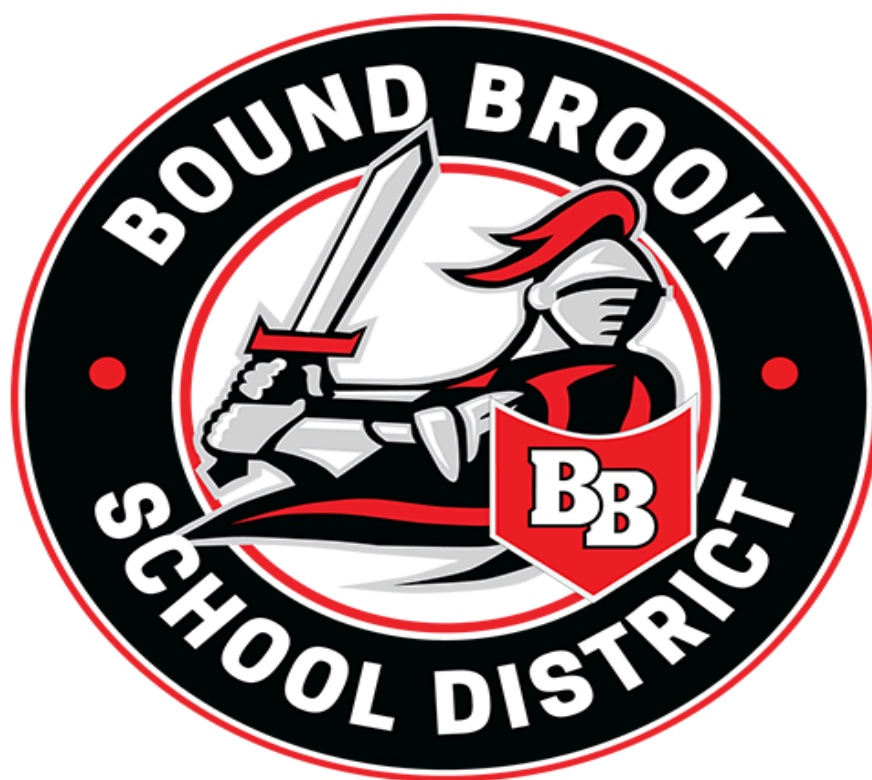


# **PRESCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK**



**2024-2025**

# **BOUND BROOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **2024-2025**

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Dear Pre-Kindergarten Parents,

We're thrilled to welcome your child to school! This is an exciting time for both parents and children, and our goal is to make the transition into the classroom as smooth as possible.

This handbook is designed to answer any questions you may have and provide information throughout the school year. If you require further assistance, have any questions, or need to contact your child's teacher, please call the school directly, and we will return your call promptly.

Have a wonderful school year!

Sincerely,

Hipolita Hernandez-Sicignano  
Principal

- Mission Statement -

Each student in the Bound Brook School District will develop academically, physically, emotionally, and socially in a positive learning environment that provides equitable educational opportunities for all students.

All staff will hold high expectations for student achievement and accept responsibility for helping students meet those expectations. A rigorous standards based curriculum will be provided to all students, which includes a core that specifies the knowledge and skills that all students are to attain.

All staff will be committed to fostering positive relationships between community members, parents, staff, students, and to the continuous improvement of the district. All stakeholders will be involved in the educational process and will be partners in solving the real challenges and complex issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## Preschool Philosophy

The Bound Brook School District Preschool program provides an educationally based experience for three and four year old children using the **New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards**, in addition to the state-approved, research-based **Connect 4 Learning** framework, along with performance based assessment.

A wide range of developmentally appropriate experiences are offered to children utilizing a study- based learning environment that includes interest areas to support learning.

The cognitive, physical, social and emotional development of children is achieved through play-based activities and the interaction of children with their peers and teachers.

Teachers facilitate the learning in a secure, nurturing, safe and well-organized environment with a variety of teaching strategies to meet the needs of a diverse population.

Recognizing the importance of the parents' role in a child's overall development, the program encourages parents to be active participants in their child's learning by involvement in classroom and school activities.

# **Preschool Organizer**

## **Daily**

- Check folders for notes and activities
- Praise your child for good work
- Ask your child about his/her day
- Read daily
- Mark your calendar for upcoming events

## **Weekly**

- Check calendars for upcoming events
- Check for changes in classroom studies
- Reinforce studies/themes at home

## **Monthly**

- Be aware of special holidays/conferences/early dismissals

## **Progress Reports**

Preschool children are observed throughout the year on a continuous basis. Evaluation reports will occur in December, March and June. Conferences will be held in November and February. Please note that February conferences are only scheduled as needed.

## **September**

- Teachers gain knowledge and awareness of a student's educational readiness to gauge a starting point for learning throughout the year based on each child's current base of knowledge.

## **November**

- Parent/Teacher conference and report of progress

## **February**

- Mid-year conference (as needed), report of progress

## **June**

- Assessment
- Final report

# The Preschool Child

## *Cognitively*

- Likes stories
- Learns by playing
- Needs encouragement to talk and communicate
- Is learning how to listen
- Models language and actions of others
- Is curious and creative
- Likes to change tasks frequently
- Wants to explore and learn

## *Physically*

- Has a great need for activity
- Needs a balance rest and activity
- Must develop large and small muscles
- Is improving eye-hand coordination
- Enjoys music and rhythms
- Is beginning to use simple tools
- Can remain with one task for a limited amount of time
- Should be given time for free play

## *Emotionally*

- Needs to know limits and expectations
- Should know when a job is well done
- Has a great need for security
- Needs structure with time for individual needs
- Is sensitive to the feelings of others
- Thrives in a warm and nurturing environment
- Appreciates warmth and encouragement
- Needs opportunities for success

## *Socially*

- Likes to play with others
- Is learning to care for personal possessions
- Is beginning group interactions
- Needs to be encouraged to share
- Likes to receive praise
- May wish to be alone at times
- Is beginning to share
- Likes to be part of a group

# Elements of the Preschool Curriculum

Early Childhood Education programs have two primary objectives:

- Provide a language-based learning environment that promotes receptive and expressive language development.
- Provide a “hands on” learning environment for students, which will help them develop intellectually, socially and emotionally.

Connect 4 Learning is the curriculum used in our preschool classrooms. This state-approved, research-based approach aligns with the New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards.

Connect4Learning program includes enjoyable activities aimed at enhancing your child's skills in:

- Science
- Math
- Literacy
- Social and Emotional Skills

Each day, our schedule includes activities such as:

- Read-Alouds
- Lessons introducing new concepts
- Time in play centers (blocks, art, dramatic play, and more)
- Small-group teaching sessions
- Outdoor play

Connect4Learning® is structured into 6 teaching units: 5 units lasting 6 weeks each, with a final wrap-up unit lasting 2 weeks. At the start of each unit, we will send a letter home to help you understand what your child will be learning and how you can engage in conversations about their experiences at school.



## **In PK Students Will Be Able to Learn About:**

### **Reading Readiness**

- Name Identification
- Color Identification
- Rhyming
- Opposites
- Classifications
- Positional Words and Pictures
- Upper and Lower Case Letters

### **Social Emotional**

- School Routines
- Sharing/Taking Turns
- Following rules/directions
- Cooperation

### **Math Readiness**

- Identifying Shapes
- Identifying Numbers 0-10
- Counting to 20
- Matching Sets
- Identifying Patterns

### **Language/Listening**

- Stories, Fingerplays/Poems
- Daily Calendar
- Morning Message
- Responding to all of the above

### **Fine Motor**

- Manipulates puzzles
- Control of a pencil
- Control of scissors

### **Language Development**

- Group discussions; retell stories
- Speak clearly
- Develop vocabulary

### **Gross Motor**

- Hops
- Jumps
- Catches and Bounces a Ball
- Runs Smoothly
- Balance

### **Science**

- Make informal observations about air, water, plants, animals and seasonal changes
- Expand inquiry skills

## Rules of the Preschool Classroom

- Listen to the teacher and the teacher assistant
  - Follow directions
  - Always use walking feet
  - Keep your hands and feet to yourself
  - Clean up after yourself
- \*additional rules may be added and practiced as needed*

## Rewards for Positive Behavior

- Verbal praise
- Praise gestures (high five, thumbs up, pat on the back)
- Read a story with the teacher
- Stickers or stamps

## Consequences for Negative Behavior

- Rules reminder and/or warning
- Take a break/cool down
- Note/phone call home

## Attendance

Although preschool is not a mandated program in New Jersey, it is an extremely valuable one that is essential in creating a secure foundation for your child's education. It has been documented through scientific-based research that attending a quality preschool program significantly increases student achievement, as well as impacts a child's success later in life. **As seats are limited in this program, students may be removed for unexcused absences of ten or more days.** The doors open at 8:20 am for student arrival.

## Tardiness

All students arriving late to school will be marked tardy at **8:35 a.m.** It is the responsibility of the parent(s) to get young children to school on time. It is important for your child's development and understanding of the routine that they arrive on time so they will be able to participate in all the activities that their teacher has planned for the class. Parents or guardians will be notified of their child's repeated tardiness. All portions of this attendance policy also apply to special education students. 5 tardies will result in a phone call to the parent/guardian. 10 tardy reports will require the parent to meet with the principal. 20 tardy reports will result in a letter sent home and a referral to the Family Crisis Intervention Unit Truancy Program.

## - School Supplies-

### **Backpack**

Your child will need a backpack tall enough to hold a two-pocket folder. The type with a zipper is best. These hold more and are easier for children to use than buckles or drawstrings. Your child will feel more independent if they can use the backpack without assistance from a parent or teacher.

### **Labeling**

It is a good idea to mark the things that your child brings to school with their first initial and last name. Items such as backpacks and jackets should be labeled to make them easier to identify and return should they be misplaced.

### **Spare Clothing**

Each child will need to have a spare set of clothing to keep at school in case of an accident. A set of clothes includes a shirt, pants/skirt, underpants and socks.

### **Bedding**

Naptime is an important part of your child's busy school day. Each child will need one small light blanket labeled with your child's name. The blanket will be sent home **every** Friday. Please wash your child's blanket and return it on Monday. The blanket will give your child a feeling of warmth and security during rest time.

### **Folders**

In September, your child will receive a yellow home-school communication folder. The folder will be used to send important notices and activities between home and school.

Please remember to check and empty your child's folder each day. Also, any notes for the school or teacher should be sent in this folder.

**Return the folder each day, and we will do the same.**

# District Information:

## Regular Day Schedule

The regular day schedule for PK is **8:30 am - 2:50 PM**. Doors open at 8:20 am.

## Half-Day Schedule

On a half-day schedule, the preschool hours are: **8:30 am-12:20 pm**. Please make all necessary arrangements for drop-off and pick-up schedules on these designated days.

Lunch will be provided.

## Delayed Opening Schedule

On a delayed opening schedule the PK hours are: **10:30 am- 2:50 pm**. Please make arrangements to have your child dropped off and picked up on time. Doors open at 10:20 am.

## Early Dismissal/Lates

Sometimes it is necessary for a child to leave school early or come in late due to an appointment. The following procedure must be followed:

- The student must submit a note from the parent to the classroom teacher stating:
  - The student's name
  - The reason for leaving/being late
  - A telephone number for a parent/guardian contact

The parent must sign his/her child out in the office before the child leaves/returns to the building. Be prepared to show a picture ID, for safety purposes.

**Dismissal is 2:50 PM EVERY DAY** (12:20 on Early dismissal days). Teachers and staff have job responsibilities and meetings every day after dismissal. Any students not picked up by 2:55 will be sent into the building. Students who remain in the building from 3PM on will be considered a late pick up.

- Parent/Guardian must call the office if the student will be picked up late.
- Parents who pick up or arrange for pick-up after 3:00 PM without notifying the office on three separate occasions will be required to meet with the principal.

## **Illness**

It is in the best interest of your child and other children to keep your child at home when they are ill. Your child needs to be healthy in order to actively participate at school. Children may ask to come to school even when they are ill. While your child might be disappointed, please keep him/her at home for the following reasons: contagious illness, vomiting, diarrhea and temperature.

If your child becomes ill at school, you will be called and asked to pick them up promptly. If your child will be absent, please call the school the morning of the absence.

**LaMonte Annex School (732) 652-7934**

## **Personal Information Changes**

It is very important that we have current contact information for each child. Emergency contact information forms are sent home at the beginning of the school year. Please return them immediately. Please notify the teacher of any changes that may occur throughout the year.

## **Birthdays**

Due to the high number of students with severe food allergies and the district emphasis on wellness, birthday celebrations may **no longer include food**. Please save birthday cakes and cupcakes for your home celebration. We realize many parents like to do something special in school for their child's birthday. We'd like to suggest you consider donating a small gift to your child's classroom. This donation from your child might be an educational game, a book for the class library, or a pencil for each student in the room. Please do not send birthday party invitations to school for distribution unless all students from the class are included. It is very upsetting to the students who do not receive an invitation. You are not obligated to celebrate your child's birthday in the classroom; it is your choice. Summer birthdays may be celebrated in May or June.

## **Holidays and Special Events**

When holidays and special events arise, the teachers will send home notices with information you may need, and possible requests for volunteers to participate or supply special items. For families who wish to exempt their child from celebrating due to personal/religious reasons, please send a note to your child's teacher and an alternate educational experience will be made for your child.

## **At Home Supplies for Your Preschooler**

The following items are useful to keep on hand at home for your child. They are great for encouraging fine motor coordination and creativity. Most are inexpensive and can be kept together in a small box. Establish rules as to when, where and how the items may be used and how they should be cared for. Supervise your child during use to prevent accidents that may result in injury or damage. Lack of supervision can lead to frustration making the experience less enjoyable for you and your child.

- ❖ Crayons, Pencils, Washable Markers
- ❖ Drawing paper, Construction paper, Coloring books
- ❖ Water Color Paints
- ❖ Safety scissors
- ❖ Tape, glue
- ❖ Play Dough
- ❖ Yarn

## **Questions/Concerns:**

Please use the following protocol for any questions or concerns regarding your child's educational needs:

- 1) Contact the teacher; if the question or concern is not addressed;
- 2) Contact the Principal.

## Contact Information

LaMonte Annex School  
(732) 652-7934

**Hipolita Hernandez-Sicignano, Principal**  
[hsicignano@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:hsicignano@bbrook.k12.nj.us)

**Brittany Nilsen, Early Childhood Supervisor**  
[bnilsen@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:bnilsen@bbrook.k12.nj.us)

**Kristen Redziniak , Instructional Coach**  
[kredziniak@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:kredziniak@bbrook.k12.nj.us)

**Jaton Brimage, Secretary**  
[jbrimage@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:jbrimage@bbrook.k12.nj.us)

**Christina Fichner, Nurse**  
[cfichner@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:cfichner@bbrook.k12.nj.us)

**Katelyn Von Bargaen, Guidance Counselor**  
[kvonbargaen@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:kvonbargaen@bbrook.k12.nj.us)

### **PK Teachers:**

Mrs. Bates [jbates@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:jbates@bbrook.k12.nj.us)  
Mrs. Burns [aburns@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:aburns@bbrook.k12.nj.us)  
Mrs. Bryne [kbyrne@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:kbyrne@bbrook.k12.nj.us)  
Mrs. Chaparro [achaparro@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:achaparro@bbrook.k12.nj.us)  
Mrs. Kilgore [jwaller@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:jwaller@bbrook.k12.nj.us)  
Ms. Johnson [kjohnson@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:kjohnson@bbrook.k12.nj.us)  
Mrs. Melesurgo [smelesurgo@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:smelesurgo@bbrook.k12.nj.us)  
Ms. Sanchez [isanchez@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:isanchez@bbrook.k12.nj.us)  
Ms. Sebastian [csebastian@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:csebastian@bbrook.k12.nj.us)  
Ms. Todaro [jtodaro@bbrook.k12.nj.us](mailto:jtodaro@bbrook.k12.nj.us)

**Please complete and sign this page to state your intent to follow this handbook or take a picture of this page and email it to your child's teacher.**

**Student name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(print first and last name)

**Parent name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(print first and last name)

**Parent signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_