

BEECHER ROAD PRESCHOOL

PARENT HANDBOOK

2021-2022

**Beecher Road Preschool
Woodbridge School District
40 Beecher Road
Woodbridge, CT 06525**

**Dr. Jonathan Budd, Superintendent
Analisa Sherman, Principal
James Sapia, Assistant Principal
Cheryl Kiesel, Special Services Director**

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Preschool Team

Teacher.....Maria DePalma
Paraprofessionals.....Kit Dunbar
.....Sara Carlson
Speech Pathologist.....Christina Renzoni
NurseRobin Froehle
Psychologist.....Kris Rose
Special Services Director.....Cheryl Kiesel

Phone Numbers

North Office	203-389-2195
Special Services	203-389-6598

Mission Statement

The mission of the Beecher Road Preschool is to prepare our young students for future learning in the least restrictive environment and to help parents of young children with the challenge of meeting their child's developmental needs.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Beecher Road Preschool is based on the belief that play is the best means of facilitating learning in young children. Learning is maximized in our language-based program where children interact through child-initiated and teacher supported developmentally appropriate activities. Our nurturing environment fosters learning, social, language, speech and motor skills. Opportunities to make choices through integrated cooperative play, develop problem-solving skills, promote independence, and highlight the uniqueness of each individual child.

Goals

1. To make each child's school experience a positive one
2. To stimulate each child's thinking and reasoning skills through language-rich play experiences
3. To develop each child's ability to solve problems and make decisions and choices independently
4. To help each child recognize the rights, feelings and property of others
5. To encourage sharing and cooperation
6. To help parents become active participants and advocates in their child's education through participation in on-going play and discussion groups.
7. To promote a sense of belonging to the peer group and school community.
8. To prepare children for a successful transition to kindergarten.

Curriculum

The curriculum at Beecher Road Preschool is developmental in nature and child-centered in focus. Students participate in preschool activities based on the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards to promote school readiness. The purpose of the program is to work with parents and early childhood professionals to provide an individualized curriculum that recognizes each child's strengths as well as weaknesses. The important learning tools for preschool-age children include puzzles, building blocks, creative art materials, music and movement tools, and materials for dramatic play.

Parental Involvement

We believe that parents and school form an important partnership in educating our young children. We encourage parents to be involved at Beecher through membership in the P.T.O., serving as room parents, helping with cultural events and special activities throughout the year. Parent-teacher conferences are held in the fall and in the spring. This is a time to share information about your child's progress. We welcome any helpful information that you have to share about your child, such as health needs or problems, interests, feelings about school, relationships with siblings, etc. Although parent-teacher conferences are scheduled school-wide twice yearly, please call any time you have concerns about your child and a conference will be scheduled.

Several times per school year on a Friday, our program invites parents and children to our P.A.L. (play and learn) group. Parents will meet virtually with a teacher to discuss specific topics, areas of concern, as well as developmental milestones.

Program Placement

Children are placed into our program through the identification of special needs or acceptance as a peer role model. Children who may require special education services are referred to the preschool team for observation and assessment. Determination of eligibility is made by the Planning and Placement Team (PPT). A student requiring early intervention, but who has not been identified as a student with a disability may also attend the preschool at the discretion of the Early Intervention Team. Peer role models must meet specific criteria and attend a visitation for Preschool openings. The Beecher Road Preschool employs a lottery system in order to provide Woodbridge residents an equitable opportunity to participate in this parent-choice program. The written lottery procedures are consistently adhered to and are available through the principal.

Program Schedule

<u>Morning Session:</u>	8:35 to 11:05 AM Monday through Thursday
<u>Afternoon Session:</u>	11:50 to 2:50 PM Monday through Thursday

No sessions are held on Friday to allow time for parent discussion and play groups, parent conferences, preschool and daycare visits, team meetings, staff development and PPT meetings. Home and daycare visits as well as parent conferences are conducted at the request of the preschool team or parents.

Minimum Days

On minimum days LISTED in the Beecher Road School Calendar, our Preschool schedule will be as follows:

<u>Morning Session:</u>	8:35 - 10:15
<u>Afternoon Session:</u>	11:00 - 12:50

Snow Day Policy

During inclement weather, please listen to local radio stations for notice of any delayed openings or early closings for Woodbridge School District.

Delayed Opening

Morning Session:	canceled
Afternoon Session:	11:50 - 2:50

Early Dismissal

Morning Session:	8:35 - 11:05
Afternoon Session:	canceled

The Beecher Road School Calendar and Handbook lists general information regarding school closings and delays and the radio stations broadcasting the information for Woodbridge.

Bus transportation is provided for children with special needs as determined by a Planning and Placement Team Meeting. All other families must provide their own transportation.

B&B Transportation will contact families prior to the start of the school with a schedule of pick up and drop off times for their children. Please contact the bus company at 393-9750 whenever your child has a change in transportation on a particular day. The Preschool team will work through bus safety behaviors with the children when school begins. Please reinforce the necessity of proper bus behavior for a safe ride.

If you are providing transportation, please drop off and pick up your child at the door directly in front of the Preschool classroom. Children must be escorted to and from the door, holding your hand (including all siblings). Your promptness is appreciated in helping limit interruptions to our opening and closing transitions which are an important part of our daily routine. Please park in the parking lot and do not pull up in front of the school for drop off and pick up.

A written notice is required if someone other than the child's parents or guardians will be picking him/her up or if the child is not to be put on the bus on a particular day. Identification (driver's license) is required when they pick up your child.

What Your Child Needs

A backpack large enough to carry snack, papers, communication, projects, etc.

A daily snack consisting of a drink and a light healthy snack. If your child's snack needs to be kept cold, please include an ice pack in their lunch box. Candy and gum are not allowed.

A complete change of clothes should be left at school. **Please label all clothing** - not just the bag.

Play clothes and sneakers are a must for our preschoolers. In addition to the usual playground equipment and walking on the nature trail, our daily routine includes planned gross motor activities. Please send your child to school in play clothes that are comfortable for sitting, running and climbing and can be easily cleaned. There will be special days for dressing up. We discourage open-toed shoes and dressy shoes because they can be dangerous when running or climbing and may limit your child's performance with his/her group.

Confidentiality

Information about the children in the class and their progress is kept confidential. Information is only shared with the teachers and therapists that work directly with your child. Confidential information about your child is kept in a locked file cabinet.

***Birthdays**

Birthdays are important times in young children's lives, and we invite you to celebrate with your child and classmates by reading a story or doing a craft with them. Please notify the teacher in advance. Also, parents are asked not to send in invitations to birthday parties for distribution at school unless every child in the class is to receive one.

Health Policy

We try to keep our classroom as healthy as possible. We wash surfaces regularly throughout the school day, disinfect the room and its contents each week and spend lots of time teaching healthy habits. Please support us by following our health guidelines and by having someone available to pick up your child at the nurse's office when a parent is not available. A sick child cannot remain in the classroom.

For the protection of all the children and staff, and for the comfort of your own child, we ask that children be kept home if they seem at all ill. Signs of illness include:

- fever over 100 degrees F or higher when taken by mouth
- congestion or runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, chills
- diarrhea, vomiting or an upset stomach within 24 hours of school
- undiagnosed rash or skin irritation
- eyes that are red and have a discharge
- muscle pain, head ache
- new loss of taste or smell

IMPORTANT: Most preschool-age children are unable to blow noses, cover mouths and communicate emergency toilet needs like older children can. Please keep this in mind and keep your child at home if he/she requires this kind of assistance.

Video & Photo Release Form

Videotaping the children in the preschool classroom is an important way to document student growth, reflect on instructional practices and demonstrate to parents and professionals the learning that takes place during play. Please read and sign the photo release form and return it to the Preschool Team.

*Due to new COVID19 restrictions, parents are not allowed in the school at this time. We will celebrate your child's birthday with a song, crown and group picture. We can set up a virtual read, if this is something you would like to do.