

Monroe County Schools' Blended Preschool Program at MPS

Our blended preschool classroom at Madisonville Primary School is a structured teaching environment where children with special needs and typically developing peers learn together in a classroom that is staffed by one licensed preschool teacher and one full-time paraprofessional. Our pre-K curriculum focuses on all areas that are important for school success, including:

- Pre-Academic Readiness
- Social-emotional development utilizing Play-Based activities
- Physical skill development (fine and gross motor & sensory integration)
- Communication skills
- Technology
- Adaptive behavior skills, and
- The Arts (music, art, creative movement, crafts)

By using a developmentally appropriate curriculum, our blended preschool program provides for all areas of child development with the ultimate goal of preparing every student for successful transition to kindergarten.

Our blended preschool program is a *regular* Early Childhood Program, as defined by the United States Department of Education and the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSEP). It is not a State-funded pre-K classroom. This distinction sets our program apart from other school-based preschool offerings in that our blended preschool is a regular education setting that allows for the full inclusion of students with disabilities who meet program requirements.

Additionally, the students with disabilities who are enrolled in the program benefit from our Typical Peers program. By having a 1 to 1 ratio of nondisabled to disabled students in the classroom, children of all abilities can learn together and teach one another as well. The typical peers provide developmentally appropriate peer models for our preschoolers with special needs. Each child is provided with a wide variety of opportunities to learn at their own rate and further develop their individual learning styles. In addition to the aforementioned benefits, our Typical Peers begin to develop compassion, acceptance, and an understanding of the diversity that exists within our community at an early age.

Program Participation Requirements for *Typical Peers*

- Must be 3 – 4 years of age but not yet Kindergarten age eligible (Kindergarten age eligible is 5 years by August 15th)
- Must be completely toilet trained
- Must speak clearly and be easily understood
- Must be selected for enrollment by review committee

Program Participation Requirements for Students with Disabilities

- Must be at least 3 years of age but not yet Kindergarten age eligible
- Placement in the blended preschool classroom must be determined as an educationally-necessary component of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Information for Parents:

Monroe County Schools’ Blended Preschool Classroom

Frequently Asked Questions:

Enrollment: All Blended Preschool Applications should be turned in to Trey Ferguson at the Monroe County Schools’ Central Office.

Age Requirements: Child must be three years old on or before August 15, 2017.

Immunization Requirements: All shots and physical exams must be in compliance with TN Department of Health requirements.

Birth Certificate: A certified birth certificate is required for acceptance in the Blended Preschool Program

Residency: Proof of residency is required for acceptance in the Blended Preschool Program

Transportation: Monroe County **does NOT** provide transportation to and from school for typical peers enrolled in the Blended Preschool Program. It is entirely the parent-guardians responsibility to transport typical peers to and from school.

Attendance/Hours: Blended Preschool Students follow the Monroe County Attendance Policy for elementary schools. School hours are weekdays beginning at 8:15 a.m. and ending at 1:45 p.m.

Tuition: There are no tuition charges for enrollment in Blended Preschool

Discipline: Students serving as typical peers may be dismissed from the program if problematic behaviors, such as non-compliance or separation issues continue to occur after a reasonable adjustment period.

Acceptance in the Blended Preschool Program: **Filling out an application does NOT guarantee acceptance in the Blended Preschool Program. Upon Acceptance to the Blended Preschool Program, letters/ phone calls will be sent to parents/guardians.**

General School Information:

Trey Ferguson	Monroe County Schools	Blended Preschool Supervisor	423-442-5592
Amanda Wilkins	Madisonville Primary Blended	Blended Preschool Teacher	423-442-5592
Debbie Reed	Monroe County Schools	Blended Preschool Coordinator	423-442-5592
Debbie McDaniel	Monroe County Schools	Blended Preschool Secretary	423-442-5592