

# BRIGANTINE COMMUNITY SCHOOL



Welcome to  
Preschool

## Schedule of Daily Activities

8:45 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.

Our day will include the following:

- Arrival – outside play (weather permitting)
- Breakfast
- Group meeting
- Choice Time
- Small groups
- Outdoor time
- Read aloud
- Lunch
- Rest
- Snack
- Dismissal – Outside Play (weather permitting)



## Child Study Team Process

The Brigantine Child Study Team (C.S.T.) is available to evaluate any child who may show a need for supplemental services. The child may be referred to the Child Study Team for Special Education by parents as well as the school.

- A parent may initiate a referral by writing a request to the Child Study Team for an evaluation to determine eligibility for services.
- A referral to the Child Study Team will be completed by the referring teacher/staff member.

Speech and Language services are provided for identified scholars. Physical and Occupational therapy are available for children who exhibit significant delays in motor development. These services are provided as specified in the child's Individualized Education Program (IEP).



## Clothing/ Rest/Nap Time

The preschool curriculum is play based and includes mostly hands-on activities. It is important that your child is not overly concerned with staying clean. Also, please be sure that your child's clothing is:

- Comfortable, washable, and allows for self-dressing
- Marked with your child's name (especially coats/hats/gloves, etc.)
- Appropriate for messy arts and crafts projects
- Shoes must have backs- no clogs, strapless sandals, or flip flops as they make it difficult for safe outdoor play
- Jewelry should be limited as it can get easily lost or broken during the day
- A change of clothing including underwear, socks, pants and a shirt should be sent in to keep in the classroom. Please be sure to label these items.
- All scholars will need a backpack and lunch box if bringing their lunch
- We make every attempt to get scholars outside for play time when the weather is safe enough for them to be outside.
- Make sure your child's coat matches the temperature
- Send in hats and mittens that are marked with your child's name
- If wearing snow boots, please send in a change of shoes for the classroom
- Snowsuits, snow pants, and scarves are not needed
- Please leave umbrellas at home. They can be unsafe for scholars when in groups.

### Rest / Nap Time:

All 3 and 4 year old classes will have daily rest time. The school provides cots. Your child will need a small blanket and small pillow (optional). Blanket and pillow must be labeled with the scholar's name.

## Health Policy

Our school nurse is prepared to take care of minor accidents and illnesses during school hours. It is for the best interest of your child and the other children at school to keep your child at home when he or she is ill. Your child needs to be well to participate actively in the preschool program. Children who are ill should not be in school.

- Please do not send your child to school when he or she has any of the following symptoms:  
fever, infected throat, nausea and vomiting, untreated cold or cough, swollen or infected eyes, skin rash, tonsillitis, contagious diseases.
- After a fever, your child's temperature must be normal (98.6) for 24 hours without medicine. Your child must be vomit and diarrhea free for 24 hours before he or she returns to school.
- If your child is well enough to come to school we will expect him or her to go outdoors with the class, weather permitting.
- Please notify the school nurse of any health changes your child may experience such as allergies, asthma, required daily medications, serious injuries, etc.

**If your child is going to be absent, please call the Attendance Office at 609.266.8159 in the morning to let us know.**



## Communication/ Attendance/ Before and After Care

### **Communication**

It is extremely important that we have current parental and emergency contact information for each scholar in case of emergency. If you need to change your address, telephone number, or the names of people that are permitted to pick your child up, please send a written note or an email to your child's teacher.

If you have an urgent need that must be communicated to your child's teacher during the school day please call the Main Office at 609.264.9501 and they will ensure your child's teacher gets the message as soon as possible.

If you need to communicate with your child's teacher for other reasons, you may do so by sending them an email, placing a note in your child's backpack, or calling the Main Office at 609.264.9501. Please do not ask the bus paraprofessionals to communicate verbal information to the teacher for you.

### **Attendance**

Although Pre-K is not mandated in the state of New Jersey, scholars find the most success when they come to school regularly and on time. Children benefit greatly from structure and routines which are difficult to establish if they do not have a set schedule. If your Pre-K scholar will be absent or late for any reason, please call the attendance line at 609.266.8159. Upon your child's return to school, please send a note with the date and reason for the absence.

### **Before and After Care**

The Before and After School Program is available to Pre-K scholars and runs daily from 7:30 a.m.-8:30 a.m. and from 3:05 p.m.-5:45 p.m. scholars must register for the program in advance and then submit monthly schedules and payment for attendance. More information can be obtained by calling the Before/After Care line at 609-264-9507 or the Main Office at 609-264-9501.



## Parent Involvement

Parents play an important role in a child's educational growth. Our district has an Early Childhood Advisory Committee consisting of teachers, parents, support staff, and administration. This committee will discuss the needs of our Pre-K scholars and plan for the future of our program. Concerns, questions, and suggestions from parents will be considered at these meetings.

Other parental involvement activities may include:

- Brigantine P.T.A.
- Community Helper Week
- Child-Parent home projects
- Volunteers for special events



## **Philosophy / Curriculum**

Each child brings to school his or her own unique experiences, abilities and needs. Our staff will nurture the “whole” child, adapting to meet each child’s unique intellectual, emotional, physical and most importantly, developmental needs. We build on each child’s strengths, while providing an environment rich with new ideas and experiences designed to encourage growth.

The Brigantine School District utilizes Creative Curriculum which reflects developmentally appropriate practices and is aligned with the New Jersey Department of Education’s Early Childhood Program Expectations. Content is presented through a “topic of study” approach that integrates all subject areas. The daily routine is balanced by both child-directed and teacher-facilitated activities, conducted in both large and small group settings.

All areas of the curriculum are integrally important to the development of the whole child. The curriculum is designed to provide children with experiences that are both meaningful and appropriate for their developmental age.

Our goal is to foster competent, responsible, and independent children who are instilled with a life-long love of learning.



## Breakfast/Lunch/Snack/Nap

Breakfast and lunch are available for purchase in our Pre-K classrooms daily. All meals are prepared on-site by Nutri-Serve staff in accordance with guidelines from the NJ Department of Agriculture. Meals are delivered to the classroom for scholars to eat with their classmates. Children may also bring their own lunch.

Scholars may purchase breakfast and/or lunch daily by setting up a school lunch account. A menu is sent home weekly so parents and scholars can decide whether they will buy or bring lunch each day. Any scholar on the Free or Reduced Meal Program will receive meals based on eligibility. You can call 609-264-9498 if you need any assistance setting up an account.

Snack will be provided daily by the school after nap time. Staff will encourage scholars to try a variety of foods to encourage healthy snacking. If your child has any special dietary concerns, please let your child's teacher know.



## Transportation

Pre-K scholars may be eligible for transportation based on the School Board Policy or their IEP. Scholars will be assigned a bus number and a bus stop. If your child will be riding the bus to school you will be notified by mail, of the **approximate** time the bus will arrive and drop-off at your designated stop. Please be at the designated stop ten minutes before the bus arrival time.

As a parent, it is your responsibility to escort your child to and from the bus stop each day. NO PRE-K scholar WILL BE RELEASED TO A SIBLING OR ANOTHER scholar. Please be at the bus stop ten minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. Our paraprofessionals will greet your child, help them on to the bus, and make sure they are seated and buckled. For the safety of our scholars, the paraprofessional must remain on the bus at all times and parents are not permitted to enter the bus. If a parent is not there to greet the child at the bus stop at the end of the day, the child will be returned to school and the parent or emergency contact will be called. Do not ask the driver to stop at other places other than the designated stop.

Parents who will be driving their Pre-K scholars to school can drop them off at either the Sheridan Place entrance (door #35) or the horseshoe parking area (door #1) between 8:30 am - 8:40 am. Classroom paraprofessionals will be present at door #1 and door #35 to greet scholars and escort them to their classrooms.

The school day ends at 3:05 pm. Scholars will be in outdoor play time at the playground adjacent to the horseshoe parking area. Please pick your child up at the end of the day at the East Evans Blvd. side of the building/horseshoe parking area. All questions and concerns regarding transportation should be directed to Admissions at 609-266-8591.

