



Orange Pre-School Blind Lottery

Limited Openings for 2018-19 Community Peer/Tuition Based Program

Mary L. Tracy School is known as a place where “the love of learning and the love of children are celebrated each and every day!” The Orange Elementary School System is now accepting names for the “**Blind Lottery**” for our **2018-2019 Pre-School Program**. Our Special Education integrated Pre-School Program has a “limited number” of openings for three year olds with a birth date of January 1st, 2015 thru December 31st, 2015, to participate as a general education community peer. By law, students with special needs identified with an IEP are placed in the Pre-School Program by the Department of Special Services thru the PPT process.

Our Pre-School Program enriches each child’s social, emotional, physical, cognitive, intellectual, and creative abilities through early academic and social experiences. It is designed to prepare the children for early success and school readiness. *Community peer children* are selected thru a “**Blind Lottery**”. This **Pre-School Program** is **fee-based, 5-days/week, 3-hrs/day**. The total cost of tuition for general education community peers will be **\$3,250**. If a family qualifies for the State’s Free and Reduced Lunch Program, they may be eligible for tuition assistance. **No transportation is provided for general education community peers.**

Our Pre-School Program will follow the district’s school year calendar: the **AM class is held from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.** and the **PM class is held from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Each classroom will be a **blending of both 3 yr. old and 4 yr. old students**. Class sizes are limited to a total of 12 students per class, including our special education students. In order to participate in this lottery **your child must be 3 yrs. old (birthdate of January 1st, 2015 thru December 31st, 2015)**. Children turning 3 yrs. old during the months of September thru December will start attending the pre-school program after their third birthday.

The blind lottery is conducted in two stages. **One:** All names of the 3 yr. olds are ‘*picked out of a hat*’ for the limited number of available spaces, with the first 12 names moving on to the 2nd round and the remaining names drawn will be put on a wait list. **Two:** the 2nd lottery will decide if your child will attend the **AM or PM** class in order to balance each classroom with an equal amount of new 3 yr. old children with the returning 4 yr. old children.

All children **must be toilet trained** and a bona-fide **Orange resident**. If you wish to have your child participate in the **Blind Lottery** please call the **Special Services Dept. (203-891-8023)** **between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.** to place your child on the list. We will be accepting names to enter the blind lottery **up until 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 31, 2018.**

Parents will be notified of the lottery results by February 9, 2018. **A non-refundable tuition deposit of \$325 is due by February 23rd to reserve the spot for your child. Registration paperwork will be due by March 30th, 2018.** The deposit is your first month’s tuition for September. Tuition payments are due on the first of the preceding month, **e.g. tuition for October will be due September 1st**. Any further questions call the Special Services Dept. (203-891-8023) at the Orange Board of Education.