicated to the most exceptional learning environment for children. Since we opened our school, the results have been nothing short of humbling in their blessings to us, our staff, and most importantly the children and their families. We are also the founders of M.P.Foundation, with the intention *“to eliminate homelessness, by empowering Teachers, Families, School Leaders and Community Leaders by Creating Awareness for Early Education.”*

## **Our Proposal:**

My husband Kumar and I are humbled by this opportunity to present our proposal to build KLA Schools of Naperville, at 5S241 Tuthill Road and 5S255 Tuthill Road, Naperville, IL 60543. The sites are currently in unincorporated DuPage County and zoned residential. We request your approval to annex the property to the City of Naperville and grant us OCI zoning to operate a daycare center to help us serve the Naperville community.

**Demand in Naperville:** We are Naperville residents since 1998, and our son is now a sophomore in high school in Indian Prairie School District 204 (IPSD 204). We recognized the need for a high-quality preschool environment in Naperville since our son started his preschool education. I would like to share a recent Naperville Sun News article that corroborates our understanding for the need for a high-quality preschool here. On August 20, 2018, Naperville Sun News released a report from Illinois State Board of Education that showed 28 percent of kids who entered kindergarten in IPSD 204 last fall lacked skills in all three categories that experts say are keys to long-term academic success: social-emotional development, language and literacy, and math. In Community Unit School District 203, 19 percent of those tested last year did not have adequate skills in any of the three categories.

Across Illinois, only 25 percent of students show full readiness for school, according to the State Board's first-ever statewide snapshot of kindergarten readiness based on observations conducted in kindergarten classrooms last fall.

*It is critical that children are ready and prepared for Kindergarten, as it directly impacts their self-confidence, self-esteem, and long-term success in life.*

**Importance of high-quality early childhood education:**

According to Heckmanequation.org, this graphic shows that the highest rate of economic returns come from the earliest investments in children, providing an eye-opening understanding that society invests too much money on later development when it is often too late to provide great value. It shows the economic benefits of investing early and building skill upon skill to provide greater success to more children and greater productivity and reduce social spending for society.

## QUALITY EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS HAVE PROVEN BENEFITS

"Recent evidence shows that comprehensive, birth-to-age-five quality early childhood programs that incorporate health and nutrition can permanently boost IQ, prevent chronic disease and lower healthcare costs."

**Professor James Heckman**

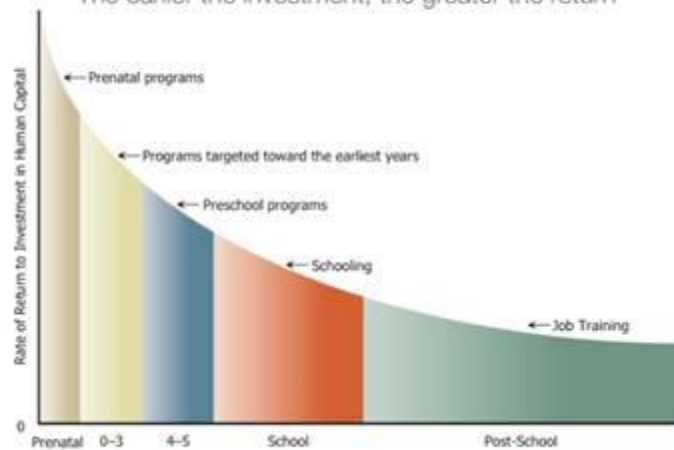
Nobel Laureate in Economics

March 23, 2015, Early Learning Water Cooler Conference

LEARN MORE AT [HECKMANEQUATION.ORG](http://HECKMANEQUATION.ORG)

## EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT IS A SMART INVESTMENT

The earlier the investment, the greater the return



Source: James Heckman, Nobel Laureate in Economics

## Our Core Beliefs:

1. *We believe all children have the right to a high-quality education.*  
Early childhood education is crucial to lifelong success for children in whatever dreams they wish to pursue as they grow because 90% of brain development happens within the first five years.
2. *We believe confident children can change the world.* We nurture young minds' competency as well as the child's capability to successfully complete their task.
3. *We believe children become what they think/believe they are. We believe we, as families and educators, have the power to create positive self-impressions on children's minds and souls. We believe how we interact, how we listen, and what we say to the child becomes their inner voice and self-guidance.* That's why we have created the best possible environment with carefully chosen teachers, support them and give them nine times the training required to nurture young minds with passion and dedication.
4. *We believe everything we do -our actions, decisions, and reactions- are all based on our values, belief systems, and past experiences.* As these are foundational to life, it's one of the cornerstones of our educational system. At KLA Schools of Naperville, we will create positive experiences to children by sparking WOW moments, which are moments of realization, inspiration, insight, recognition or

comprehension that instills meaningful learning - in academics, social-emotional intelligence and core values. We seek to provide the absolute best experiences for the children in our school, so they develop positive values and beliefs that they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

*Theodore Roosevelt once said, "No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care."* It is why we take our responsibility seriously to create a welcoming, caring and safe learning environment for each child. With like-minded educators, we nurture young minds in not only academics, but also through artistic and environmental sciences that foster emotional intelligence encompassing self-awareness, managing emotions, and most importantly building empathy toward others.

**Our Request:** We request your approval to build KLA Schools of Naperville and join us in our journey as advocates for early years while we nurture future generations to leave traces in the community.

Should you have any comments/questions, please let me know. Looking forward to meeting you and presenting our proposed next week.

Sincerely,

Selvei Rajkumar

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