GMSD

PRESCHOOL



Peer Models in Early Childhood Preschool Programs

Please read the following information carefully.

Applications must be submitted electronically by January 20, 2026. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Program Details

Germantown Municipal Schools currently has 8 early childhood preschool programs located in the four elementary schools who serve students identified with disabilities, ages 3-5. The GMSD Early Childhood Preschool Program is an excellent learning environment that offers preschoolers, with and without disabilities, a challenging instructional experience to provide maximum growth in all developmental areas.

The Peer Model Program provides an opportunity for typically developing children to be integrated into our Early Childhood classrooms to serve as role models for our children with disabilities. Peer models provide positive peer interactions, demonstrate play skills, and model appropriate language and behavior for children with disabilities while in the classroom setting. If at any point during the year, your child does not demonstrate these behaviors, you will be asked to leave the program. If false information is provided on application, this will also result in dismissal from the program.

All GMSD preschool classrooms currently have seven to ten peer models selected to serve as role models for students with disabilities. Each of the 8 programs offers intentional learning activities in small and large groups that are facilitated by a preschool teacher and educational assistants. Our goal is to provide our students with a strong foundation of core skills to be successful in kindergarten and beyond.

Number of classrooms, classroom design, and peers needed are fluid based on annual district and student needs.

TO APPLY TO BE A POSITIVE PEER MODEL THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA MUST BE MET:

Developmental Skills

Positive Peer Models:

- Must speak clearly and be easily understood by others in order to model appropriate speech and language
- Demonstrate appropriate:
    - interactions with peers and adults
    - play skills
    - language skills
    - behavior
    - self-help skills
- Must be fully potty trained, may not wear diapers or pull-ups while at school. and be semi-independent in self-care skills related to restroom use

Age Requirements

Child of GMSD Employee

- Must be at least 3 years of age, but not yet 5 by August 15, 2026
    - Children who are 5 years old by August 15, 2026 are eligible for kindergarten enrollment and therefore ineligible for preschool consideration. Screening appointments will not be held for these students, regardless of application.

OR

Germantown Residents

- Must be 4 years of age, but not yet 5 by August 15, 2026
    - Children who are 5 years old by August 15, 2026 are eligible for kindergarten enrollment and therefore ineligible for preschool consideration. Screening appointments will not be held for these students, regardless of application.
- Applications may be submitted for students who will be 3 years of age by August 15, 2026, but a screening appointment is NOT GUARANTEED. These appointments will only be made if a sufficient number of 4 year old applicants are not available.

Financial Responsibility

- **IF ACCEPTED as a positive peer model, parents are responsible for a mandatory fee. Tuition for the 2025-2026 school year was $1,100 total. This amount is subject to change, but will be finalized prior to the due date of the first payment.**

Screening Process

The screening process includes one session within a preschool classroom at the school in which you are zoned to attend. Your child will engage in classroom activities focused on play-based activities that allow teachers and staff to observe their interactions with same-age peers. Observations will be documented and a rubric will be scored during this session to look at the following areas: readiness, problem solving, language, communication, social skills, and motor. Results will be totaled and the children who score the highest will be offered a spot as a positive peer model.

Positive peer model spots are limited in number. Please remember that not all students who participate in the screening process will be offered a spot as a positive peer model.

Estimated Timeline of Application/Screening Process

- Application Window
  - January 6, 2026 through January 20, 2026
- Email will be sent to parent regarding screening appointment
  - by January 23, 2026
- Screening Appointments
  - will be held at zoned school between January 26, 2026 and February 13, 2026
- Notification
  - Parents will receive an email no later than March 1, 2026 regarding their child's screening results.

Applications must be submitted by January 20, 2026. Late applications will not be accepted.

GMSD

PRESCHOOL

Play Grow Learn

Peer Model Applications

DOGWOOD

FARMINGTON

FOREST HILL

RIVERDALE