

# Warren Township Preschool Handbook

Mt. Horeb School  
80 Mount Horeb Road  
Warren, New Jersey 07059

2020-21 School Year



**Educating the Whole Child**

*Healthy \* Safe \* Engaged \* Supported \* Challenged*

# Warren Township Schools

## PRESCHOOL CLASSES 2020-21

The Warren Township Schools offer a half day 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 newest revision of The Creative Curriculum for Preschool® 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 (2014), allowing preschool aged students to learn and grow together in all classes, while working toward their own developmentally appropriate learning objectives.

The preschool classes are located at Mount Horeb School and 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.

Please visit our Preschool Program [web site](#) for the most up to date information and teacher web pages.

### **General Information for enrollment in Warren Township Preschool**

- Age 3 or 4 by October 1st
- Proof of residency in Warren Township
- Students should be toilet trained by the start of the school year
- All Immunizations must be up to date
- Class size is limited to 15 students

- During COVID-19, the maximum number of individuals in the classroom may be limited and adjusted at any time due to local and state safety guidance
- Tuition is paid in two installments (2020-21 Total Tuition \$3750; less \$375 deposit)
  - September 1st - first installment of \$1700 due
  - January 15th - second installment of \$1675 due
- School Bus Transportation available within the Warren Township borders for preschool students who reside in Warren Township
- Classes meet Monday - Friday (AM Class 9:15 - 11:30) (PM Class 12:15 - 2:30)
- Applications for the 2021-22 School Year Lottery are available at the Board of Education Office. Completed applications are due January 4, 2021. Parents will be notified by the end of January or sooner as appropriate. A waiting list is also maintained for parents who wish to be notified in the event that additional openings become available.

For questions please contact the Department of Special Services at (908) 753-5300 ext. 5704.

### **What is the Attendance Policy and Drop Off/Pick Up Procedure?**

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.

Students whose parents elect for them to be dropped off and/or picked up, need to be escorted by the parent/guardian to the front entrance of Mount Horeb School at the time of arrival/dismissal and must wear a mask. Parents/guardians must also maintain social distancing at all times during drop off/pick up.

In the case of more than 3 late pick ups 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](#).

### **Will my child have the opportunity to see the classroom prior to the First Day of School on September 9th?**

To begin to acclimate and transition your child to their classroom, your child's teacher will share with you a **Virtual Walk Through on September 8th**. Please check your email. We are so excited to welcome your child on September 9th.

## Common Questions about Warren Preschool during COVID-19

Please review our [Q & A document](#)

### Updated Procedures during COVID-19

#### Busing Procedures

A bus aide will be present on all preschool buses. A parent/guardian will need to escort their child(ren) to the bus doors. Parents/guardians will *not* be permitted on the bus at any time. The bus aide will assist your child on sitting and buckling/unbuckling their 5 point harness seat belt. A parent/guardian must be present at the bus doors to receive the child at the return of the child to their home.

#### Masks

Due to recent guidance (8/03/20) from Governor Murphy, students and staff will be required to wear face coverings while indoors during the 2020-21 school year. However, both the NJDOE and CDC provide flexibility in regard to face covering mandates with younger children. We are sensitive to building this stamina in our youngest learners and our staff will work with them to do so. If you have not already done so, we encourage you to foster this stamina by having your child(ren) wear a face covering when not in school. We will be requiring families to send their child(ren) into school with a face covering. Face coverings will be encouraged as much as students can tolerate.

#### Snack

As we begin our school year together, we will not be permitting a snack. However, you may wish to send in a water bottle with your child in their backpack. We will revisit the snack policy at the end of October. We are using this time to establish routines and safety protocols, as we get to know your child and he/she familiarizes themselves with our program.

#### Tissues

On the first day of school, please send in a box of tissues for your child. They will be used on an individual basis only by your child, and will be stored in their cubby when not in use.

## **Backpacks**

Please send in a backpack daily with your child. It should be large enough to store a letter sized folder. 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.

## **Play**

We are excited to welcome our students in person to our program. In adherence to current CDC guidelines of maintaining 6 feet of social distance between students, we will promote and follow solitary play practice. Toys will be chosen by each child for the day. Toy items will be placed in each child's individual play bin. Items will be sanitized daily following use. One toy item per child. Currently, at no time may toys be shared by more than one student.

## **Extra Sets of Clothing & Toileting Needs**

On the first day of school, please send in an extra change of clothes for your child (including underwear) in a large zip locked bag, as well as any needed toileting items (i.e., pull ups). Each child's change of clothing and toileting items will be kept in a zip locked bag when not in use in your child's cubby. Your child's teacher will contact you when a new change of clothes and/or toileting items need(s) replenishment.

## **Toys & Items from Home**

For sanitary reasons, toys, pictures, or any other items from home will not be permitted in school at this time.

## **[Common Questions about eligibility for Special Education and Related Services for Preschool students \(3-5 years of age\)](#)**

### **[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 a recommended program 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.

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

Each section of 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.

### **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.

### **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, and preschool teacher and program web page. The website may be accessed through the Warren Township School District website.

### **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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