
Tioga Central School District Universal Pre-Kindergarten



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

Parent's Guide
2019-2020

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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 half-day Pre-K sessions: Two morning Pre-K Programs and one Afternoon Program. 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:

Morning and Afternoon UPK Teacher: Mrs. Klossner

Morning UPK Teacher: Mrs. Briggs

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.
 - Center activity days are planned before or near most holidays. Parents will be invited by teachers to participate.
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- Tioga school wide programs such as the Halloween Parade, Spring Hat Parade, Book Fair, and Read Across America.
 - Special days such as Mother's Day and Father's Day have special activities planned.
 - 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.

Morning Pre-K Program

Our morning 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 at 8:00. You may send a packed breakfast for your child or your child can have a free breakfast from school. **You must pick your child up at 10:45 AM.** Please come to the Pre-K building to sign your child out. 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. Thank you!

Afternoon Pre-K Program

Our afternoon program begins at 11:30 AM. The doors will be opened by the teacher at 11:30. Your child may enter and go straight to the classroom. The students eat lunch in the classroom. You may send a packed lunch for your child or your child may eat a free school lunch. We will end our day at 2:30 PM. If you are picking your child up in the afternoon, **you**

may pick them up at 2:35 at the Pre-K building. Please make sure you park in the spots in the loop or behind the middle school. **If your child is doing something different than their normal dismissal routine, we must have a note from a parent/guardian.** If someone other than a parent or guardian is picking up your child, **we must have a note from you.**

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. If they attend the morning session, they could ride the bus in but would need parent pick-up at 10:45. The morning busses drop students off at the sidewalk by the middle school. A monitor will be waiting there to take them into the building. If they attend the afternoon session, they would need parent drop off at 11:30 and could ride the bus home at the end of the day. A monitor walks all students to end of the sidewalk by the middle school to get on their bus.

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 any of the following

radio stations:

WMRV/WAAL

WATT/WCII

WEBO/WGRW

WSKG/WMXW

WNBF/WHWK

If the School District has a 2 hour delay there will be NO morning program!

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.

The Cafeteria at Tioga Central is ready and willing to provide treats for birthdays also. Contact Kristi Robertson at 687-8001.

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.
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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.