



Orange Pre-School Blind Lottery

Limited Openings for the Community Peer Tuition Based Program

The Orange Elementary School System is now accepting names for the “**Blind Lottery**” for our **2019-20 Pre-School Program** located at Mary L. Tracy School. We have a “limited number” of openings available for 3-yr. and 4-yr. old children who will have the opportunity to participate as community peers in our integrated special education pre-school program. 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.

The Pre-School Program follows 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 consists of **both 3-yr. and 4-yr. old students**. Class sizes are limited to a total of 12 students per class, which includes our special education students. 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.

Community peer children are selected thru the “**Blind Lottery**”. The total cost of tuition for the community peers will be **\$3,250**. This **fee-based Pre-School Program is held 5-days a week, for 3 hours a day**. 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**.

In order to participate in the lottery **your child must be 3 years old but not older than 4 years old by December 31st, 2019**. All children **must be toilet trained** and a bona-fide **Orange resident**. If a child’s birthday falls between September thru December, they will be able to start on their third birthday.

The blind lottery is conducted in two stages. **One:** All names are ‘picked out of a hat’ by age group for the limited number of available spaces, with the remaining names drawn and placed on a waiting list. **Two:** the 2nd drawing will decide if your child attends the **AM or PM** class to balance each classroom with an equal amount of 3-yr. and 4-yr. old students.

If you want your child to 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 for the blind lottery up until 4:00 p.m., Thursday, January 31, 2019. Parents will be notified of their child’s lottery results by February 8, 2019 thru the mail.

Your tuition deposit of \$325 is due by March 8th to secure a space in the class for your child. Registration paperwork must be completed by April 5th, 2019. Your deposit is the 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.