

WELCOME

To Pre-K Counts Parent
Orientation Meeting



Introduction

Welcome family and friends!

Mrs. Jo Ann Hoover: State Street Elementary Principal

Sophia Krahe: Lead Teacher

Marquie Hudak: Para Professional

Today's Agenda:

- Welcome
- Bus Presentation
- Bus Ride
- 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.
- This is the 14th year Ambridge has offered the Pre-K Counts program.

Requirements:

- All families must meet the income verification guidelines to be able to qualify for the program.
- 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.
- The state requires that we have no more or less than 20 students in our classroom. We must have a certified teacher and teaching assistant in the room.
- 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 at Point Park University.
- My teaching degree is in Early Childhood Education Pre-K - 4th.
- This is my 3rd year teaching in the Ambridge Area School District.
- I enjoy spending time with my family and traveling.
- I have 5 siblings: 2 brothers and 3 sisters.
- My favorite color is blue.

SCHEDULE

- 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!

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.
- I record observations about each student into the database. Three times a year, I use these observations to complete a checklist that is submitted to the state about your child's development in the following areas:
 - Personal and Social Development
 - Language and Literacy
 - Mathematical Thinking
 - Scientific Thinking
 - Social Studies
 - The Arts
 - Physical Development and Health
- I create a summary report to send home to parents three times a year that outline students strengths and sets goals for students.
- I 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.
- Screenings: Life Steps (Week of Sept 13th)

COMMUNICATION

- A Pre-K newsletter will go home each week to inform parents about what is happening in the classroom. (What we are learning, important dates, etc.)
- Each month I will send home a Pre-K monthly calendar in addition to the State Street monthly calendar.
- We send home a lot of information in your child's red "Take Home Folder". We ask that you check your child's folder EVERY 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.
- I will also communicate with parents through phone calls and email.

Phone: (726) 266-2833 Ext. 4236

Email: skrahe@ambridge.k12.pa.us

Classroom Communication App: Class Tag



BIRTHDAYS

Information coming soon!

HOMework

Homework is optional. Activities will be sent home every Monday and can be turned in the following Monday 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

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, 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
- Living Treasures
- Children's Museum
- Science Center

VOLUNTEERING

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, a valid TB test record on file with the school.

These record **MUST** be up to date! Please make sure prior to volunteering.

Requirements may change!

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 be directed to Rhodes Transit:

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

- Did you receive your bus times?



IMPORTANT info.

What should my child bring?

- Please make sure your child has a book bag.
- We will provide your student with a red "Take Home Folder". Students will bring this folder home in their book bag every day and should return back to school the following day.
- 1 box of tissues, 1 hand sanitizer, 2 paper towels, babywipes
- Labeled change of clothes in a sealed Ziploc bag (including underwear, shoes, and socks).
- Water bottle with their name on it
- Make sure the teacher has an accurate telephone number and address at all times!

QUESTIONS?