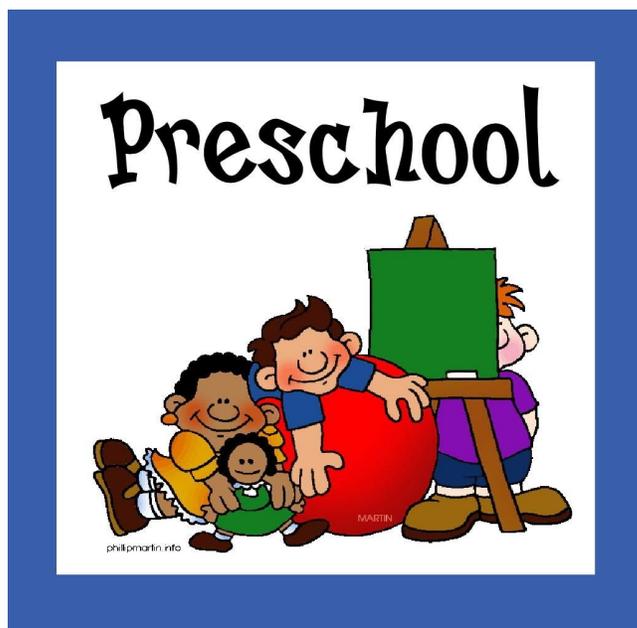


**MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.E.A.K. (PRESCHOOL EDUCATION FOR ALL KIDS)
2021-2022 PROGRAM BROCHURE**



**Beechwood School
1497 Woodacres Drive
Mountainside, NJ 07092**



Overview of P.E.A.K. Program (Preschool Education for All Kids)

The Mountainside School District is pleased to offer a morning and afternoon integrated half-day preschool program. This fully inclusive program offers early childhood experiences for three and four year old children in a setting that promotes positive development and independence while recognizing the uniqueness of each child. Our preschool curriculum is aligned with the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Expectations: Standards of Quality and consists of both three and four-year-old children in each classroom. Direct instruction, along with supplemental aids and services for students with learning disabilities, is provided by a full-time teacher and a paraprofessional in each class.

Students who are determined to be eligible for services through our Child Study Team are qualified to attend tuition free. A limited number of slots are available for general education students to enroll each year. Approximately one-half of the class enrollment may consist of students with disabilities. The program offers a morning session from 8:15 am-11:15 am and an afternoon session from Noon-3:00 pm five days per week and follows the Mountainside School District calendar. Transportation to and from the program is the parent's/guardian's responsibility.

In order to be eligible for any of our available general education slots your child must meet the following requirements and be:

- 3 or 4 years old on or before October 1st, 2021
- fully toilet trained prior to school beginning in September
- a resident of Mountainside

Tuition for the 2021-2022 P.E.A.K program is set at \$400.00 per month for 10 months (\$4,000 annually). Upon acceptance into the program, a nonrefundable deposit of \$200.00, along with a signed preschool contract, will be required to be submitted to the Mountainside Board of Education. The deposit will be applied towards the June tuition. Monthly tuition payments will be billed directly from the Board of Education office.

Registration Procedures:

Returning Students: Children currently enrolled in our program, who will not turn five (5) prior to October 1, 2021 are eligible to remain in our program for next year. A Confirmation Form will be sent to you and must be completed and returned no later than Tuesday, January 26, 2021, along with your non-refundable deposit of \$200 to secure your child's placement. Check should be made payable to the Mountainside Board of Education. Upon receipt of the deposit check, returning families will receive a copy of the preschool contract to be signed and returned.

New Students: Any remaining openings will be filled through an email first come/first serve basis using the following procedure:

- Step One: Beginning at 6:00 a.m. on Friday, January 29, 2021 parents/guardians may send an email to peakregistration@mountainsideschools.org . Your email should include your child's name, date of birth, address, email and phone number. **Emails received prior to January 29, 2021 at 6:00 a.m. will not qualify.**

- Step Two: Parents will receive an email with notification of acceptance along with a Confirmation Form, or an email stating your child has been placed on our waiting list. Please be aware this waiting list is for the 2021-2022 school year only.

*If your child is accepted into our program, you will then be able to identify your session preference (AM/PM) on the Confirmation Form. **Please Note: Due to limited capacity we cannot guarantee availability in the session of your choice.**

- Step Three: Accepted parents must complete the Preschool Online Registration and submit the required documentation along with a non-refundable deposit of \$200 made out to the Mountainside Board of Education and a signed copy of the preschool contract no later than Friday, February 12, 2021 in order to secure a spot for the 2021-2022 program.

Should you have any questions prior to registering, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Suzanne Jenks at 908-301-9104, x 201.

Preschool Curriculum Guidelines

The purpose of the P.E.A.K. program is to provide a preschool education for all participating children. Lessons are designed around the following domains:

1. Approaches to Learning
2. Literacy
3. Math
4. Social and Emotional Development
5. Creativity
6. Language Development & Communication
7. Physical Health & Development



Lessons are developed around particular themes (*ex. all about me and school, winter animals and hibernation, community helpers, etc.*) Each week classrooms have weekly focuses including letters, numbers, shapes, and colors.

Day at a Glance

School days are organized to include both large and small group activities, which provide a wide range of active learning experiences. Small and large group instruction follow weekly focuses and designated themes. A variety of language, mathematics and cognitive skills are emphasized throughout the day, as well as social skills and building confidence.

Each day begins with circle-time (large group) to discuss shared experiences and study-related topics, sing songs, build community, rehearse number & letter skills, and observe weather patterns.

Throughout the day, students participate in several academic centers (small group) including reading, writing and mathematics. The teacher and instructional aides work closely with children to support and extend skills and knowledge.

Students also participate in play centers each day. During this time, children have the opportunity to choose between multiple play centers. Some of these include: dramatic play, blocks, manipulatives, art, iPad, sensory table, drawing/writing, and the classroom library. Center-time provides students with engaging hands-on experiences while learning through play.

P.E.A.K. students receive instruction in Art, Library, Music and Physical Education from teachers certified in those “special” areas.

Children are also required to bring a healthy snack.

Current COVID Practices

All students attending the PEAK program will be expected to adhere to the NJDOH guidelines that are in place for public schools during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ★ Students and staff are required to wear face coverings at all times while in school unless doing so would inhibit the individual’s health or there is a documented medical condition or a disability as reflected in an Individualized Education Program (IEP) which precludes the use of a face covering. *The CDC does not recommend use of face shields as a substitute for face coverings. Therefore, they may not be used to satisfy face covering requirements.*

Exceptions to the above include some aspects such as:

- ❖ During the period that a student is eating or drinking.
- ❖ The student is engaged in high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities (ie, gym class when outdoors or in a well ventilated area, and able to maintain a physical distance of six feet apart.).

- ❖ Face covering breaks may only occur when social distancing of 6 feet or more can be maintained and ideally outside or with windows open.
- ★ Parents will be required to submit a daily screening form 30 minutes prior to drop off each day via Powerschool to attest that they have monitored their child for signs of infectious illness each morning.
 - In the event that the form is not submitted, parents will need to verify screening information prior to the student being allowed to enter the classroom.
 - In the event that someone other than the parent/guardian drops off a student, students will be directed to the nurse for a health check and parents will be called to verify screening information prior to the student entering the classroom.
- ★ All students attending the PEAK program will be expected to maintain social distancing from others to the greatest extent possible.
- ★ Use of shared materials and toys within the classroom will be limited due to the need to reduce "touch points" on common surfaces and sanitize between use.

You may be aware that the District is providing parents of children in grades K-8 the opportunity to choose a Fully Remote structure of learning, however please note that this is NOT an option that we can offer to our tuition students in PEAK.

We will, however, continue to provide programming for our tuition students in the event that health and safety conditions necessitate a return to all remote learning for the entire district at any point in the year.

The currently offered Fully Remote option is only available to parents of PEAK students who are identified as needing special education services. If this is an option that may apply to you, please reach out to Mrs. Rouleau, Supervisor of Special Education, to discuss it further: srouleau@mountainsideschools.org

The COVID-19 practices outlined above will be revised and adapted if there are changes in the NJDOE and NJDOH guidelines.

