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EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS FOR 2021-2022

Dear Early Childhood Parents,

I am writing to inform prospective and returning parents of some changes to our early childhood offerings for children who are aged three and four by September 1st of 2021. Muddy Brook will continue to offer programming to our youngest learners in 2021-2022, but due to programmatic changes elsewhere in the school, there are some important changes in the way we will serve students aged three and four.

The EK (Early Kindergarten) program is suspended for 2021-2022 school year. For about 12 years, Muddy Brook has offered a class for four-year old's who are almost kindergarten age but don't meet the September 1st, age five cut-off date. A school initiative related to COVID-19 and recovery from this pandemic year has required that EK staff and space be reallocated to create smaller sections for students in grades K-4. Smaller sections in grades K-4 are needed to prepare for possible continued COVID-19 distancing restrictions, accommodate increased enrollment and address the increased needs of students after a disrupted 2020-2021 school year.

The Integrated PreK program (ages three and four) will return to two classes in 2021-2022. The Muddy Brook Integrated PreK is a public, no fee, preschool program primarily intended to provide services to children with identified special needs. The program also enrolls *peer partners* who have not been identified with special needs or disabilities. The program runs from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, Monday through Friday. Transportation is provided to identified students but is not provided for peer partners. There is no after-school care offered as part of this program.

Muddy Brook is now accepting applications for peer partner students into the Integrated PreK for 2021-2022. Please note the following about applying for PreK admission:

- Students who will be four by September 1st who are currently enrolled in our PreK program, do not need to re-enroll and will automatically be placed in PreK.
- Contact Christine Kelly at christine.kelly@bhrsd.org or 413-644-2350 for the enrollment form.
- Openings for peer partners are limited. Applications received by Friday, May 7, 2021 will be included in the first-round lottery process for the 2021-2022 school year. The drawing of this lottery will take place on May 12, 2021.
- The PreK lottery assigns peer partner applicants a number representing the rank order by which they will be offered a spot in the program.
- After May 12, students will be offered spots in one of the two classes until the classes are full. Students may be placed on a waitlist if the classes fill.

We regret that the school's needs require a reduction in our early childhood programming for next year. We hope to finalize our early childhood class enrollments as soon as possible so that families may plan accordingly.

Yours,

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