

SPF Preschool Program

www.spfk12.org/preschool

A Peek into Preschool

Preschool programs play an increasingly important role in child development and school readiness.

For the 2022-2023 school year, the SPF Preschool Program will offer half-day classes that meet 5 days per week in either the morning (8:25-11:20am) or the afternoon (12:20-3:10pm). Classes are typically held at Brunner, Coles, Evergreen, and School One (subject to change). Each class has approximately 15 children and is comprised of general education students and students with special needs as determined by a district evaluation. Children who turn 3- or 4-years-old on or before October 1, 2022 and reside in Scotch Plains or Fanwood are eligible to participate.

Each class is supervised by a teacher certified in early childhood education and is assisted by a full-time instructional aide. Teachers have specialized knowledge of the typical 3- and 4-year-olds' developmental patterns and are familiar with the district's kindergarten program. Instructional aides are an integral part of the classroom and provide an added measure of nurturing attention for the young children in their care. Each classroom is well-equipped with developmentally appropriate materials that support children's growing skills, such as wooden blocks, art materials, and props for dramatic play.

The *Creative Curriculum for Preschool* has been used in the district's preschool program for many years with great success. It is one of several research-based curricula promoted by the New Jersey Department of Education because of its proven results in promoting literacy, mathematics and critical-thinking skills. The curriculum is aligned with the *Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards* and provides children with opportunities to build skills, knowledge, and confidence. Staff receive ongoing professional development to support early learners.

1

APPLICATION (MARCH)

Mail completed application form and \$50 fee to the Preschool Office

2

PLACEMENT (MAY)

Receive placement letter for your child, specifying the school and session (AM / PM) offered for the fall

3

REGISTRATION (JUNE)

Complete the online registration process and schedule an in-person appointment to submit documents

DAY AT A GLANCE

Large Group

Whole group time to discuss shared experiences and study-related topics, listen to stories, sing songs, build community, and explore academics like number & letter skills.

Small Group

The teacher and instructional aide work closely with children to support and extend skills and knowledge.

Choice Time

Children navigate between centers, engaging in hands-on experiences and learning through play. Centers often include: dramatic play, blocks, sensory, art, discovery, writing, and classroom library.

Specials

Children also receive instruction in Art, Media Center, Music and Physical Education from teachers certified in those "special" areas.

Daily Activities

Each daily session is organized to include both large and small group activities, which provide a wide range of active learning experiences. Some lessons help young children build physical strength and coordination in large muscles; others support the development of small muscles in their fingers and hands. A variety of language, literacy, mathematics and cognitive skills are also emphasized throughout the day as well as social skills, forming relationships, and building confidence.

Assessment

Teachers refer to widely-held expectations of child development to monitor and support children's progress in many areas. Weekly newsletters provide parents with general information about these widely-held expectations for this age group and give suggestions on how to support these skills at home.

Feedback about an individual child's progress is provided through parent-teacher conferences held in the late fall and again in the early spring. Report cards showing what children know and are able to do are provided to parents mid-year and again in June. In addition, parents will receive a collection of work samples at the end of the year showing how much their child has grown and developed.

Family Involvement

Parents of preschool children are encouraged to get involved with the district's Early Childhood Advisory Council. This organization helps support strong ties between home and school by providing valuable feedback on children's experiences and also helping to plan special events for all preschool families.

Tuition

Annual tuition is \$3,600 per year (\$360/month). Parents of multiples will receive a 10% tuition discount for each additional sibling(s). Tuition may be provided at no cost to families that qualify for the Free and Reduced School Meals Program per federal guidelines. Please contact the Preschool Office directly for additional information.

Enrollment Process

Enrollment will be ongoing until the program reaches capacity. Students found eligible as a preschool child with a disability will be enrolled throughout the school year. Application forms will be available starting **March 1, 2022** in the main office of each elementary school, at www.spfk12.org/preschool, or by contacting the Preschool Office by phone or email (see below).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Preschool Office

SPFHS

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If you are concerned that your preschool child is developing or learning differently, you can request an evaluation for preschool special education and related services. For more information, please call the Department of Special Services at (908) 889-0100.