



MOUNTAINSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT

P.E.A.K. PROGRAM

(PRESCHOOL EDUCATION FOR ALL KIDS)

2025-2026

PROGRAM & REGISTRATION INFORMATION



**Beechwood School
1497 Woodacres Drive
Mountainside, NJ 07092**



Overview of the P.E.A.K Program (Preschool Education for All Kids)

The Mountainside School District is pleased to offer a morning and afternoon integrated half-day preschool program. This fully inclusive program offers early childhood experiences for three and four year old children in a setting that promotes positive development and independence while recognizing the uniqueness of each child. Our preschool curriculum is aligned with the *New Jersey Preschool Teaching and Learning Expectations: Standards of Quality* and consists of both three and four-year-old children in each classroom. Direct instruction, along with supplemental aids and services for students with learning disabilities, is provided by a full-time teacher and a paraprofessional in each class.

Students who are determined to be eligible for services through our Child Study Team are qualified to attend tuition free. Limited slots are available for general education students to enroll each year. Up to one-half of the class enrollment may consist of students with disabilities. **The program offers a morning session from 8:15 am - 11:15 am or an afternoon session from Noon-3:00 pm, five days per week and follows the Mountainside School District calendar.** Transportation to and from the program is the parent/guardian's responsibility.

- To be eligible for any available general education slots your child must meet the following requirements and be:
 - 3 or 4 years old on or before October 1, 2025
 - fully toilet trained prior to school beginning in September
 - a resident of Mountainside
- Tuition for the 25-26 school year is set at \$5,450.00 for the year with payments of \$545.00 per month for 10 months. Upon acceptance into the program, a nonrefundable deposit of \$200.00 will be required to be submitted to the Mountainside Board of Education. The deposit will be applied towards the June tuition. Monthly tuition payments will be billed directly from the Board of Education office.

Children currently enrolled in our program, who will not turn five (5) prior to October 1, 2025 are eligible to remain in our program for next year. A confirmation form will be sent to you and must be completed and returned no later than Friday, January 31st, along with your non-refundable deposit of \$200.00 to secure your child's placement. Checks should be made payable to: Mountainside Board of Education.

Remaining open slots will be filled on a first come/first serve basis using the following procedure:

- **Step One:** Beginning at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, January 27, 2025 parents/guardians must visit our website at www.mountainsideschools.org to express interest in securing a spot. The online form requires: child's name, date of birth, address, email, & phone number. **NOTE: The link to the form will not be accepting responses until registration opens at 7:00 a.m.**
- **Step Two:** Parents will receive an email notification of acceptance along with a confirmation form, or an email stating your child has been placed on our waiting list. This waiting list is for the 2025-2026 school year only.
- **Step Three:** Accepted parents must complete the Preschool Online Registration and submit the required documentation along with a non-refundable deposit of \$200.00 made out to the Mountainside Board of Education no later than the date that is listed on the letter in order to secure placement for the 2025-2026 program.

Should you have any questions prior to registering, please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Jessica Vierschilling, Principal at 908-301-9104, ext. 201.

Preschool Curriculum Guidelines

The purpose of the P.E.A.K. Program is to provide a preschool education for all participating children. Lessons are designed around the following domains:

1. Approaches to Learning
2. Literacy
3. Math
4. Social and Emotional Development
5. Creativity
6. Language Development & Communication
7. Physical Health & Development



Lessons are developed around particular themes (*ex. all about me and school, winter animals and hibernation, community helpers, etc.*) Each week classrooms have weekly focuses including letters, numbers, shapes, and colors.

Day at a Glance

Click [HERE](#) for a detailed look at a "Day in the Life" of a PEAK student!

School days are organized to include both large and small group activities, which provide a wide range of active learning experiences. Small and large group instruction follow weekly focuses and designated themes. A variety of language, mathematics and cognitive skills are emphasized throughout the day, as well as social skills and building confidence.

Each day begins with circle-time (large group) to discuss shared experiences and study-related topics, sing songs, build community, rehearse number & letter skills, and observe weather patterns.

Throughout the day, students participate in several academic centers (small group) including reading, writing and mathematics. The teacher and instructional aides work closely with children to support and extend skills and knowledge.

Students also participate in play centers each day. During this time, children have the opportunity to choose between multiple play centers. Some of these include: dramatic play, blocks, manipulatives, art, iPad, sensory table, drawing/writing, and the classroom library. Center-time provides students with engaging hands-on experiences while learning through play.

Children are required to bring a healthy snack.

We look forward to your child's educational journey to begin here in the Mountainside School District.

