
Tioga Central School District Universal Pre-Kindergarten



*...a fun place to
play and learn!*

Parent's Guide
2021-2022

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WELCOME to Pre-K!

Dear Families,

Welcome to the Tioga Central School District Pre-K Program! We are excited to have your child begin their school learning experience with us. Our team is eager to start playing and growing with your child, as well as assist them in all developmental and educational needs. At Tioga, we will work together to provide your child with positive learning experiences that will keep them excited about school for many years to come!

The following information in our Pre-K Parent Handbook will help guide you through an exciting year of Pre-K as well as familiarize you with procedures of Pre-K.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at 607-8002 or at mbombard@tiogacentral.org

We are looking forward to a great school year!

Michelle Bombard
Elementary Principal, Pre-K through 4

Our Program

Tioga offers two full-day Pre-K sessions. Children who are district residents and turn four on or before December 1st are eligible to attend. Each classroom is staffed with a certified teacher as well as a monitor. We will be learning in a fun, child-centered atmosphere with a wide variety of self-directed and teacher-directed opportunities.

Our Staff:

Pre-K Teacher: Mrs. Klossner

Aide: Mrs. Jaye

Pre-K Teacher: Mrs. Briggs

Aide: Miss Chilson

Nurse: Mrs. Ashley Guiles

Parents are an essential part of our program at Tioga Pre-K. There are many activities and ways you can be involved with your child's development here at school. The home-school connection is very important! At this age, children are anxious to share their school "work" with their families. To avoid an "I don't know" or "nothing" response, try beginning your discussion with "Tell me about..." or "How do you feel about..." This will help your child focus on their day and remember more details. The weekly newsletter will be a good source for starting conversations as well. Other ways you can get involved:

- Communication through the daily folder lets you see what your child is working on and how you can support your child at home.

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- Some activities are school-to-home. Baggies full of books or activities go home and return to school on a daily or weekly basis.

If you have questions or concerns regarding your child's Pre-K experience, please contact their classroom teacher.

Pre-K Program

Arrival: Our Pre-K program begins at 7:45 AM. The Pre-K building doors will open at 7:45 AM. If you drop your child off for morning Pre-K you **must** park in a parking space near the Pre-K building. You can park in the small lot or the parking lot behind the middle school. Students enter the classroom and breakfast is served around 8:00. You may send a packed breakfast for your child or your child can have a free breakfast from school. Our Pre-K aide will be outside to greet your child as well as our student who rode to school on the bus (*students riding a bus must be four years old).

Dismissal: If your child is a walker, **you must pick your child up at 2:30**. Please come to the Pre-K building to sign your child out. Again, If you are picking your child up in the afternoon, please make sure you park in the spots in the loop or behind the middle school. If someone other than a parent or guardian is picking up your child, **we must have a note from you**. This is for your child's safety. If your child will ride a bus home, our aides will walk students to the bus.

Breakfast, Lunch, and Snack

All Tioga Central students eat breakfast and lunch for free! If you wish to pack a breakfast and lunch, you may do so! We will

eat breakfast around 8 a.m., lunch at 11:10, and a snack break at 1:30. Please send a healthy snack in with your child daily.

Daily Schedule

Learning occurs in all of your child's activities. From the time they enter the classroom they are learning about the school routine and how to take care of themselves and their belongings. Social emotional development is encouraged throughout the day through free play time, recess, breakfast, large and small group times. Students will be involved in a variety of activities during their time in preschool: Breakfast and/or lunch, free time to explore, circle time, calendar, read alouds, center activities, brain breaks, movement, music, art, and recess. All of these activities will address your child's physical development, communication skills, language, literacy, and knowledge about the world.

Transportation

Pre-K students who are four years old are allowed to ride the school bus. The busses drop students off at the sidewalk by the middle school. A monitor will be waiting there to take them into the building as well as take them to their busses at the end of the day.

Attendance

Attendance is expected Monday through Friday. We will follow the Tioga Central School District Calendar (including snow days, delays, early dismissals, or holidays). Tioga utilizes an automated system to inform parents and guardians of any changes or cancellations in the school day. For that purpose, please ensure you inform your child's teacher of any changes in phone numbers

or address. For emergency closings primarily due to bad weather, please turn to Channel 12 (TV) or our district website.

Absences

A written excuse is required when your child returns to school. If you know ahead of time that your child will be absent, please let your child's teacher know.

Emergency Go Home Procedures

Please discuss with your child where they will go in case of an emergency. This is very important. Please fill out the form in September and keep us updated. If this emergency information changes at any time during the year, please let the office know.

Birthday Parties

We love birthdays! Birthday parties will be celebrated on the day closest to your child's birthday. You are more than welcome to bring in cupcakes and juice or some kind of birthday treat (**sorry, no homebaked treats please**). Also, please do not send in birthday invitations for your child to pass out to their friends in school. This avoids any hurt feelings from someone left out.

Quiet Rest Time

We do have a scheduled rest time after lunch every day. Students will be encouraged to rest before we head back into learning and play for the afternoon. Students may bring in a stuffed animal or blanket for rest time. They will be asked to keep items in their bookbags when they are not resting.

Recess

We have recess everyday. It is important to send in **socks** and **sneakers** with your child so they can play on the playground. They are welcome to wear dress shoes, but need sneakers for safety on the playground. Please refer to the Tioga Parent Handbook (which will be sent home the first day of school) for more information on appropriate clothing.

Notes from the Nurse:

You will be called if your child is sick with:

- Persistent fever greater than 100.4 orally without the aid of medication.
- Child is too sleepy or ill from illness, like vomiting and/or diarrhea.
- Significant cough that makes child feel uncomfortable and disrupts the class.
- Sore throat that is severe, accompanied by fever and/or feeling ill.

Please let the nurse and teacher know if your child has any significant medical issues and/or food allergies. Notes from the Doctor are required and need to be updated yearly.

The nurse cannot give your child any medication without a doctor's note **and** a note from you explaining the dosage and time it needs to be taken. This includes over-the-counter medications.

Toileting

We encourage your child to be as self-sufficient as possible in toileting. We know that accidents will occur and request that you

send in an extra set of clothing (underclothes, shirt, pants, socks)
just in case.

COVID Procedures and Protocols

Due to NYS mandates, effective August 27th, all students Pre-K through 12th grade must wear masks. Additionally, anyone entering a public school building must be masked at all times.

Please make sure your child has a clean mask with them daily.

Please pack an extra mask in their bookbags. Additionally, you or any guardians picking up your child and signing them out will be expected to mask, as you enter the building to do so. If your child is riding a school bus, they must also wear a mask at all times. Students will be able to unmask outdoors, while they are eating, drinking, and singing.

Despite mandates, we will work tirelessly to try and make your child's first school experience as positive as possible. Please do not ever hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Keeping Our Pre-K Students Safe

Ensuring the safety of our students and the security of our building is priority at Tioga Pre-K. We have several measures in place to best keep your child safe:

Pre-K has a double-entry door system.

Upon arriving, all visitors must ring the doorbell on the outside of our Pre-K building. There is a camera system on at all times. The classroom teacher has a monitor in her room so that she can see the arrival of any parents or guardians. Once the doorbell is rung, the teacher or the classroom aide will come to the pre-K office and buzz you into the first set of doors.

All parents picking their child up must come to the building to sign your child out.

From there, you will be asked to show your ID. Your ID will be checked against the form you complete that lists all persons allowed to pick up your child. If a person shows up to pick up your child and is not on the list, they will not be allowed to take your child with them. If at any point in the school year you need to add/remove someone onto or from the list please let the classroom teacher know in writing.

Unless you have a scheduled meeting with a classroom teacher or myself no parents, guardians, or any other unauthorized adults are allowed in the Pre-K building unless there are special events happening that you have been invited to.

Please know that although we welcome parent involvement, we must keep these measures in place to ensure your child is kept safe!

Thank you,
Mrs. Bombard and our Pre-K Team

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