

The background features a large, faint seal of the Lyme-Old Lyme Schools. The seal is circular and contains a tree in the center. The text "LYME-OLD LYME" is written along the top arc, and "SCHOOLS" is written along the bottom arc.

Pre-K Expansion Update

Board of Education
May 6, 2020

Philosophy and Goals

As a program, we believe that children learn best through active participation in a variety of developmentally appropriate experiences in a physically and emotionally safe environment. Families are our partners in the education of our students.

In working with our students, we strive to:

- Facilitate cognitive and language development through play
- Promote physical development and appropriate social skills
- Nurture positive lifestyle choices

Background

Prior to the expansion,

- The Pre-K program was a peer-model Special Education program that serviced 3- and 4- year-old children
- Typical peers were admitted through a lottery system

With the expansion,

- All 4-year-old students are guaranteed enrollment
- The 3-year-old program continues to be a peer-model program with typical peers chosen through a lottery



Expanded Pre-K Program at a Glance

Pre-K Students

- 27 3 year-old students
 - One AM and one PM section
- 60 4 year-old students
 - Four full-day sections

[Family Handbook](#)

Pre-K Staff

- Five classroom teachers
- 10 Instructional Assistants
- Related services*
 - .2 FTE School Psychologist, OT, PT, Nurse, and SLP
- Specials*
 - Music, Physical Education Library, Motor Group, and Art

Curriculum

Instruction is guided by the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards.

- [CT ELDS](#)

Based on the ELDS, the Pre-K faculty has developed thematic units of study that include:

- Shapes, colors, numbers, seasons, and citizenship
- Bridges Math and early literacy skills
- Extensive play-based teaching and learning opportunities

[Pre-K 19-20 year at a glance](#)



Daily Schedule

Morning

8:40 - 8:50 Arrival

9:00 - Organization of personal belongings

9:15 - STEM activity

9:30 - Morning meeting

10:15 - Snack

10:30 - Centers

11:00 - Specials

Afternoon

11:45 - Lunch and recess

12:15 - Yoga, rest period, enrichment activities

1:00 - Afternoon meeting

1:30 - Centers

2:15 - Snack

2:30 - Outdoor activity

2:50 - Departure

**Before and after care is provided by Valley Shore YMCA

Specials

Pre-K students have a 35-minute Specials five times per week.

- Art
- Music
- Library
- Physical Education
- Motor Group
- [Detailed daily Specials schedule](#)



Instruction is provided by a dedicated group that includes elementary, middle, and high school teachers.

Communication and Drills

To ensure an effective partnership with our families, our Pre-K faculty regularly communicates with parents.

- Weekly newsletters
- Email exchanges and conversations
- Parent-teacher conferences (formal and informal)
- Special Education PPTs and evaluations

To prepare for emergency situations, we run a variety of drills with our Pre-K students to make sure all our students know what to do in case of an emergency.

Pre-K Distance Learning

During the COVID-19 shutdown, our Pre-K faculty continues to provide high-quality instruction to our students. Specifically, the faculty:

- Meets via Google Meets with individual students and small groups
- Records read-alouds which are posted to their [private YouTube channel](#)
- Provides weekly distance learning materials
 - [Sample distance learning packet](#)
- Works with their “room moms” to organize virtual playdates

Community Feedback - Distance Learning

- The activities provided are fun. We are not attempting to fully keep to the weekly schedule and the messaging from the teacher that this is not the expectation is reassuring. It is helpful to have ideas for things to do during the day...
- We have had an online meeting with teachers and classmates. I hope we can continue doing that on a regular basis - I think it helps our children stay connected while they are not attending school in person
- We're very happy with how things are going.
- Very happy with Old Lyme Schools response to this situation. The team has been very helpful, professional and supportive.
- [Our teacher] has provided numerous resources as well as support that has been above and beyond. We our child is well equipped to learn at home. Thank you for all you have done so far! We miss school!
- The Pre-K program in my opinion has been very supportive and available during this transition. A variety of learning mediums have been provided and I am pleased with the resources offered and have also supplemented on my own in an attempt to fill days with meaningful learning experiences.
- We have been very happy with the amount of communication, the resources and support we are receiving during this time. We feel extremely fortunate for our teachers and the district as a whole.
- The emails from Pre K teachers are perfect. Communication is very good and not at all overwhelming
- The communication thus far between the teacher and home has been amazing. The resources provided have helped me supplement daily lessons with both my pre-K and Kindergarten student.



Questions