

# Warren Township Integrated Preschool

2020-21



**Welcome!**

Updated 08/12/20

We cannot wait for you and your child(ren) to join our Integrated Preschool Family at Mount Horeb Elementary School for the 2020-21 school year. Given this time of uncertainty with COVID-19, as well as ever-changing guidelines, we appreciate your patience as we continue to plan to provide a safe, high quality preschool program.

The following information is current as of today and is being shared so that your family can make an informed decision on whether you will continue to register your child(ren) with us during the 2020-21 school year.

## *What are the days and times of the program?*

The current proposed program is 5 days per week. Your child(ren) will join their peers in a morning or afternoon session approximately 2 hours in length. The intended times of the program will be an AM session from 9:15 - 11:30 am and a PM from 12:15 - 2:30 pm.

## *Will my child(ren) be required to wear a face covering throughout their day?*

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 at times during the month of August. 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.

### *Will busing be provided?*

Yes. Busing details continue to be discussed by administration, special services, and the transportation department. Confirmation of such details will be communicated as soon as they are finalized.

As in the past, busing will be provided for our preschool students to and from preschool/daycare facilities within Warren Township for parents who wish to have their child(ren) attend an additional program .

### *Will Creative Curriculum continue to be provided?*

Yes. We continue to work with our teachers in creating a daily schedule that implements the tenets of Creative Curriculum in a safe, developmentally appropriate manner. This will include student driven learning within creative, play based centers. We continue to align our instruction with the Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards (2014) and assess each student's successes through measuring the GOLD Teaching Strategies' objectives.

### *How can my child play safely?*

We believe that our students learn through peer interactions and intentional teaching through play. The students will navigate through creative, play based centers in a parallel play fashion maintaining 6 feet distance. If and when safety guidelines permit at a future time, we will then begin supervised cooperative play with small groups of students. All hands and materials, including toys, will be washed/sanitized after use.

### *Will there be individual materials?*

Yes. Each student will have their own bin/cubby that will include their own set of scissors, play doh, glue, crayons, etc. These items will be cleaned daily after use as well.

### *What happens if the Preschool Program pivots to distance learning?*

It is important to consider that a shift to distance may occur at any time during the school year and that determination will be based upon our compliance with state and local safety standards and guideline changes. In this case, students will remain with their class cohort and teacher. Distance learning will continue with a combination of

asynchronous and synchronous sessions and activities. Due to smaller class sizes, students will continue to receive individualized instruction and challenging activities to meet diverse learning needs.

*In the case of distance learning, will lesson plans be available in advance so that parents may plan for their child's education?*

Asynchronous activities will be posted on each teacher's Preschool Web Page twice per week in order for parents to prepare and organize based upon their family's schedule. Synchronous live sessions will also be provided daily to the group, as well as to small groups of students to meet individual needs.

*What is the cleaning and handwashing protocol?*

Classroom sanitation will occur daily in between morning and afternoon sessions. During the course of the school day, and prior to COVID-19, we will continue to sanitize our tables and provide opportunities embedded in our schedule for handwashing. Bathrooms will also be cleaned after individual use.

*Will students from other preschool classrooms be together?*

No. Students will remain only with their classmates. Upon arrival, they will be escorted to their classrooms by staff. During dismissal, classes will dismiss on a staggered schedule down the hallway.

*Will students be allowed to go outside on the playground?*

Yes. Fresh air is both critical and very safe. We will develop a schedule allowing each homeroom to have a turn on the playground during each session. The playground will be cleaned after each use.

*If my student has an IEP and I have questions in regard to their Individual Education Plan (IEP), what should I do?*

If your student has an IEP, your case manager will be reaching out to you in the upcoming weeks to review your child(s)'s individual program.

**Once again, we thank you for your support during this time. Please know that the Preschool Handbook will be shared with each parent before the beginning of school and will include additional updates and information, such as snack and back pack policies for 2020-21.**

**The Preschool Team and Administration**