



**Blended Pre-K Program
Blended Preschool Program Handbook
2022-2023**

*Please read the following packet carefully.

CMCSS does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, gender, creed, color, or ethnicity.

CMCSS BLENDED PRESCHOOL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

CMCSS's Blended Preschool Program will be available in some of our elementary schools across the district. These classes are inclusive/blended education classes for children ages 3-5. Peer models will be placed at each site to serve as peer helpers and models to students with disabilities. The blended preschool classroom is a structured teaching environment where students with disabilities and peer models learn together in a classroom staffed with one dually endorsed, special education teacher and at least one educational assistant. The CMCSS Blended Preschool Program is a high-quality program offering preschoolers, with and without disabilities, challenging experiences through a language-rich curriculum. All CMCSS preschool classrooms follow the Big Day for Pre-k curriculum, a language rich curriculum that focuses on whole child development. More information about this curriculum can be found at <https://www.hmhco.com/products/big-day-pre-k/>. *The peer model application process is not intended for students identified as having an educational disability.*

What can my child gain from participating in the Blended Preschool Program?

In addition to participation in a high-quality, language rich classroom with an internationally recognized early childhood curriculum, there are many benefits to including typically developing peers and students with disabilities. Below are just a few of the benefits according to the Policy Statement on Inclusion of Children with Disabilities in Early Childhood Programs (9/2014):

- Typically developing children can show positive developmental, social and attitudinal outcomes from inclusive experiences
- They are capable of demonstrating greater compassion and empathy
- They have a more positive perception of children with disabilities
- They can develop a better understanding of diversity and disability
- There are more opportunities for individualized learning, supporting developmental growth
- There are benefits from working with developmental specialists who can identify and address student needs that may otherwise not be identified.

Hours: Class time begins at 9:35 and ends at 3:05 pm. Slight changes may be made to this schedule based on arrival and dismissal procedures at each site. Times for breakfast and lunch will be a part of your child's daily routine. Your child can bring food from home or purchase breakfast and/or lunch at school. **Parents are responsible for transportation to and from the program.** Your child must be picked up at the designated time. Before and after school care is not available for preschool students. Students may be dropped off and picked up at the classroom door in accordance with the start and end times listed above.



To be accepted as a peer model, the following criteria **must** be met:

Children must be at least 4 years of age, but not yet five by August 15 to be considered. Children who are 5 by August 15 are eligible for Kindergarten, therefore ineligible for the Blended Preschool Program. All potential model peers will participate in a screening to assure that he/she meets the following criteria:

- Child should be easily understood in order to model appropriate speech and language as a peer model.
- Child should be completely toilet trained to be considered as a model.
- Child should demonstrate consistently appropriate behavior and social interactions as a peer model. (Students can receive no more than 5 formally documented, behavioral write-ups within the school year order to remain in the program. Teacher will conference with the parent after the 3rd write-up to assure that this policy is clearly understood (Example of behavior notification is attached).
- Regular attendance is required. Inclusive pre-k programs must maintain a specific percentage of both typically developing students and students with a disability in order to be considered an inclusive, general education setting. Students are not allowed to miss more than 5 days in a 9-week period in order to remain in the program.
- Parents must have their child at the program on time and pick them up at the designated time. More than five late arrivals/dismissals in a 9 week period will result in dismissal from the program.
- School enrollment packet should be completed prior to start date, if accepted into the program.
- The Tennessee Health Record Form is required for all children documenting their immunization history.
- A copy of a certified birth certificate is required.



Cost: Parents will be responsible for paying for their child's breakfast and lunch each day, or the child can bring his/her own breakfast/lunch. Tuition is set at \$200.00 per month and will be automatically drafted from a designated bank account on the 5th business day of each month. Parents will be notified if their child is selected to participate in the program within 10 school days of completion of the screening/application. Students who do not get an initial slot will be placed on a waiting list.

If you are interested in allowing your child to participate in this program and have not already scheduled a screening, please contact Jean Anderson or Melinda Smith at Jean.Anderson@cmcsc.net, Melinda.smith2@cmcsc.net to reserve a screening date/time.



I have read the Blended Preschool Program Handbook and understand the requirements of a peer model enrolled in the program. I understand this application does not guarantee enrollment in the CMCSS Blended Preschool Program. Students will be per screener/program guidelines, giving first priority to children of CMCSS employees.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name

Child's Full Name

For office use only:

Date application received: Date application reviewed: Approved: Y N

Notes:

