The ABCs of Universal Pre-K (UPK)

Island Park UFSD
Dr. Rosmarie Bovino, Superintendent
Welcome!

• Introductions
  – Board of Education
  – Dr Rosmarie Bovino, Superintendent
  – Dr Laurie Scimeca, Dir of PPS
  – Mr Jacob Russum, Principal
  – Ms Katelyn Bonito, Pre-K Teacher
  – Ms Paige Collman, Pre-K Teacher
  – Ms Jeanie Nappie, Pre-K Teacher
  – Mrs Joan McCreight, School Nurse
  – Ms Felicita Caranzza, Social Worker
How do I register my child?

- **Complete Intake Application; it is also on district website** ([www.ips.k12.ny.us](http://www.ips.k12.ny.us))

- **Students must be registered at FXH Elementary School during the Registration dates; afterwards, students are placed on a Wait List.**
  - Call 434-2670 or 434-2671 for a registration appointment
  - Make an appointment to give your Intake Application to Mr Russum/Ms Pastore/Ms Quigley
Universal Pre-K Quick Facts

- This is a State funded program.
- It is a campaign for Educational Equity.
- The program runs if we receive the UPK grant; it does not run if we do not have the grant.
- There are no fees charged to families.
- Students must be 4 years of age by December 1, 2015, a legal resident of Island Park, and toilet trained.
- The program is five days/week, full-day (5hrs 20 mins+), 183 days and follows the District calendar.
- Once registered, students must attend daily.
- Each classroom has 20 students, a certified teacher and 2 paraprofessionals/teaching assistants.
Universal Pre-K Quick Facts

• Transportation is currently provided but this depends on State funding.
• If transportation is provided, students are expected to ride the bus no later than the beginning of the second week of school.
• All children use booster seats; an attendant is provided on the bus.
• Breakfast, lunch, and snacks are provided. Children do not bring their own food.
Meal Time is Instructional Time
Jan 20, 2016 Memo NYSED Office of Early Learning Guidelines

• Teachers and paraprofessionals participate in mealtime by:
  – being seated among the children at the meal table
  – participating, facilitating and guiding in meaningful extended conversations
  – modeling appropriate mealtime behavior with supportive guidance
  – facilitating problem solving and turn taking

• The mealtime setting allows for:
  – reciprocal conversations between adult/child as well as child/child in guided topics that are of interest to and relevant to children;
  – comfortable and relaxing conversations that facilitate literacy development by encouraging new vocabulary; and
  – accommodations for learning opportunities for students who finish mealtime before their peers (e.g., engaging in conversations; developing rapport, suggesting additional activities, etc).
Meal Time is Instructional Time

Jan 20, 2016 Memo NYSED Office of Early Learning Guidelines

  - **Approaches to Learning** (e.g., gaining independence, problem solving, asking questions, making connections to prior knowledge);
  - Physical Development and Health (e.g., handwashing; healthy eating habits; setting a table, pouring liquids);
  - **Social and Emotional Development** (e.g., mealtime manners: please, thank you, you’re welcome, excuse me; utensil usage; sitting at a table to eat; chewing with mouth closed; enjoying mealtime routines);
  - **Communication, Language, and Literacy** (e.g., engage in small talk; listen while others are talking; name and discuss foods; discuss likes and dislikes); and
  - **Cognition and Knowledge of the World** (e.g., discussions about customs, foods and family traditions; distinguishing left from right; applying one-to one correspondence; using positions words; shapes, size and texture).
Universal Pre-K Quick Facts

• There is a Pre-K webpage on the district website (www.ips.k12.ny.us). See “Pre-K” under Quick Links.
• There is a monthly calendar of weekly themes.
• There is a monthly newsletter.
• Parent involvement is encouraged!
  – Back to School Night
  – Parent-Teacher Conferences
  – Surprise Readers
  – PTA Class Parent/Guardian
  – Special Occasion Events
  – Pretzel Day
  – Art Classes
  – Parent Survey
Pre-K Philosophy
Nat’l Assoc for the Ed of Young Children
www.naeyc.org

• Create high expectations for every child to reach his or her full potential
• Ensure inclusion of all children
• Establish and provide a system of services and support
• Encourage collaboration and consensus building among all involved: parents, teachers, administrators, community organizations and agencies, etc
• Ensure a framework for effective teacher evaluation
Pre-K Philosophy: Reggio Emilia Inspired

www.education.com/magazine/article/Reggio_Emilia/

- Develop creativity as the premise for making the most of what is learnable but not teachable.
- See the child as an active participant in his/her learning.
- Use the environment as the third educator.
- Monitor children's thoughts and ideas and monitor their growth as they play together and work with materials.
- Develop individual portfolios, with child’s projects, quotes, artwork, drawings/writings.
- Involve parents. Start with meeting and tour tonight!!
Qualifications of Teachers

• NYSED Certification Birth-Grade 2
• NYSED Certification Sp Ed Birth-Grade 2
• Pre-Kindergarten Teaching Experience

Qualifications of Teacher-Aides

• 2 years of College Education with Major in Education, Psychology, or Social Work
• Pre-Kindergarten Work Experience
• NYS Teaching Assistant Level I Certification
How are teachers evaluated?

• **NYS Core Body of Knowledge**
  – **7 Core Competency Areas**
    • Child Growth and Development
    • Family and Community Relationships
    • Observation and Assessment
    • Environment and Curriculum
    • Health, Safety, and Nutrition
    • Professionalism and Leadership
    • Administration and Management

• **Robert J Marzano Framework**
  – **2 Formal Observations**
  – **1 Informal Observation**
Multi-Prong Approach

- **Variety of Learning Strategies**: Visual, Auditory, Kinesthetic
- **Variety of Learning Centers**: Art, Music, Circle Area, Sand/Water, Kitchen, iPads, SmartTable, Library, etc
- **Variety of Experiences**: Teresa Academy of Performing Arts, BOCES Cultural Arts (PTA), field trip
- **Variety of Experts**:
  - Direct Receptive/Expressive Language Instruction with Speech Pathologist, ESL Teacher, OT, PT, etc
  - Positive Social Behavior Instruction with Behavior Therapist
  - Social Worker’s assistance with communication, illness, death, etc
Multi-Prong Approach

• Assessments (required by the Grant)
  – Hearing
  – Eyesight
  – Speech
  – English Language
  – Gross and Fine Motor Coordination
  – Readiness for Learning
What curriculum is followed?

The UPK Grant requires we follow the:


• **NYS Early Learning Guidelines**, a resource about child development
What instructional materials are used?

- **Pre-K Reading:** *Fundations* (Wilson Reading System)

- Language and Literacy (Handwriting without Tears)

- **Pre-K Mathematics:** Engage NY
  [https://www.engageny.org/content/prekindergarten-mathematics](https://www.engageny.org/content/prekindergarten-mathematics)

- **Manipulatives:** blocks, puzzles, sand, water, shapes, counters, scissors, etc

- **IT:** iPads with Headphones in a Listening Center, SmartBoard, SmartTable, Listening Center Headphones, etc
How are gross motor activities integrated?

- Indoor Movement Area
- Block Building
- Gym (when available)
- Outdoor Play
  - Playground
  - Parachute
  - Group Games (sports, scavenger hunt, rolling/catching, etc)
  - Obstacle Courses
  - Sports Games
How are fine motor activities integrated?

- Finger and hand activities, e.g., finger puppets, hand and clapping games, etc
- Serving food with utensils
- Pouring activities
- Painting activities
- Modeling dough activities
- Sand and water activities
- Writing activities
- Others
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:50 am</td>
<td>Arrival&lt;br&gt;Wash Hands (upon entering)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:50 – 9:30 am</td>
<td>Breakfast&lt;br&gt;Breakfast, Attendance, Free Time at Tables: Choice of Books, Puzzles, Manipulatives, etc.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30-9:50 am</td>
<td>Circle Time/ FLES&lt;br&gt;Greeting, Morning Message, Calendar/Weather, Introduce/Review Theme, Word Work, Shared Reading</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:50-10:35 am</td>
<td>English Language Arts&lt;br&gt;Reading Readiness and Handwriting Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:35-11:00 am</td>
<td>Center Time&lt;br&gt;Theme and Socialization-related Activities&lt;br&gt;(e.g., Blocks, Dramatic Play, Technology (iPad Apps, Smart Table &amp; Listening Station), Fine Motor Manipulatives (Math, Science, Music, Art, Sand/Water, Writing)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-11:45 am</td>
<td>Mathematical Practices&lt;br&gt;Numbers, counting and cardinality, introduction to operations and algebraic thinking, measurement and data collection, geometric shapes</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:45-12:15 pm</td>
<td>Wash Hands, Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-12:45 pm</td>
<td>Bathroom, Recess (Outside Play/Inside Play), Wash Hands</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:45-1:00 pm</td>
<td>Quiet Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 - 1:45 pm</td>
<td>Reggio Emilia-Inspired Creativity and Imagination Projects / Snack Time&lt;br&gt;Theme-related Problem Solving Activities in Social Studies and Science through the Arts in Small/Large group(s) (Q1, Q2, Q4)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:45-2:00 pm</td>
<td>Music &amp; Movement/ Physical Movement (Days 2 &amp; 4)&lt;br&gt;Songs, Puppets, Finger Plays, Nursery Rhymes and Physical Movement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00-2:10 pm</td>
<td>Prepare for Dismissal&lt;br&gt;Pack up, Line up</td>
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Is there an after-school program?

• The Friedberg JCC in Oceanside offers an organized after-school program running until 6PM each day. At dismissal, UPK children can take the school bus to this program located at the F.X. Hegarty Elementary School.

• Parents must sign an agreement for this fee-based after-care program.
UPK Parent Handbook

Island Park UFSD
Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) Program

Parent Handbook
2016-2017

Island Park, New York 11558
www.ips.k12.ny.us

(To switch the website from English to Spanish or to any other language, go to the pull down menu in the lower right corner and "Select Language."

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Future District Communication

• Letters and Forms:
  – Health Information Form
  – Transportation Information
  – Emergency Contact Information
  – Connect Ed Sign-up Form
    • Telephone, Email, Text Notifications
  – Email Blast Form
  – After-Care JCC Program Form
Summer Recreation Program

- Mr. Keith Manginelli, Director
- 9 AM–1:30 PM, 5 days, 5 wks,
- Readiness learning, social interaction, routines through play, song, games, sprinklers, etc
- Cost $399; reduction with siblings
- Credit card payments available
Future District Communication

Next Parent Meetings

• September: Back to School Night (LOMS)

• November: Parent/Teacher Conferences
Questions & Answers