Bethany Community School

Ascent to Excellence

WELCOME TO PRE-KINDERGARTEN





(203) 393-3350 ▯ 44 Peck Road, Bethany, CT 06524 ▯ www.bethany-ed.org

Welcome to the Bethany Community School Integrated Pre-Kindergarten 2024-2025 School Year

Meet the Pre-K Team

Pre-K Teacher	Kerrie Payne
Speech & Language Pathologist	Kellianne Novelli
Occupational Therapist	Shannon Barkan
Physical Therapist	Lauren Shanley
School Nurse	Caitlin Bruni
Superintendent	Kai Byrd
Director of Special Services, Curriculum & Instruction	Cheryl Kiesel
Principal	Thomas Reed-Swale
Psychologist	Marjorie Nusom

Pre-K Mission Statement

The BCS Integrated Pre-K program provides students with comprehensive early childhood services to help them develop and reach their potential for learning and begins preparing them for future learning experiences.

Pre-K Philosophy

The BCS Integrated Pre-K program operates on the premise that all children can learn and benefit from an atmosphere that nurtures social, emotional, and cognitive learning. It is critical for each child's development. This learning takes place in a developmentally appropriate play-based, language-rich program. This program allows children with special needs to interact with typically developing peers from a variety of backgrounds within the community.

Goals

- ✔ To use a transdisciplinary team consisting of Special Education staff, a Speech and Language Pathologist, a School Psychologist and other related professionals as deemed necessary to assess student's needs and design an effective program.
- ✔ To promote expected and developmental patterns in play, behavior, motor, language, self-help, social, and cognitive skills with developmentally appropriate activities.
- ✔ To structure an integrated language-based environment.
- ✔ To maximize the natural learning opportunities for special needs students with peer role models.
- ✔ To develop and encourage choice-making skills.
- ✔ To develop appropriate play skills for all children.
- ✔ To develop problem solving skills to foster appropriate growth and independence while maximizing individual potential.
- ✔ To help parents in their role as active participants in their child's education.
- ✔ To prepare students for a seamless transition into Kindergarten.

Curriculum

The curriculum is implemented using a developmentally appropriate approach to teaching preschoolers, which uses activity-based intervention in a language-based setting.

It involves the development of:

- Self-Help Skills
- Social/Emotional Skills
- Peer Interaction and Involvement
- Play Skills
- Kindergarten Readiness Skills

Program Placement

The Bethany Public School District conducts an early childhood screening program for children between the ages of three and five. Through this program, children who may require special education services are identified as being in need of further evaluation and are referred through the Planning and Placement Team (PPT).

Helpful Information

Program Days and Hours

Session	Days	Hours
Morning	Monday to Friday	8:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Afternoon	Monday to Friday	12:15 – 3:15 p.m.

Vacation, Early Dismissal and Snow Closings

The program follows the same vacation and holiday schedule as Bethany Community School.

On ***scheduled early dismissal days*** listed on the calendar, the program hours will be:

Session	Hours
Morning	8:30– 10:30 a.m.
Afternoon	11:15 – 1:15 p.m.

In the event of a ***delayed opening*** the morning session will be cancelled. The afternoon class will meet at its regular time.

In the event of an ***unscheduled early dismissal*** due to inclement weather, or other unforeseen circumstances, the afternoon session will be cancelled. The morning session will meet and dismiss at its regular time.

Early Pickup

If you need to pick up your child early, please report to the main office. You will be required to sign out your child, and the office will notify the classroom teacher to bring your child to the main office.

Clothing

Please send in an extra set of seasonally appropriate clothing to be kept at school. Please include extra socks as well and label all items; oftentimes children do not recognize if an item belongs to them.

Play clothes and sneakers are a must for our preschoolers. In addition to the usual playground equipment, our daily routine involves planned gross motor activities, sensory play and other messy play. 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. Open toed shoes will not be allowed for safety reasons.

Backpacks

Children should bring a regular size backpack to school every day so items can be easily transported to and from school. Please be sure to label the backpack with your child's name.

Snack

Children will need to bring a healthy, nutritious snack and drink to school each day. Examples of healthy snacks are fresh fruit or vegetables, packaged fruit cups or applesauce, crackers or pretzels, sliced or string cheese, or half a sandwich. No glass bottles or sippy cups, please. The Pre-K classroom is a nut free environment, so please refrain from sending in any snack items which may contain nuts.

Birthdays

Birthdays are special occasions for young children. The teacher can acknowledge your child's birthday in class by singing and/or providing the opportunity for a special project. Please do not send in any food items to celebrate their birthday. Also, parents are asked to only send invitations to birthday parties for distribution at school if every child in the class is to receive one.

Parent Teacher Relationship

We believe that parents and school form an important partnership in educating our young children. Because this collaboration is critical to our success, many opportunities are available for parent participation in their child's program.

Parent volunteers are an extremely important resource and are greatly appreciated by teacher and staff. We encourage parents to be involved through membership in the PTO, serving as room parents and helping with special activities throughout the year.

Parent-teacher conferences are held in the Fall and Spring. This is a time to share information about your child's progress. Although parent-teacher conferences are scheduled school-wide twice yearly, please call any time you have any concerns about your child and a conference will be scheduled.

Parents may schedule an observation at any time. Observations must be scheduled ahead of time, are limited to 45 minutes, and younger siblings may not accompany a parent. These guidelines are in place to ensure that the learning environment is disrupted as little as possible for our young learners.

Transportation

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

Bus Transport

Please contact B&B Transportation at (203) 393-9750 if your child has any change in transportation on a particular day. If you plan to pick up your child from school, you must send in a written note to the classroom teacher. If a written note is not provided to the teacher, your child will be sent home by his/her usual mode of transportation.

Parent Transport

If you are providing transportation for your child, please drop off and pick up your child at the following location:

Morning/Afternoon Sessions: Drop off and pickup location will be communicated by the Early Childhood Teacher. A written note is required if anyone other than the child's parents/guardians

will be picking up. Your child will not be allowed to go home with another adult unless there is a written note. A picture ID will be requested from the person picking up your child.

Health Service Information

Immunization Requirements

The Bethany Board of Education requires each child to be protected by immunizations and other vaccines, in accordance with state law and regulations. Please refer to the enclosed schedule for active immunization as determined by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 19a-7f, prior to enrolling in any program or school under its jurisdiction.

Children with Chronic Health Conditions

Parents should consult with the School Nurse if they have a child with a diagnosed chronic health condition such as asthma, diabetes, seizures, or severe allergies. The nurse, student and family may work with the child's health care provider to establish a health plan that will assist school staff in understanding and accommodating the student's health needs.

Medications at School

Whenever possible, student medications should be given during non-school hours. When it is necessary for a student to receive medication during the school day, the parent must bring the following for each medication: medication in the original container with directions; written permission from the parent/guardian; and a written order from the physician for all medications including over the counter medications for pain relief.

Please contact the BCS School Nurse, Caitlin Bruni at (203) 393-3350 or CBruni@bethany-ed.org to obtain medication authorization forms and for more information.

Illness

Sick children can spread illness to other students and staff. Your child should not come to school if he/she has had a fever of 100 F or more in the past 24 hours; vomiting or diarrhea in the past 24 hours or a skin rash that has not been diagnosed by a health care provider.

Call the BCS Absence Line at (203) 393-3350 when your child will be absent due to illness. Please notify the school nurse if your child has a condition that can be spread to others such as strep throat, chickenpox or head lice.

When students become ill or are injured during the school day, parents/guardians are contacted first. If a parent/guardian cannot be reached, a call is made to an emergency contact as provided by the parent/guardian. Students will not be released from school unless accompanied by a responsible adult. It is an expectation that students will be picked up within one hour of the call to the parent/guardian.

Bethany Public School District Administration



Cheryl Kiesel
Director of Special Services,
Curriculum & Instruction



Mrs. Kai Byrd
Superintendent



Mr. Tom Reed-Swale
Principal

Contact us at:
www.bethany-ed.org

Bethany Song

Bethany, this is Bethany
Where we live and learn each day
Friends are we, sharing hopes and needs

Guide us as we search our way

We are thankful for what has been given us
And we hope that the future will tell
That each new day in our own way
We'll use this knowledge well

Every day, we are glad to say
This is where we're taught how to be
Americans who are proud and free
In the Town of Bethany


BETHANY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
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