

May 18, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this email finds you all safe, and making the best of our difficult situation. I am writing today to remind you of a few supports that we have in place for entrants to our UPK program.

I mentioned in an earlier communication that due to the precautions being taken to protect against transmission of COVID-19, we have had to postpone our screening of students entering our UPK in September. We are still committed to screening our incoming UPK students but we are necessarily on hold until we get further guidance from New York State on social distancing rules. In the past, through this screening assessment and the associated discussions we've been able to have with parents, we sometimes come to consensus that certain students would benefit from a more in depth evaluation of their development through a full multidisciplinary evaluation. We are able to give parents information about how to arrange such an evaluation at no cost to the family. Pre-schools are presently scheduling remote multidisciplinary evaluations that can be done without putting children or families at risk. Since we are not able to offer our screening at this time, I do want to offer that if any families have concerns about your four year old child's development, you can either call myself at (518) 753-4458 ext 3501 or you can call the school district's Special Education office directly, at (518) 753-4458 ext 2509 to get information about how to schedule a multidisciplinary evaluation for your child. Students who qualify for integrated classroom services can be offered direct admission into the UPK program without need to be picked in our lottery

In addition, we offer Head Start services to students whose families qualify for their services, and I wanted to offer you a link to the CEO webpage where you can get more information about their services, and a link to their application.

<https://www.ceoempowers.org/services/early-childhood-education/head-start-and-early-headstart/>

The first eight students who qualify for Head Start are offered automatic entry into our UPK program without need to be picked in our lottery.

We will be drawing names for our UPK program from the list of registered students, in a random lottery on June 1, irrespective of any other plans we are able to make with regard to screening. We will be in contact with all parents following the lottery drawing to let you know your child's place in the lottery. Please feel free to call, or email with any questions, (518) 753-4458 ext 3501.