



# Welcome *to Our Preschool* *Parent Orientation*

Boonton Public Schools  
2024-2025

# Meet our Staff



Thomas Valle  
Superintendent



Rebecca Kipp-Newbold  
Assistant Superintendent



Jesica Harbeson  
PIC  
PIRS/CPIS



Meghan Arahill  
Social Worker  
PIRS

# School Street School



Alison Schessler  
Principal



Allison Carey  
Secretary



Maria Beaton  
School Nurse



Lacee Mayer  
Teacher



Pavlina Mineva  
Teacher



Judith Theiller  
Teacher



# John Hill School



Peter Nosal  
Principal



Kathy Beiermeister  
Head Secretary



Janine LaPointe  
Secretary



Kelly Shiels  
School Nurse



Danielle Alfano  
Teacher



Jillian Catlett  
Teacher

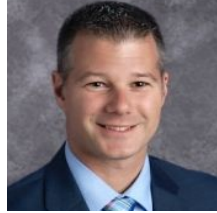


Renee Rivera  
Teacher



Brannagh Walker  
Teacher

# Boonton High School



Jason Klebez  
Principal



TBD  
Secretary



Janet Chauhan  
School Nurse



Caroline Dougherty  
Teacher



Taylor Burke  
Teacher



Krystal Aug  
Teacher

# What does it mean to be a PEEA district?

In the early fall of 2018, Boonton applied for Preschool Education Expansion Aid (PEEA). This was made possible by a \$50,000,000 line item in the state's budget to increase the number of New Jersey 3 & 4 year-olds attending preschool. Boonton was deemed eligible due to our district having 20% or more of our students receiving free or reduced lunch through the National School Lunch program.

We were awarded the additional state aid after submitting a 5 year plan to build our preschool classroom and staff capacity to a level which would accommodate the projected ~170 3 and 4 year old children residing in Boonton.

2018 - 2019 School Year:  
5 Preschool Classrooms

2024 - 2025 School Year:  
10 Preschool Classrooms



# Classroom Requirements & Support Staff

Each classroom has:

- One P-3 (Preschool-3rd grade) certified teacher
- One Teacher Assistant / Paraprofessional
- Maximum of 15 students

And is supported by:

- **Preschool Instructional Coaches**

PICs coach other teachers on the development of pedagogy and practice to affect student outcomes.

- **Preschool Intervention & Referral Team (PIRT)**

PIRT members coach teachers on the development of social-emotional practice to affect student outcomes.

# Boonton PTA

[Find more information about our wonderful PTA here.](#)



# Bridges to Learning

- ☐ *Morning Care*
- ☐ *After Care*
- ☐ *Enrichment*

[Find more information about the Boonton Community Education programs here.](#)

# School Hours

## *School Street School*

### **Regular School Schedule**

8:05 AM Opening

2:05 PM Dismissal

### **Early Dismissal Schedule**

8:05 AM Opening

12:22 PM Dismissal

### **Delayed Opening Schedule**

10:05 AM Opening

2:05 PM Dismissal

## *John Hill School*

## *Boonton High School*

### **Regular School Schedule**

8:10 AM Opening

2:10 PM Dismissal

### **Early Dismissal Schedule**

8:10 AM Opening

12:27 PM Dismissal

### **Delayed Opening Schedule**

10:10 AM Opening

2:10 PM Dismissal

# Does attendance matter?

Students are expected to attend school daily, unless they are ill.

- Our NJDOE partners define Chronic Absenteeism as being absent 10% of the total expected days of school.
- As your child nears certain milestones you will receive notices to discuss attendance from the preschool leadership.

## Vacations:

Please be cognizant of school calendar when planning vacations. These will be logged as absences and will be reflected on the student record.



# Arrival

## **BOONTON HIGH SCHOOL and JOHN HILL SCHOOL**

### **Doors open at 8:00 am**

- Preschool students will meet your child's paraprofessional outside the main building or annex depending on the location of their classroom.
- Please remain in your car, paraprofessionals will help your child get out of the car,

## **SCHOOL STREET SCHOOL**

### **Doors open at 7:50 am**

- Students should be escorted to their designated arrival areas: front of the school
- Please remain in your car, paraprofessionals will help your child get out of the car,

# Dismissal

## **BOONTON HIGH SCHOOL and JOHN HILL SCHOOL**

Preschool students will dismiss as they typically would via car line at the front entrance of the main building or in the parking lot of the annex.

Please know that our staff cannot buckle students in their car seats.

## **SCHOOL STREET SCHOOL**

Preschool students will dismiss as they typically would via car line at the front entrance of the main building. Please know that our staff cannot buckle students in their car seats.

# Curriculum

The district has chosen to use Tools of the Mind. This curriculum is recommended by the Department of Education and is a research based program.

The Tools program is developmentally appropriate, allowing for preschool students to develop in all areas at their own pace.

The basis for this growth and development is through play and language. At least a third of the day is spent in the centers around the room. The materials in the centers and activities done by the staff help to push each child to learn, grow and increase his/her skills at his/her developmental pace.

The teachers are continuously observing the students so they know where each student is developmentally performing. This allows the teacher to individualize the activities and assist the children at lower levels or challenge the students at higher levels.



# *Sample Daily Schedule*

8:05 – 8:10	Settling-in Time – Mystery Question Game
8:10 – 8:40	Free Choice
8:40 – 8:55	Opening Group: Large Group
8:55 – 10:10	Make-Believe Play Center Block
10:10 – 10:25	Math/Science Activities: Small Group
10:25 – 11:10	Outdoor Play – Gross Motor
11:10 – 11:40	Lunch
11:40 – 12:40	Quiet Time
12:40 – 12:55	Literacy Activities: Large Group
12:55 – 1:25	Free Choice
1:25 – 1:40	Literacy Activities: Small Group
1:40 – 1:55	Story Lab
1:55 – 2:00	Closing Group: Large Group
2:00 – 2:05	Dismissal

# *Outdoor Play and Gross Motor*

- We go outside daily.
- It is very important for children at this age to get exercise and develop their gross motor skills.
- Please dress your child appropriately because we will go outside every day unless there is precipitation, extreme cold or extreme heat. Remember to apply sunscreen when needed.
- In the event that we do not get the opportunity to go outside we will attempt gross motor activities in the building's gym (if accessible) or in the classroom.

# *Snack and Lunch*

**SNACK:** Your child should bring a simple and healthy snack and drink each day. Every student should bring a reusable water bottle with a straw.

School Street School is a NUT-AWARE SCHOOL. Nuts are allowed but discouraged.

**LUNCH:** You are welcome to order lunch from our cafeteria for your child. Teachers will send home the menu. Parents can circle their selections daily. Students may pay cash or use their [school lunch account](#) to pay for lunch. Checks should be made payable to "Boonton Board of Education - Cafeteria Account". Lunch applications can be found [here](#).

If you choose to send a lunch, please know that we don't have a microwave to heat food or a refrigerator to keep it cool.

**MYPLATE:** MyPlate is a reminder to find healthy eating styles. Everything your preschooler eats and drinks matters. For more information visit the [myplate site](#).



# Specials

- The curriculum is a comprehensive curriculum, therefore we do not isolate any subject areas. Activities such as literacy, music, art, etc. are all incorporated throughout the day.
- It is not developmentally appropriate for children at this age to sit in a large group for longer than 20 minutes.
- We limit our large group gatherings and keep whole class activities limited to less than 20 minutes, as well as incorporate all subject areas into the centers, play and small group activities.

# Field Trips

- Preschool programs can be enriched through the inclusion of carefully planned field trips. First hand experience can provide children with information and a level of understanding that adds elements of realism to their play, and enriches their overall learning.
- Many of the best trips build not only on their interests and the curriculum but involve the community. Trips to local grocery stores, libraries, flower shops etc. can enhance relationships between family members, the school and the community and can often be planned with little or no cost.
- Field experiences can also take place in-class or in-school by inviting guests, using books, and setting up an area of the room.

# Celebrations

Each child's birthday is a special event in their lives and will be celebrated in the classroom in a special way. If a student would like to bring in a treat for an occasion such as a birthday, their homeroom teacher must be notified in advance for approval by the principal. Only food/treats from the [approved food list](#) will be permitted.

Crafts or activities are preferred for class celebrations and birthday parties. Home baked goods will not be allowed for class celebrations and birthday parties. Please refer to the approved list for all food options to be brought into the school. This is done to ensure that no child is put in harm's way due to allergies or other medical conditions. Invitations to home parties may only be distributed at school if there is an invitation for each child in the class.



# Save the Date

## Back to School Night

*School Street School*

Tuesday, September 17

*John Hill School*

Wednesday, September 18

*Boonton High School*

Thursday, September 19

## Picture Day

*School Street School*

September 25-26

*John Hill School*

September 18

*Boonton High School*

September 30

# Screenings and Assessment

## Early Screening Inventory - 3

- Children are screened with the ESI-3 upon entering the program and by the classroom teacher.
- This screening gauges several developmental domains and assists in identifying children in need of additional assistance.

## Teaching

## Strategies

-

## GOLD

We utilize Teaching Strategies-GOLD in assessing, via the collection of anecdotal evidence, for 38 research-based objectives which include predictors of school success.

# Monitoring Program Quality

## Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale-3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (ECERS-3)

Used by the Department of Education to assess randomly selected classrooms

Comprehensively measures classroom quality in the following areas:

- ◆ Space and Furnishing
- ◆ Personal Care Routines
- ◆ Language and Literacy
- ◆ Learning Activities
- ◆ Interactions
- ◆ Program Structure

Used by the Instructional Coach to help faculty identify potential areas of improvement. This information is used in the planning of future Professional Development and coaching for all staff.



## **The Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT)**

The TPOT is an observation instrument that measures the implementation of the Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children. This tool is used primarily for coaching classroom staff and to determine professional development or program improvement plans.

## **Grow New Jersey Kids (GNJK)**

Grow NJ Kids is a state-sponsored initiative to raise the quality of child care and early learning throughout New Jersey. It gives resources to assess and improve the early childhood programs. The goal is to create a system that encourages ongoing improvement.

Based on the findings of a preliminary assessment that the child care and early learning program does on itself, trained professionals work with the program staff to address areas needing improvement. Then, a trained rater, using a comprehensive, research-based tool, formally assesses the program.

# Health

*School Street School: Maria Beaton*  
*John Hill School: Kelli Shiels*  
*Boonton High School: Janet Chauhan*

# Health Screenings

- Children will get height, weight, vision, dental, and hearing screenings as required by Preschool Guidelines
- Parents will get the referral form if there is a problem.
- Any questions or concerns regarding screenings please contact your child's school nurse.



# Universal Health Record - Immunizations

- State statute 18A:40-4 requires all preschool students to have a physical examination by a physician.
- Only physicals dated from Sept. 2023 will be accepted
- In most cases, NJ state law requires certain immunizations prior to entering preschool. Contact Angela Brown if you need clarification
- Only religious or medical exemptions are accepted
- Students will be excluded from school until immunization requirements are met

# Mandatory Influenza (Flu) Vaccine

- The New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) mandates that all children 6 through 59 months of age attending any licensed child care center or preschool facility must receive at least one dose of influenza (flu) vaccine between September 1 and December 31 of each year (N.J.A.C. 8:57-4.19).
- Students who have not received the flu vaccine by December 31 **MUST be excluded from school** for the duration of influenza season (through March 31), until they receive at least one dose of the flu vaccine or until they turn 60 months of age (5 years old).
- Students who have valid medical and religious exemptions are allowed to remain in school.

# Illness that Cause Exclusion

- Children are excluded (sent home and/or may not attend) for vomiting, diarrhea, and temperature over 100 degrees.
- Children with questionable pink eye, strep throat, or unexplained rash will be sent home
- A doctor's note will be required for re-admission if a child is diagnosed with a contagious disease.



# Illness and Return to School

- Fever – need to have a normal temperature without fever-reducing medications for **24 hours**
- Chicken Pox - out 7 days or until all scabbed over
- Contagious Disease – if anyone in family is diagnosed with one (example; hepatitis, meningitis, polio) please call the school nurse before sending your child in
- Head lice: We have a **NIT FREE** Policy: Student will be sent home if nits are present.

# Asthma and Allergies

- Asthma Treatment Plan/ FARE Plan and medication permission forms need to be filled out **yearly** by physician and signed by a parent.
- If your child does have food allergies and has an **Epi-pen**, please download the appropriate form and have your physician complete them before school starts.
- Medical Forms can be found [here](#).

# Medication Policy

- NO medication whether over the counter, (like Tylenol or cold medicine) or prescription, can be given in school without a **Medication Permission Form** filled out by the child's doctor and signed by parent.
- If a child is on daily medication, you must have the doctor complete a form from the nurse's office.
- Medication must be sent in original container
- Adults must hand in medication to the school nurse on the first day of school or when it is prescribed. Children cannot bring in medication in their backpacks.



# Calling your child out of school

- If for any reason your child will be out, call 973-335-9700
  - ext. 1500 (SSS)
  - ext. 2600 or 2027 (JHS)
  - ext. 4408 (BHS)
- You can call at any time - 24HRS
- Leave a message with your child's name, grade, teacher and reason for the absence.

# Toilet Training

- Your child does not need to be toilet trained to participate in our preschool program.
- Our staff will work with you to continue the training while he/she is in school.
- Summer is the perfect time to work on toilet training children
- Please reach out to Mrs. Harbeson if you are interested in receiving information about training your child.

# How can parents be involved in the program?

- Parents are highly encouraged to volunteer in their child's preschool classroom, or participate in special activities like reading a story, sharing their culture, or arts & craft activities.
- Parents can also serve on the Boonton Early Childhood Advisory Council (BECAC) and/or site parent groups.
- Parent workshops are provided throughout the school year.
- Join the Boonton PTA.



# Communication

The preschool teachers use the Tools of the Mind App, Tools Connect, to communicate with the families. Messages go to the parent's cell phones. Please note that teachers will not be able to always answer messages right away. If there is an emergency, we recommend that parents call the main office. Mrs. Harbeson is available to answer any questions you may have. Please don't hesitate to reach out to her.

REALTIME: The district uses [Realtime](#) to send notifications and communicate with parents. Please make sure that your information is up-to-date.

## Parent Surveys

As we continue to plan for the school year, you will receive parent surveys. Kindly complete them. The surveys will ask about your child, your interests and/or needs.

# Thank you

*For Coming to  
Our Preschool  
Parent Orientation*

*Any Questions?*

