Warren Township Preschool Handbook

2026-2027 School Year

Educating the Whole Child

Healthy * Safe * Engaged * Supported * Challenged

Mt. Horeb School
80 Mount Horeb Road
Warren, New Jersey 07059
908-753-5300 Option 4

This handbook contains preschool-specific information. For more detailed building-based information, please refer to the Mt. Horeb School handbook.

Warren Township Schools

PRESCHOOL CLASSES

The Warren Township Schools offer an Integrated Preschool Program for a limited number of tuition students who will be 3 or 4 years of age by October 1st. The tuition based program is open to all eligible Warren students on a lottery basis.

Our preschool program follows The Creative Curriculum® for Preschool, Sixth Edition which identifies the knowledge, skills, and concepts important for preschool children that are enhanced through "investigations" or a studies approach within the preschool day. This approach allows for deep, first hand exploration of topics that interest children. Investigations allow children to explore science and social studies topics while developing skills in language and literacy, math, technology and the arts, as well as applying acquired skills in a meaningful real life context. The Creative Curriculum teaching objectives are aligned with the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards, allowing 3 and 4 year old students to learn and grow together in all classes, while working toward their own developmentally appropriate learning objectives.

The preschool classes offer each child a quality early childhood education where preschoolers with special needs learn together with typically developing preschoolers in a caring and enriching environment. Each class is instructed by a NJ certified preschool teacher with the assistance of classroom paraprofessionals. The expertise of a speech and language specialist, occupational therapist, and physical therapist provide services within our program as appropriate, as well as consultation to our teachers and staff.

Sample Daily Schedule

9:10-9:40	Arrival, Sign-in, Fine Motor activities
9:40-10:00	Large Group
10:00-10:50	Centers/Small Groups
10:50-11:20	Gross Motor
11:20-11:35	Story
11:35-12:20	Centers/Small Groups
12:20-1:40	Lunch/Rest
1:40-2:10	Gross Motor
2:10-2:45	Centers/Small Groups
2:45-3:05	Large Group
3:05-3:10	Dismissal

General Information for enrollment in Warren Township Preschool

- Age 3 or 4 by October 1st
- Proof of residency
- All immunizations must be up to date
- For students in the tuition-based program
    - Non-refundable deposit is due at time of enrollment
    - Students must be toilet trained by the start of the school year

2026 - 2027 Tuition

Tuition is paid in four installments:

- ➢ Payment 1 ($2,500) due by August 15, 2026
- ➢ Payment 2 ($2,500) due by Oct 15, 2026
- ➢ Payment 3 ($2,500) due by January 15, 2027
- ➢ Payment 4 ($1,650) due by March 15, 2027

Families who qualify for free lunch are eligible to apply for tuition assistance.

Payment Options

Tuition payments can be submitted electronically or by check.

All checks should be made **payable to Warren Township Schools** and submitted to the Department of Special Services, 213 Mount Horeb Road, Warren NJ 07059.

We have implemented PaySchools Central, an online payment platform, to help make managing tuition payments easier for our students' families. Instructions for how to register will be included in the Genesis online registration.

PLEASE NOTE: It is highly recommended to use ACH / e-check in order to avoid the 4% credit card / debit card fee.

2027-2028 Lottery Process

Applications for the 2027-2028 school year will be made available on the Warren Township Schools website. *A student presently enrolled in Warren Township Preschool as a 3-year old will be given preference for enrollment as a returning student the following school year.*

Acceptance into the program is determined by a lottery. In order to be eligible, proof of residency and a copy of the child's birth certificate must be submitted together with the completed application. A waitlist will be maintained after the lottery drawing.
For questions please contact (908) 753-5300 ext. 5704.

2026-2027 Policies and Procedures

Attendance Policy

We build upon our students' strengths and success through their presence and participation. Preschool students are encouraged to attend our program when in session, for the duration of the session. For tuition-based students who are absent for a duration of time, no tuition will be refunded or prorated.

Absences: Parents or guardians must report a child absent prior to the start of the school day in one of the following three ways:

1. Log into the Genesis Parent Portal and report the absence in "Parent Attendance Notes."
2. Call the school nurse and leave a voicemail message
3. Email the principal, secretary and homeroom teacher

Kindly provide the nature and duration of illness, particularly in contagious situations so that other class families may be appropriately notified. If your child is not reported absent by 10:00 am, the school nurse may call and/or an email alert will be sent to you. Please note that Warren Police may be asked to conduct a wellness check if your child's absence is not reported.

Early Pick-up: Should it become necessary to excuse a child early from school, please email or call the teacher and the main office as early as possible. Indicate the name of the person picking up your child. Please be prepared to show identification.

Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

Please refer to the building handbook for information regarding pickup and drop-off procedures.

In the case of more than **3** late pickups or drop-offs, whether consecutive or not, a meeting will be held with the parent and the principal to determine next steps or dismissal from the program for tuition-based students.

Please refer to Policy 5230, Tardiness on our district website.

Backpacks

Please send in a backpack daily with your child. It should be large enough to store a letter-sized folder and lunchbox. We may send home used clothing items, as well as papers throughout the school year. The backpack will be stored in your child's cubby.

Classroom Supplies

Supply List

- Crayola Crayons
- Crayola Markers
- Elmer's Purple Glue Sticks
- Can of Play-doh
- Expo dry-erase markers

Donations are also welcome for the following items:

- Paper towels
- Gallon ziploc bags
- Plastic utensils
- Wet wipes
- Baby wipes
- Paper plates
- Tissues

Extra Sets of Clothing

Please send in an extra change of clothes for your child (including underwear, socks, and shoes) labeled in a large zip locked bag. Each child's change of clothing will be kept in a zip locked bag when not in use in your child's cubby. These items will be collected during the walk-through or you may choose to send them with your child on the first day of school. Your child's teacher will contact you when a new change of clothes needs replenishment.

Lunch

Breakfast and lunch are provided to students for a fee unless the family qualifies for free lunch under either the Federal or State of New Jersey reimbursement programs. As an alternative, families of students may choose to pack a bagged lunch. Should your child be in the classroom with a student who has a severe food allergy, the school nurse will send home more information regarding any restricted food items.

Rest Time

Please send in one blanket or nap mat for your child to use during rest time. It should be small enough to fit inside your child's backpack (no pillows). Students are not required to nap, but will have the opportunity to do so in the afternoon. Those who do not sleep will rest quietly on their cot. Blankets will go home on Fridays to be washed and return for Monday.

Snack

Please send in a healthy snack for your child to enjoy during the day. Typical snacks include sliced fruits or veggies, pretzel sticks or whole grain crackers, granola bars, cheese or yogurt.

Alphabest Extended Day Program

AlphaBEST is the district's extended day before and after school provider for students in Preschool through grade 5. To learn more about the program, hours of operation, location, and rates please visit https://www.alphabest.org/warrennj/.

Please note that Alphabest is a third-party provider and not run by Warren Township Schools or affiliated with the preschool. All questions regarding the program should be directed to a representative at njcustomerservice@alphabest.org or (973) 739-4511.

Common Questions about Eligibility for Special Education and Related Services for Preschool Students (3-5 years old)

1. **How is my child's eligibility for special education and related services determined?**

   If a child is suspected of having an educational disability and was referred for an evaluation, a meeting is held with the parents to determine if an evaluation is warranted. The Child Study Team may consist of a social worker, speech-language specialist, school psychologist, learning consultant, and occupational therapist as appropriate. According to NJAC 6A:14, a preschool child with a disability is experiencing developmental delay, as measured by appropriate diagnostic instruments and procedures, in one or more areas and requires special education and related services. If the child is evaluated and determined to be Eligible for Special Education and Related Services an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is developed with recommended programs and related services.

   If you suspect your child has a disability, the first step is to contact the Warren Township School, Department of Special Services (908-753-5300, ext. 5705) to request further information.

   CDC Milestone Moments - Your Child at 3 Years
   CDC Milestone Moments - Your Child at 4 Years
   Concerned About Your Child's Development?

2. **What services are available in Preschool for my child with a disability?**

   Each section of the Warren Township Preschool Program includes an integrated preschool special education component. Our program is designed to educate children between the ages of 3-5 years who exhibit a disability or severe developmental delay in one or more of the following areas: gross motor, fine motor, vision, hearing, intellectual abilities, communication, social and emotional, and adaptive behaviors. This is determined as a result of a Child Study Team evaluation and programmatic recommendation. A continuum of special education services is available for preschool students with disabilities.

3. **How are related services provided in preschool (Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy, Physical Therapy)?**

   During the initial IEP team meeting, all participants review the individual needs of each child to determine placement and appropriate related service(s). If related services are determined necessary, services may be integrated and provided within the preschool classroom. At times, it may be necessary for specific skills to be targeted in a setting outside of the classroom, based upon the service recommendations determined by the IEP team.

4. **How are parents involved?**

   Parental involvement is an integral part of our students' success. We encourage a collaborative partnership between home and school to support your child's skill development across learning environments. We also offer parent information sessions to keep parents abreast of their child's continuing education and development. Communication with parents may be facilitated through a variety of means, such as meetings, individual conferences, progress reports, or newsletter.

5. **Who do I contact if I suspect my child under the age of 3 has a disability?**

   For children with special needs under age 3, (birth to 3 years old) parents are encouraged to contact 888-653-4463. You will be assisted with the process for evaluation and services provided by the NJ Department of Health Early Intervention System.

   Link to NJ Early Intervention Services

***For more information, please contact*:**

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