



Chesterfield Township School District

**Office of the Superintendent
Scott Heino**

30 Saddle Way, Chesterfield, New Jersey 08515

609-298-6900 ext. 1230

sheino@chesterfieldschool.com

October 7, 2024

Dear Chesterfield Elementary School Community,

We are proud to announce that the Chesterfield Township School District is partnering with the State of New Jersey to expand our current high-quality preschool program to a tuition-free, full-day program. This is a great opportunity for our district as we expand the educational services we provide to the children of Chesterfield Township while being fiscally responsible to our community as a whole. To make this happen, the District was awarded \$1.1 million dollars through the New Jersey Department of Education to expand preschool services for all 3- and 4-year-old residents of the Township.

The new preschool program is based on a five-year plan to provide free, high-quality, full-day preschool to all 3- and 4-year-old residents of Chesterfield Township. In year one, starting January 2, 2025, we will serve five (5) preschool classes. As part of the State requirements for community partnership, we will be collaborating with our Saddle Way neighbors, iGo STEM Academy. Three of our new classes will be housed at Chesterfield Elementary School and two satellite classes will be held at iGo STEM Academy. All classes will be taught by fully certified, licensed preschool teachers and follow the NJDOE guidelines for Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards.

Please mark your calendars for **Tuesday, October 29th at 6:30 p.m.** for our preschool expansion parent meeting. At this meeting, we will provide all the information a parent will need to know about the new preschool program. A reminder notice will be sent out later in October.

Prior to receiving the award, the district conducted a survey to determine interest in the program. The response was overwhelming and, based on our current preschool enrollment, we anticipate we will have approximately 25 open spots for the start of our new program on January 2, 2025. As a result, the district will facilitate a voluntary lottery for the open spots for eligible students who have turned 3- or 4-years-old on or before October 1, 2024. The lottery will open on October 14, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. and will close on November 14, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. The lottery itself will be held at the November Board of Education Meeting on Wednesday, November 20th.

It truly is an honor to be able to announce this new opportunity for our school community and we look forward to working with the State of New Jersey and iGo STEM Academy to build this program over the next five years. Additional information about the lottery and the program will be published later this week.

Sincerely,


Scott Heino