

WELCOME

TO PRE-K COUNTS



Introduction

Welcome family and friends!

Mrs. Jo anne Hoover: State Street Elementary Principal
Sophia Krahe: Lead Teacher
Marquie Hudack: Para Professional

Today's Agenda:

- Welcome
- Safety Procedures
- PowerPoint/ Slideshow (What to expect in Pre-K)

all about PRE-K COUNTS

- Pennsylvania Pre K Counts is a state funded grant program designed to provide free, quality early childhood education to students.
- Attendance is mandatory. We report attendance to the state and if your child misses more than 10 days they are at risk for being removed from the program.
- We follow the school calendar for days off.
- We are not allowed to take half days. Most days that are half days for the rest of the district will be full days for us. The exception to this rule is usually is the day before Winter Break and the last day of school.
- Every student will be offered free breakfast, lunch, and snack daily. A lunch calendar will be sent home monthly and every child is offered the main choice. If your child does not prefer the main choice you may pack them a lunch.

YOUR TEACHER



- I was born and raised in Pittsburgh.
- I have a Bachelor's degree from Duquesne University.
- I am pursuing my Master's degree from Point Park University.
- My teaching degree is in Early Childhood Education Pre-K - 4th.
- I enjoy spending time with my family and traveling.
- I have 5 siblings: 2 brothers and 3 sisters.
- My favorite color is blue.

SCHEDULE

Schedule subject to change this year!

- Our students get 2 free meals every day, breakfast and lunch.
- We have 2 hours of center time each day, 1 hour in the AM and 1 hour in the PM. Learning Centers include: Library, Dramatic Play, Sensory Table, Computer, Writing, Math, Science, Music and Movement, Art and Blocks.
- Our students get 45 minutes of gross motor play a day outside or inside depending on the weather. **We stay inside if there is precipitation or the temperature is below 50 degrees with wind chill factored in.** Please take this into consideration when dressing your child.
- We have several large group circle times throughout the day including reading, math and story time.
- Our day ends at 2:30.

Sample Schedule-Subject to Change!

8:30-9:00	Students arrive at school and unpack. Breakfast is served in our room.
9:00-9:30	Morning Circle. During this time we work on our letter for the week, and any other reading concepts. We also dance a little bit!
9:30-10:30	Free Play Time. The students get to learn through play in the centers throughout the classroom. Individual and small group learning will also take place at this time.
10:30-10:40	Clean up
10:40-11:00	Math Circle. We will work on math concepts.
11:00-11:30	Gross Motor Time. We will go outside (weather permitting). If the weather is bad we will play in the gym later in the day.
11:30-11:35	Prepare for Lunch
11:35-12:05	Lunch in the cafeteria. Students receive a free lunch but are welcome to pack if they desire.
12:05-12:15	Story Time
12:15-12:45	Quiet Time. Students are encourage to take a break and refresh.
12:45-2:00	Free Play at centers/Clean up time
2:00-2:20	Handwashing/Snack
2:20-2:30	Pack up and time to go home!

COMMUNICATION

- A newsletter called the "Pre K Post" will go home to inform parents about what is happening in the classroom. (What we are learning, birthdays, important dates)
- We send home a lot of information in your child's "Take Home Folder". We ask that you check your child's folder each night, removing any papers that should stay at home. This folder is also used to send forms or notes back to school for the teacher. **This will be extremely important this year with the rapidly changing COVID information!**
- We will also communicate with parents through phone calls, email, and the See Saw App.
Phone: (726) 266-2833 Ext. 4236
Email: skrahe@ambridge.k12.pa.us

COMMUNICATION

- Please send an email telling me about your child. It will alleviate anxiety if we are able to talk to your child about things that interest him/her.
- Please let me know if they are permitted to be featured on the school Facebook and Ambridge homepage.
- Please include a picture. We will print copies and post in the classroom. Pictures will be used in the classroom to help each student identify their individual items while they learn to recognize their name.

Email: skrahe@ambridge.k12.pa.us

CURRICULUM

This Year we will be using the Pearson-Open the World to Learning (OWL) curriculum. We supplement with teacher created activities. All lessons are designed to meet Pre-Kindergarten Pennsylvania Standards for Early Childhood. Examples of basic topics covered in Pre-K:

- Colors and shapes
- Writing (Letters/Numbers)
- Letter names/sounds
- Number recognition/ counting
- Rhyming words
- Syllables
- Weekly Themes
- Poems/finger plays

ASSESSMENTS

- We use GOLD assessment system to assess students.
- We create a summary report to send home to parents three times a year that outlines students' strengths and sets goals for students.
- We also keep portfolios on each student so we can monitor student progress throughout the year. I share these portfolios with parents during parent-teacher conferences.

BIRTHDAYS

Due to COVID restrictions we will be unable to have birthday treats from home this year. However, we will still be celebrating your child's birthday! The class will sing Happy Birthday to him/her and they will receive a birthday crown and a small gift from their teacher!

HOMework

Homework is optional. Activities will be sent home every Monday/Tuesday and can be turned in the following Monday/Tuesday to be checked if you would like. All materials sent home are concepts we are covering in class and will assist your child in better grasping the content.

FIELD TRIPS

Due to COVID guidelines we will not be taking field trips at this time. We will let you know if this changes!

Throughout the year the Pre-K class takes roughly 4-5 field trips. Taking 20 children to a public place is a task in itself, so I ask for parent/family volunteers to help assist in chaperoning. When asked to chaperone you typically are in charge of 3-4 kids and make sure everyone is safe and has a fun time. If you are interested in this you must obtain your Child Abuse Clearance, Criminal History Clearance, Finger Prints, and TB test no exceptions. I would suggest applying for them ASAP! There often is a wait time for the clearances.

Examples of field trips:

Pumpkin Patch

Disney on Ice

Sesame Street Live

Pittsburgh Zoo

Children's Museum

VOLUNTEERING

Due to COVID guidelines we will not be having any volunteers at this time. However, you might want to consider starting to get your clearances in case we are able to change this later in the year! School District Policy requires that parents who volunteer in the classroom or attend class field trips have an up to date Criminal History Clearance, Child Abuse Clearance, Fingerprints, and a valid TB test on file with the school.

SPOTLIGHT

Transportation

Students who are taking the bus will arrive at school around 8:30 AM every day and leave school at 2:30 PM every day.

If your child is going to be dropped off or picked up, please respect these times.

If your child will be a pick-up, please let me know. Unless I hear from you in a phone call, text or a note, I will be putting your child on the bus at 2:30!

Questions or concerns about transportation can
Transit:

- <http://www.rhodestransit.com/>
- 724- 266-4322

- Did you receive your bus times?



IMPORTANT info.

Garnet and Gray Days

- You will be receiving a schedule. On the days your child is not attending in person they will be receiving virtual instruction. As we get closer to the school year you will receive a detailed schedule of how and when to log in to virtual learning.
- Your child will be receiving a bag of school supplies for virtual learning. Please keep these items at home for school use only. These will mirror items we are using at school.

IMPORTANT INFO.

What should my child bring?

- Please make sure your child is wearing a mask!
- Please make sure your child has a book bag.
- We will provide your student with a "Take Home Folder". Students will bring this folder home in their book bag every day.
- A box of tissues and hand sanitizer for their personal use (will be kept in cubby).
- Labeled change of clothes in a sealed Ziploc bag (including underwear, shoes, and socks).
- Make sure the teacher has an accurate telephone number and address at all times!
- Donations are welcome: paper towels and baby wipes.

QUESTIONS?