



**COMMENCEMENT OF
UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN
PROGRAM:
JOHN F. KENNEDY SCHOOL
SEPTEMBER 2019**

**GNPS Board of Education Meeting
January 10, 2019
E.M. Baker School**

RATIONALE

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Regulations
- Review of NYS Assessment and Subgroup Data
- GNPS Title I Status School:
 - J.F. Kennedy School
- Why prekindergarten?

Preschool Education and Its Lasting Effects

- Well-designed preschool education programs produce long-term improvements in school success:
 - higher achievement test scores,
 - lower rates of grade retention and special education,
 - higher educational attainment.
- Strongest evidence suggests that economically disadvantaged children reap long-term benefits from preschool.

Barnett, W. S. (2008). *Preschool education and its lasting effects: Research and policy implications*. Boulder and Tempe: Education and the Public Interest Center & Education

FEEDBACK FROM GNPS KINDERGARTEN TEACHERS

Kindergarten teachers across the district reported a positive difference in the skills of children who attended a prekindergarten program versus those who did not.

Examples of skills observed:

ACADEMIC SKILLS	SOCIAL SKILLS
Knowledge of letters/sounds, sight words	Participate in discussions
Increased number recognition /sense	Exhibit good listening skills
Increased attention span	Transition seamlessly
Recognize shapes and patterns	Play and work cooperatively
Exhibit strong concepts of print	Express feelings
Use sophisticated vocabulary	Demonstrate care/empathy
Ask questions	Follow rules and directions

What Makes the GNPS Universal Prekindergarten Program a High Quality Program?

- NYS highly qualified, certified teachers with a BA/MA degree and expertise in early childhood
- Classes are heterogeneously grouped with low child/staff ratio
- Program is research-based and promotes development of the whole child: language, early literacy skills, cognitive, physical, social and emotional skills
- Special area instruction in library, music, and PE
- Children experience daily lunch and recess

Additional Program Highlights & Offerings

- Support Staff
- Support services for classified students
- AM session 9:10-12:30; PM session 12:00-3:20
- Fun for Fours Program (AM /PM, tuition-based)
- Transportation
- SCOPE After School Child Care Program (fee-based)
- Parents as partners in education

Q & A