

Mount Laurel Schools

Preschool Expansion 2022-2023



What is Preschool Expansion?

- State aid to improve and expand public preschools
- Competitive Process – Districts awarded State Aide based on their application outlining programs that adhere to the High Quality Preschool Guidelines
- Timeline
 - Notice of funding – July 6, 2022
 - Application due – Aug. 9, 2022
 - Notice of award – Sept. 8, 2022
 - Program opening – Oct. 3, 2022



What does it mean to be a Preschool Expansion district?

As a Preschool Expansion district, Mount Laurel Schools receive funding from the State of New Jersey to provide age-eligible 3 and 4-year olds with a full-day of high quality preschool programming (N.J.A.C. 6A:13A-2.1)

Total Funding received: \$1,562,610

2021-2022 School Year:

9 Preschool Classrooms
(half-day)

2022-2023 School Year:

16 Preschool Classrooms
(full-day)



How Are Mount Laurel Schools Expanding and Improving?

- Creation of 9 general ed. and 5 preschool disabled classrooms
- Partnering with Bright Beginnings to house two additional sections of preschool
- Smaller class sizes at existing programs
- New curriculum to better facilitate inclusion
- Updated performance-based assessments
- Focus on purposeful play and child interest
- Providing our teachers with professional development focused on early childhood development and curriculum
- Updating classroom materials



Classroom Requirements & Support Staff

Each classroom has:

- One P-3 (Preschool-3rd grade) certified teacher
- 1 Teacher Assistant / Paraprofessional
- Maximum of 15 students

And is supported by:

- Instructional Coaches who will coach other teachers on the development of pedagogy and practice to affect student outcomes
- Preschool Intervention & Referral Team (PIRT) members will coach teachers on the development of social-emotional practice to affect student outcomes



Additional Support Staff Include

- Supervisor of Early Childhood
- Building Principals
- Community and Parent Involvement Specialist
- School Nurses





Research-based program

One of the four approved curricula recommended by the NJDOE-DECE

Differentiated instruction model allows teachers to provide challenges and/or support where needed to ensure classroom success for students of all learning abilities.

Program Curriculum: Creative Curriculum

Central Focus:

The promotion of exploration and discovery as a way of learning

Curriculum Goal:

Enable children to develop confidence, creativity, and lifelong critical thinking skills

38 research-based objectives are the heart of the curriculum and define the path teachers take with children in the classroom. They inform every aspect of teaching, include predictors of school success, and are aligned with State early learning guidelines.

Program Operating Hours

8:30 am – 3:00 pm./ 9:00 am – 3:30 pm

- The Mount Laurel Schools Early Childhood Program is a **full-time**, 6 hour-per-day program (as mandated by the NJDOE-DECE).
- The program follows the district calendar as much as possible, and operates when the public schools do.

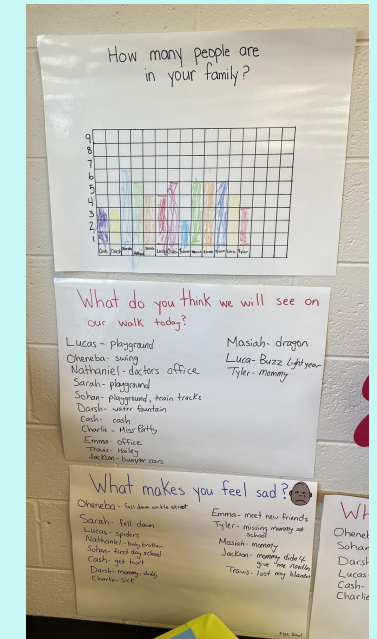
–This includes snow days



A Preschooler's Day

Circle Time

Greetings, daily schedule, open-ended questions, visuals and activities that promote oral language, builds classroom culture



Choice Time



- Kid Planned
- Exploration
- Pursuing own interests
- Making things
- Posted questions
- Time for conversation about why and how



Small Group Work



- Intentional teaching
- Introduce new skills
- Facilitate investigations
- Play games



Read Alouds

- Promotes vocabulary
- Promotes language
- Pre, during and post
- Promotes retelling
- Teaches text structure



Outdoor Play



- Gross motor
- Kid directed
- Teacher coaches, extends, demonstrates, acknowledges and describes



Family Style Meals for Lunch and Snack



- Have conversations
- Promotes language and self regulation
- Promotes independence



Well Organized Classrooms



- Children can find what they need
- Promotes independence
- Encourage social skills (sharing, planning, compromise)
- Teaches children to clean up independently
- Organized from quiet to loud
- Creates spaces that allow for focus
- Student work posted on the walls
- Promotes Language via picture clues



Attendance Counts

- Our NJDOE partners define Chronic Absenteeism as being absent 10% of the total expected days of school.
- Students are expected to attend school daily, unless they are ill.
It is recommended that a doctor's note accompany their return if applicable.
- As your child nears certain milestones you will receive notices to discuss attendance from the preschool leadership.
- Lack of attendance may jeopardize your ability to participate in our program.
- Vacations are unexcused absences:
Please be cognizant of the school calendar when planning vacations. These will be logged as absences and will be reflected on the student record and school record.



Our Program Organization

- Students are placed according to school zones if possible
- Preschool disabled - 5 sections
- Two classrooms located at the Bright Beginnings facility
- FREE to Mount Laurel residents
- Transportation provided
- Full day program opens October 3, 2022



Questions?

