Welcome to the UPK Family Night

Bienvenidos al UPK Noche para Familias

October 21, 2026 // 21 de octubre de 2026

Agenda // Agenda

- Program Overview
- Program Expectations
- Academics

Special Feature: Waffle & Friends: A Puppet Palooza

- Descripción del Programa
- Expectativas del Programa
- Académicos

Invitados Especiales: Waffle y sus Amigos: ¡Un Festival de Títeres!

Agenda // Agenda

- Camille Adoma - Assistant Superintendent / UPK Coordinator //Superintendente Asistente de Currículo e Instrucción/Coordinador UPK
- Jill Kelly - Title I / Home School Assistant // Título I / Asistente de Escuela en el Hogar

- Instructional Leaders
  - Liz Boller
  - Chris Galloway
  - Tiffany Hall
  - Elisha Hodge
- Tina Cassidy - Social Worker // Trabajadora Social
- Laura Guattery, LPN

UPK Program // Programa UPK

- 11 schools (including Maple Hill Annex at Truman School)
- 295 children enrolled
- Full day and half day programs

- 11 escuelas (incluyendo La Escuela Truman Moon Anexo de Maple Hill)
- 295 estudiantes inscritos
- Programas de día completo y medio día

Middletown City School District's Role in UPK // Distrito Escolar de la Ciudad de Middletown y su función en el Programa de UPK

DO

- Oversee the curriculum and provide necessary resources.
- Train teachers in the UPK classroom
- Ensure students meet the required health requirements by New York State Department of Education
- Host monthly faculty meetings
- Evaluate teachers
- Conduct school visits
- Offer workshops for families

REALIZAMOS

- Supervisar el plan de estudios y proporcionar los recursos necesarios.
- Preparar maestros en clases de UPK
- Garantizar que los estudiantes cumplan con los requisitos de salud requeridos por el Departamento de Educación del Estado de Nueva York.
- Organizar reuniones mensuales de profesores
- Evaluar profesores
- Realizar visitas a las escuelas
- Ofrecer talleres para familias.

Middletown City School District's Role in UPK // Distrito Escolar de la Ciudad de Middletown y su función en el Programa de UPK

DOES NOT

- Manage day-to-day classroom activities (to include setting individual classroom rules or procedures)
- Serve as primary point of contact for student-specific concerns
- Handle individual student discipline or behavior issues

NO

- Administrar las actividades diarias del aula (para incluir el establecimiento de reglas o procedimientos individuales en el aula)
- Servir como punto de contacto central para inquietudes específicas de los estudiantes.
- Manejar problemas individuales de disciplina o conducta de los estudiantes.

Program Expectations

Expectativas del Programa

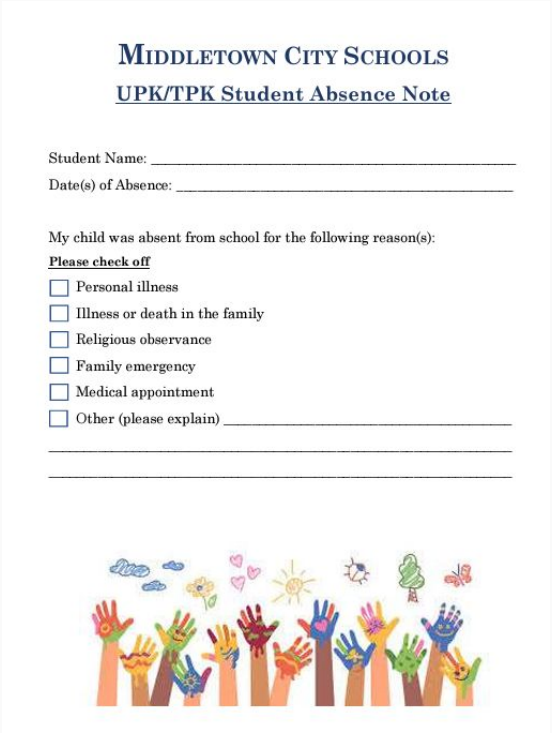
Attendance // Asistencia

- Good attendance is required to remain in the Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) program.
- Families are responsible for ensuring their child attends every day the program is in session.

- Buena asistencia Se requiere para permanecer en el programa Universal Prekindergarten (UPK).
- Las familias son responsables de garantizar que su hijo asista todos los días que el programa esté en sesión.

Attendance

- **Excused absences include:**
  - Personal illness
  - Family illness or death
  - Impassable roads due to weather
  - Religious observance
  - Quarantine or family emergency
  - School-approved activities (e.g., field trips, sports events)
- **Unexcused absences include:**
  - Family vacations
  - Weather conditions with passable roads
- **Families must submit an absent note for any absences.**



MIDDLETOWN CITY SCHOOLS

UPK/TPK Student Absence Note

Student Name: _____

Date(s) of Absence: _____

My child was absent from school for the following reason(s):

Please check off

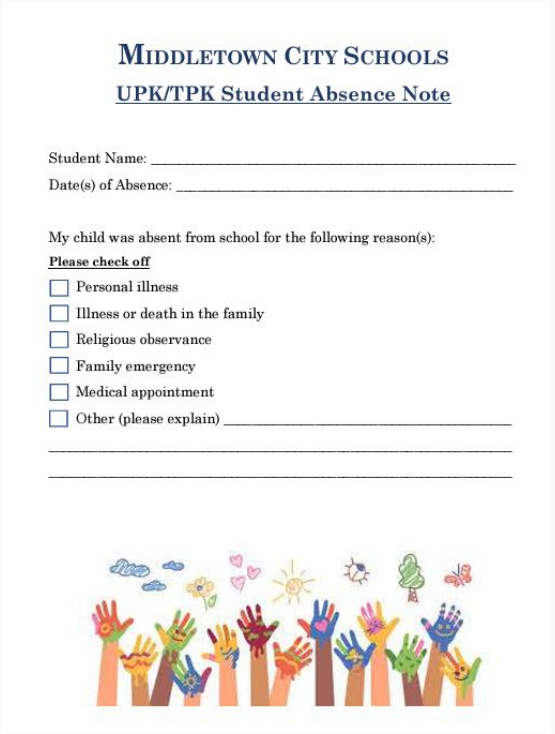
- ☐ Personal illness
- ☐ Illness or death in the family
- ☐ Religious observance
- ☐ Family emergency
- ☐ Medical appointment
- ☐ Other (please explain) _____

_____

_____

Asistencia

- **Ausencias justificadas son:**
  - Enfermedad personal
  - Enfermedad familiar o defunción
  - Carreteras intransitables por las condiciones del tiempo
  - Observancia religiosa
  - Cuarentena de salud o emergencia familiar
  - Actividades aprobadas por la escuela (por ejemplo, excursiones, eventos deportivos)
- **Ausencias injustificadas son:**
  - Vacaciones familiares
  - Condiciones climáticas con caminos transitables.
- **Las familias deben presentar una nota de ausencia por cualquier ausencia.**



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- ☐ Medical appointment
- ☐ Other (please explain) _____

_____

_____

UPK/TPK Social Worker // Trabajadora Social
Tina Cassidy, LMSW (Miss Tina // Sra. Tina)

- Visits all the sites regularly
- Pushes into the classroom weekly to implement the Second Step Program, a social/emotional learning program *(Home links will be sent home weekly to go along with that week's lesson)*
- Supports teachers and directors in any social/emotional/behavioral needs

- Visita todos los sitios regularmente.
- Ingresa al salón de clases semanalmente para implementar el Programa Segundo Paso, un programa de aprendizaje social/emocional. (Los enlaces de inicio se enviarán a casa semanalmente para acompañar la lección de esa semana)
- Apoya a los maestros y directores en cualquier necesidad

Positive Behavior Guidelines

The program aims to create a positive, supportive environment where every student feels safe and ready to learn.

Key guidelines for students:

- **Keep hands, feet, and body safe:** Respect personal space to ensure safety.
- **Be ready to learn:** Arrive prepared and eager to learn each day.
- **Listen and follow directions:** Follow instructions the first time, showing respect.
- **Use kind words:** Speak kindly and encourage one another.

Pautas de Conducta Positiva

El programa tiene como objetivo crear una ambiente positivo y de apoyo donde cada estudiante se sienta seguro y listo para aprender.

Pautas clave para los estudiantes:

- **Mantenga las manos, los pies y el cuerpo seguros:** Respetar el espacio personal para garantizar la seguridad.
- **Prepárate para aprender:** Llegue preparado y entusiasmado para aprender cada día.
- **Escuchar y seguir instrucciones:** Seguir instrucciones la primera vez, mostrando respeto.
- **Usa palabras amables:** Hablen amablemente y anímense unos a otros.

Positive Behavior Guidelines

Interventions to support positive behavior:

- Gentle reminders from teachers.
- Taking a short break to reflect on behavior.
- Quick chats with teachers to reinforce guidelines.
- Collaboration with families to reinforce positive behaviors at home.

Serious inappropriate behavior that impacts the safety and well-being of others may result in removal from the UPK program.

Pautas de Conducta Positivas

Intervenciones para apoyar el comportamiento positivo:

- Amables recordatorios de parte de los profesores.
- Tomarse un breve descanso para reflexionar sobre el comportamiento.
- Charlas rápidas con los maestros para reforzar las pautas.
- Colaboración con las familias para reforzar conductas positivas en casa.

Grande comportamiento inapropiado que afecte la seguridad y el bienestar de otros puede resultar en su eliminación del programa UPK.

Academics
Académicos

Curriculum & Assessment

- All UPK classrooms follow a district-provided curriculum aligned with New York State Department of Education Standards for prekindergarten, ensuring consistent, high-quality instruction across schools.
- We use the Brigance Early Childhood Screens III and the Inventory of Early Development III to evaluate areas like language, literacy, motor skills, math, and cognitive abilities, helping identify special needs, talents, or language skills three (3) times a year.

Plan de Estudios & Evaluaciones

- Todas las aulas de UPK siguen un plan de estudios proporcionado por el distrito alineado con los estándares del Departamento de Educación del Estado de Nueva York para preescolar, asegurando una instrucción consistente y de alta calidad en todas las escuelas.
- Usamos Brigance Early Childhood Screens III y el Inventory of Early Development III para evaluar áreas como lenguaje, alfabetización, habilidades motoras, matemáticas y habilidades cognitivas, ayudando a identificar necesidades especiales, talentos o habilidades lingüísticas tres (3) veces al año.

Curriculum & Assessment

- Report cards will be sent home three (3) times throughout the school year
- Progress will be reported in the following areas:
  - Reading Development
  - Writing Development
  - Listening and Speaking
  - Math Development
- Your child will be evaluated on a scale of 1 (Minimally Meet Standards) – 4 (Exceeds Standards) in state standards in each of the areas.

Plan de Estudios y Evaluaciones

- Las boletas de calificaciones se enviarán a casa tres(3) veces durante el año escolar alrededor de las siguientes fechas.
- El progreso es reportado en la siguientes áreas:
  - Desarrollo de la lectura
  - Desarrollo de la escritura
  - Comprensión y expresión oral
  - Desarrollo matemático
- Estudiantes serán evaluado en una escala de 1 (Cumple mínimamente con los estándares) - 4 (Excede los estándares) en los estándares estatales en cada uno de las áreas.

Family Workshops // Talleres Familiares

January or February 2027

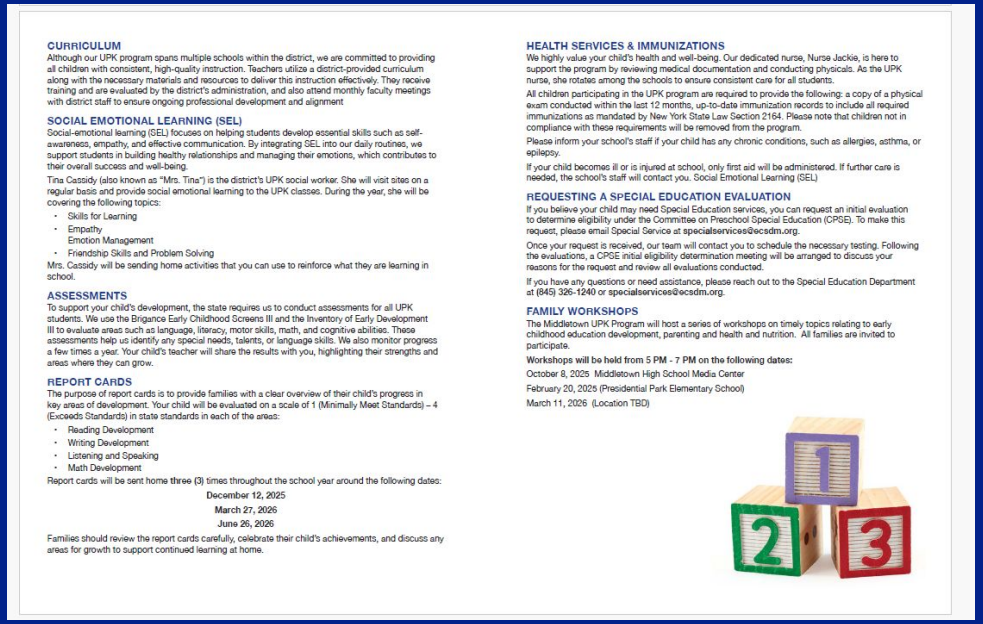
enero o febrero 2027

April 7, 2027

7 de abril de 2027

Family Handbook // Manual para Familias





CURRICULUM

Although our UPK program spans multiple schools within the district, we are committed to providing all children with consistent, high-quality instruction. Teachers utilize a district-provided curriculum along with the necessary materials and resources to deliver this instruction effectively. They receive training and are evaluated by the district's administration, and also attend monthly faculty meetings with district staff to ensure ongoing professional development and alignment

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING (SEL)

Social-emotional learning (SEL) focuses on helping students develop essential skills such as self-awareness, empathy, and effective communication. By integrating SEL into our daily routines, we support students in building healthy relationships and managing their emotions, which contributes to their overall success and well-being.

Tina Cassidy (also known as "Mrs. Tina") is the district's UPK social worker. She will visit sites on a regular basis and provide social emotional learning to the UPK classes. During the year, she will be covering the following topics:

- Skills for Learning
- Empathy
  Emotion Management
- Friendship Skills and Problem Solving

Mrs. Cassidy will be sending home activities that you can use to reinforce what they are learning in school.

ASSESSMENTS

To support your child's development, the state requires us to conduct assessments for all UPK students. We use the Brigance Early Childhood Screens III and the Inventory of Early Development III to evaluate areas such as language, literacy, motor skills, math, and cognitive abilities. These assessments help us identify any special needs, talents, or language skills. We also monitor progress a few times a year. Your child's teacher will share the results with you, highlighting their strengths and areas where they can grow.

REPORT CARDS

The purpose of report cards is to provide families with a clear overview of their child's progress in key areas of development. Your child will be evaluated on a scale of 1 (Minimally Meet Standards) – 4 (Exceeds Standards) in state standards in each of the areas:

- Reading Development
- Writing Development
- Listening and Speaking
- Math Development

Report cards will be sent home **three (3)** times throughout the school year around the following dates:

December 12, 2025
March 27, 2026
June 26, 2026

Families should review the report cards carefully, celebrate their child's achievements, and discuss any areas for growth to support continued learning at home.

HEALTH SERVICES & IMMUNIZATIONS

We highly value your child's health and well-being. Our dedicated nurse, Nurse Jackie, is here to support the program by reviewing medical documentation and conducting physicals. As the UPK nurse, she rotates among the schools to ensure consistent care for all students.

All children participating in the UPK program are required to provide the following: a copy of a physical exam conducted within the last 12 months, up-to-date immunization records to include all required immunizations as mandated by New York State Law Section 2164. Please note that children not in compliance with these requirements will be removed from the program.

Please inform your school's staff if your child has any chronic conditions, such as allergies, asthma, or epilepsy.

If your child becomes ill or is injured at school, only first aid will be administered. If further care is needed, the school's staff will contact you. Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

REQUESTING A SPECIAL EDUCATION EVALUATION

If you believe your child may need Special Education services, you can request an initial evaluation to determine eligibility under the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE). To make this request, please email Special Service at **specialservices@ecsdm.org**.

Once your request is received, our team will contact you to schedule the necessary testing. Following the evaluations, a CPSE initial eligibility determination meeting will be arranged to discuss your reasons for the request and review all evaluations conducted.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to the Special Education Department at **(845) 326-1240** or **specialservices@ecsdm.org**.

FAMILY WORKSHOPS

The Middletown UPK Program will host a series of workshops on timely topics relating to early childhood education development, parenting and health and nutrition. All families are invited to participate.

Workshops will be held from 5 PM - 7 PM on the following dates:

October 8, 2025 Middletown High School Media Center

February 20, 2025 (Presidential Park Elementary School)

March 11, 2026 (Location TBD)

Questions? // ¿Preguntas?

upk@ecsdm.org
(845) 326-1162


SPORTS
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