



South Orange & Maplewood School District
Preschool Education Program
525 Academy Street, Maplewood, NJ 07040
Phone: (973) 762-5600, ext. 1843 | Fax: (973) 378-2874

December 20, 2019

Dear Preschool South Orange & Maplewood Parents/Guardians,

Our commitment to preschool education is being actualized by the establishment of authentic partnerships with local childcare providers. This approach to securing additional classroom space is creating opportunities for District students to receive a high-quality preschool experience. Through the implementation of Pre-School Education Expansion Aid (PEAA), our youngest community members continue to enroll in the District's high quality preschool program at the various partner sites.

The first phase of the student selection was based on a random selection or lottery system drawn in accordance with the District's Registration Policy and Regulations. It included assignment of students to Montrose Early Childhood Center and Applecore Learning Early Childhood Center. With the support of local childcare providers, the District's Preschool Program continues to expand throughout the school year. We recently added Zadie's of the Oranges and other partners are currently under consideration

The attached Q&A address essential questions our preschool community will benefit from as we plan ahead for the 2020-2021 school year; therefore, please review the attachment, and if you have any further questions, please let me know. I can be reached at (973) 762-5600, ext. 1841 or you may send an email message to lmorana@somsd.k12-nj.us and/or Leroy Johnson at ljohnso3@somsd.k12-nj.us, Supervisor of Preschool Education and Related Services.

Furthermore, you may access a letter and Q&A dated July 16, 2019 - [Prek Program Update July 2019](#)

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Laura C. Morana

Interim Assistant Superintendent for Special Services

Cc: Preschool Program Principal/Directors
Supervisor of Preschool Education Program



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PRESCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM FAQs

1. If I would like my child to attend the Preschool Program during the current school year, what should I do?

Registration for the Preschool Program is open and the required application can be accessed, <https://www.somsd.k12.nj.us/district/registration/sy1920registration/>

Once the forms are completed online, an online appointment must be made to meet with the registrar. A lottery is drawn after the registration is completed (registration is completed through a three-step process, step 1: you must first fill-out the online application; step 2: after your online application is submitted, you must make an appointment online for an in-person meeting; step 3: attend your in-person meeting and provide all necessary registration documents). Once all steps in the registration process are completed, your child will be entered into the lottery draw

If you have any questions regarding the registration process, please contact the registrar: Ms. Tiffani Barnes, tbarnes@somsd.k12.nj.us

2. With the Preschool Expansion Initiative, where are programs being offered?

For the 2019-2020 school year, the program includes:

- Applecore Learning Early Childhood Center (240 Franklin Ave, Maplewood) – 3 classes
- Marshall Portable (262 Grove Rd, South Orange) – 1 class
- Montrose Early Childhood Center (356 Clark St, South Orange) - 9 classes
- Zadie's of the Oranges Preschool (280 South Harrison Street, East Orange) – 1 class

3. How is the assignment of my child determined?

A lottery system continues to be used for student identification and placement. As more classrooms become available, families are notified.

4. Do I get a say in which program my child attends?

At this time, there is no parental choice.

5. Will my child take a bus?

Currently, only children with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) are bused to and from preschool.

6. What are the school day hours?

The school day is six hours long. Start and end times vary, depending on the building.

- Applecore: 8:30am -2:30pm
- Marshall Portable: 8:50am -2:50pm



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- Montrose: 8:30am -2:30pm
- Zadie's 8:30am – 2:30pm

7. Is there before and after care? That depends on the location.

- Applecore offers a before and aftercare program. Before care runs 7:30-8:30am, aftercare runs 2:30-6:30pm. Contact Applecore for more information.
Applecorelearningecc@gmail.com
- At Marshall portable, there is no before or aftercare provided.
- At Montrose, the YMCA offers the before and aftercare program on site. There are limited spots. Before care runs 7:15-8:30am, aftercare runs 2:30-6:30pm. Contact the Y directly to find out if there is space available. www.metroymcas.org/south-mountain-ymca/montrose-before-care-after-care/
- Zadie's offers a before and aftercare program. Before care runs 7:30-8:30am, aftercare runs 2:30-7pm. Contact Zadie's for more information @ Zadiesoto.com

8. How is the expansion expected to impact registration for 2020-2021 for CURRENT students?

As final registration plans for the following school year are completed, current three-year old student assignments will not change and re-registration is not required.

Four-year old students will rollover into Kindergarten and re-registration is not required. A family relocating within the District will be required to document the new residence.

Since plans for the 2020-2021 school year include the discontinuation of the use of the portable at Marshall Elementary, parents of students impacted by this will be contacted individually.

9. How is the expansion expected to impact registration for the 2020-2021 for NEW students?

As final registration plans for the following school year are completed, **current three-year old students'** assignments will not change and re-registration is not required.

Four-year old students will rollover into Kindergarten and **re-registration is not required**. A family relocating within the District will be required to document the new residence.

Since the District will be expanding access to a high-quality pre-school program significantly, yet not to the point of being able to meet the needs of all interested three and four-year olds, a lottery system will be instituted. All available seats will be filled with a start date of September 1, 2020.

Registration for all interested three and four-year olds will be completed in accordance with the District's Policy and Procedures. An application for Free-Reduced Lunch Eligibility will be incorporated into the application process.

10. Can parents register for online notification to focus on preschool registration process updates?

The registration packet requires an email address; therefore, this will be used to disseminate information throughout the registration process.



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11. Can the District provide alternate communication strategies to provide updates on the registration system?

The District will disseminate information through its schools, public library, health department and realtors.

12. Can PreK Program registration be made available in other languages than English?

Information will be made available in Spanish and French-Creole.

13. How can I find obtain additional information?

- Leroy Johnson, III, Supervisor: ljohnso3@somsd.k12.nj.us
- Stacy Brutus, Director: Applecorelearningecc@gmail.com
- Bonita Samuels, Principal: bsamuels@somsd.k12.nj.us
- Winifred Smith, Director: info@zadiesoto.com

14. Parent Information Session

January 13, 2020 – 7:00PM – 8:00PM
Columbia High School