

Nutley Public Schools

Preschool

Department of Early Childhood
Education



Parent Handbook

“Raising Raiders From The Core!”

2024/2025

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Welcome to Raising Raiders!

Dear PreK Parents and Families:

Welcome to our state-funded, free, full-day preschool program as part of the Nutley Public School District. We are looking forward to working with you and your children this year and helping them achieve their full potential. Our days and weeks will be filled with many wonderful experiences and opportunities to learn and grow. This parent and student handbook is designed to provide specific information related to the Nutley Preschool Raising Raiders Program. Throughout the school year, please use this handbook as a reference, as it will contain all of our program information to assist your family on the journey through the Nutley Raising Raiders Preschool. We are so excited to welcome you into our Raising Raiders family this school year. If you have additional questions, contact the staff at your child's school. They will be happy to assist you.

In the interest of positive communication, contact your child's teacher to discuss progress, classroom programs, and pertinent information. Please feel free to contact your building principal at any time with questions.

Philosophy & Curriculum

Raising Raiders PreK believes in promoting a whole-child approach to learning by providing children with strategies to help them develop social-emotional and cognitive skills needed to foster future academic success and become lifelong learners. We value fostering safe and nurturing learning environments for our children to engage in curiosity, critical thinking, hands-on cooperative learning, and social-emotional development. We recognize and celebrate diversity and inclusiveness of individuals, cultures, and perspectives of all of our learners.

Raising Raiders utilizes high-quality, state approved, Creative Curriculum. This is a content-rich and research-based developmentally appropriate program that promotes critical thinking skills for children of diverse backgrounds and skill levels. Inquiry, discovery, and hands-on exploration are the foundations of learning in this curriculum to enhance cognitive, academic learning, and social-emotional development for all learners.

Requirements

All students must be a resident of Nutley in order to be eligible and maintain enrollment in our program.

This program is available for 3 and 4 year olds. In order to be eligible, your child must be 3-years-old by October 1. If your child turns 5 before October 1, they are no longer eligible for our preschool program and would need to be enrolled in kindergarten.

Registration

The following is a checklist of the documents needed to register your child/children into the Nutley Public School system. All documents must be presented at the time of registration. Failure to produce any of the documents will result in making a new appointment. Please call the Registration Office at (973) 320-8494 for an appointment.

1. Registration packet must be completed in its entirety.
2. Proof of Residency • Renters must have a notarized Landlord Statement Form (form included in packet) and a current valid lease PLUS three supporting items from (2A) below. OR • Homeowners must have a mortgage statement or tax bill PLUS three supporting items from (2A) below. (2A) The three proofs of residency must include items from the following categories: cable bill, telephone bill, PSE&G bill, cell phone bill, insurance bill, water bill, bank statement, New Jersey Driver's license, or recent paycheck/stub.
3. Birth certificate for child/children with raised seal.
4. Up-to-date immunization record.
5. Custody/Adoption papers (if applicable).
6. Court orders or state agency agreements (if applicable). Transfers and Withdrawals Students who withdraw and transfer from Nutley Schools must complete the proper forms. Please call the Registration Office at (973) 320-8494 for an appointment.

Transfer Students must provide all the above and note the following:

1. Transfer students must be signed out of prior school at time of registration.
2. Transfer students must provide an unofficial transcript and report card. Students coming from a public school in NJ must obtain a transfer card with the State Identification number from prior school.
3. If your child has special needs and has an IEP or Section 504 Accommodation Plan, please indicate at time of registration.

Board of Education

Mr. Salvatore Ferraro, President
Mr. Joseph Battaglia, Vice President
Mr. Salvatore Balsamo
Dr. Thomas D'Elia
Ms. Lisa Danchak-Martin
Mr. Daniel Fragnals
Mr. Charles W. Kucinski
Mrs. Teri Quirk
Mr. Nicholas Scotti

District Administration

Mr. Kent Bania, Superintendent of Schools
Mrs. Janine Hess Loconsolo, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Instruction
Ms. Tracy Egan, Director of Student Support and Interventions
Mrs. Meredith Gerckens, Director of School Counseling
Ms. Amy Giacco, Supervisor of Special Services
Mrs. April Vitiello, Supervisor of Early Childhood

Contact Information

In the interest of positive communication, contact your child's teacher to discuss progress, classroom programs, and pertinent information about which you have questions. Please feel free to contact your building principal at any time with questions.

For more general information regarding the preschool program, please contact April Vitiello, Supervisor of Early Childhood Education.

Administration		
Name	Location	Contact
Doug Jones Principal	Washington School 155 Washington Ave.	djones@nutleyschools.org (973) 661-8888
Laurie Laguardia Principal	Spring Garden School 59 S Spring Garden Ave.	llaguardia@nutleyschools.org (973) 661- 8983
Joseph Materia Principal	John. H. Walker Middle School 325 Franklin Ave.	jmateria@nutleyschools.org (973) 661- 8871
David Johnston Vice Principal	John. H. Walker Middle School 325 Franklin Ave.	djohnston@nutleyschools.org (973) 661- 8871
April Vitiello Supervisor of Early Childhood Education	John. H. Walker Middle School 325 Franklin Ave.	avitiello@nutleyschools.org 973-320-8372 (x8372)
Joan Skorupski Director of Community School	Community School in Nutley 100 Vincent Place	joanskorupski@verizon.net (973) 661- 0789
Pavana Thatavarthi Director of Preschool Learn Time	Preschool Learn Time 174 Bloomfield Ave Unit 10	preschool.learntime@gmail.com (973) 922-0599
Administrative Assistants		
Name	Location	Contact
Laurie Brown Secretary	John. H. Walker Middle School	lbrown@nutleyschools.org (973) 661- 8871
Michelle Brinksma Secretary	Community School	csnutley@optonline.net (973) 661- 0789
Geralyn Dwyer Secretary	Washington School	gdweyer@nutleyschools.org (973) 661-8888

Cathy Felici Secretary	John. H. Walker Middle School	cfelici@nutleyschools.org (973) 661- 8871
Cheryl Galasso Secretary	Spring Garden School	cgalasso@nutleyschools.org (973) 661- 8983
Maria Tetto Preschool Secretary	John. H. Walker Middle School	mtetto@nutleyschools.org (973) 320- 8484
Nurses		
Name	Location	Contact
Dawn Gerbino	Washington School	dgerbino@nutleyschools.org (973) 661-8889
Cindy Mascolo	Spring Garden School	cmascolo@nutleyschools.org (973) 661- 8984
Nicole Pacchini Preschool Nurse	Nutley Preschool Annex at St. Pauls	npacchini@nutleyschools.org (973) 320- 8333
Elizabeth Stoffers	John. H. Walker Middle School	estoffers@nutleyschools.org (973) 320- 8873
Teachers		
Name	Location	Contact
Irene Aviles	John. H. Walker Middle School	iaviles@nutleyschools.org
Marelena Abbaleo	Spring Garden School	mabbaleo@nutleyschools.org
Eva Casazza	Nutley Preschool Annex at St. Pauls	ecasazza@nutleyschools.org
Erika Christian	John. H. Walker Middle School	echristian@nutleyschools.org
Joan Deluca	Community School	jdeluca@nutleyschools.org
Laura Frey	Nutley Preschool Annex at St. Pauls	lefrey@nutleyschools.org
Jessica Gracias	Nutley Preschool Annex at St. Pauls	jgracias@nutleyschools.org
Kathy Jerez	John. H. Walker Middle School	kwojtunikjerez@nutleyschools.org
Allyson LaReau	Washington School	alareau@nutleyschools.org
Shannon O'Grady	Nutley Preschool Annex at St.	sogrady@nutleyschools.org

	Pauls	
Meagan Saltzman	Spring Garden School	msaltzman@nutleyschools.org
Janine Sarno	John. H. Walker Middle School	jsarno@nutleyschools.org
Danielle Simpson	Nutley Preschool Annex at St. Pauls	dsimpson@nutleyschools.org
Heather Stetz	Spring Garden School	hstetz@nutleyschools.org
Michelle Tucker	John. H. Walker Middle School	mtucker@nutleyschools.org
Ahrhthy Venkateswaran	Preschool Learn Time	
Melinda Zambrano	Community School	
Early Childhood Support Staff		
Name	Location	Contact
Daniella DaCunha Preschool Instructional Coach (PIC)	District	ddacunha@nutleyschools.org (973) 320- 8345
Sarah Fredericks Preschool Intervention & Referral Specialist (PIRS)	District	sfredericks@nutleyschools.org (973)320-8377
Daniella Jernick Social Worker Community Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS)	District	djernick@nutleyschools.org (973) 320- 8353
Nancy Kennedy Family Worker	Community School	csnkennedy@optonline.net (973) 661-0789
Marlena Montgomery Child Study Team Case Manager	District	mmontgomery@nutleyschools.org (973) 661- 8370
Nicole Boglivi Child Study Team Case Manager	District	nboglivi@nutleyschools.org (973)661-8863

***Locations and hours are subject to change.**

****Extended day is currently only available at our provider locations. If you are a family at this location, please contact them directly for fee schedules and information regarding before and after care.**

Attendance

Absences and Tardies

The Raising Raiders program monitors excessive absences and tardiness. In the event your child will be absent from school, parents or guardians must call the phone number below to report student absences no later than 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence.

ATTENDANCE LINES:

Spring Garden School- (973) 320-8309

Washington School- (973) 320-8310

John H. Walker Middle School- (973) 320-8484

Community School- (973) 661-0789

Preschool Learn Time- Attendance can be communicated through PROCARE or text to the office at (973) 922-0599

Nutley Preschool Annex at St. Pauls- (973) 320- 8484

The Early Childhood Program recognizes the importance of the correlation between academic success and student attendance. Research shows that daily attendance in school is crucial in helping to ensure that our children live up to their full potential and become successful, lifelong learners. Children who are late or absent unnecessarily miss out on important activities and have their routines disrupted. Developing good attendance habits now sets a precedent for later school years. Please make sure to have your child in school on time every day. To ensure that students receive the maximum benefit from the program the following attendance procedures will be enforced:

✧ Parents/Guardians must notify the attendance line whenever the student is absent for any reason prior to the beginning of the school day. It is also helpful to notify the teacher directly. Indicate the following information:

- Student's first and last name
- Date of absence(s)
- Teacher
- Reason for absence(s)

✧ Parents/Guardians must bring a doctor's note for a student who misses 3 or more consecutive days of school.

✧ Families who have a pattern of excessive absences or tardiness will be referred to the Preschool Referral & Intervention Team, Community Parent Involvement Specialist, and/or PreK administrative team for mediation.

Parents or guardians will be contacted by Prek staff after three consecutive absences. Parents or guardians will be sent written notification following 10-, 15- and 18-day cumulative absences as well as each absence following the 18th absence. **Students who have excessive absences may be at risk of disenrollment from the program.**

Preschool Immunization Requirements

All preschool students need to comply with the immunization requirements set forth in N.J.A.C 8:57-4. The overall purpose of the New Jersey school immunization requirements are to protect individuals, schools, and communities from vaccine-preventable diseases. Preschool students will **NOT** be permitted to enter school unless proof of the required immunizations is received PRIOR to the first day of school.

DTP: 4 doses

Polio: 3 doses

MMR: 1 dose on or after the first birthday

Varicella: 1 dose on or after the first birthday

Hib and PCV: at least 1 dose on or after the first birthday

Influenza: (6-59 mons) 1 dose prior to December 31st of each year. NOTE: Preschool students will NOT be allowed to attend class after December 31 if they do not send in written notification that their child has received the flu vaccine.

Mantoux Tuberculin Test (TB): All entrants born out of the country MUST speak to the school nurse before school entry for evaluation of Mantoux status.

Medical

Physical examination requirements:

Preschool students will **NOT** be permitted to enter school unless the completed physical form is returned PRIOR to the first day of school. **This exam must be done no more than 365 days prior to school entry.**

- Visit your private physician for a physical exam and immunizations.
- Health Clinic and NJ Family Care information available upon request.

All completed physical and immunization forms must be returned to the school nurse for review prior to school entry.

It is mandatory that all new registrants comply with the above requirements in order to attend school. If there are any questions, please feel free to call or email Mrs. Nicole Pacchini, the school nurse. Mrs. Pacchini can be reached at 973-320-8333 or npacchini@nutleyschools.org.

What is a Medical Home and why it is important:

A medical home is a trusting partnership between you, your child, and your pediatric primary health care team. Your pediatrician can help you and your child access and coordinate specialty care, other health care and educational services, in and out of home care, family support, and other public/private community services that are important to the overall well-being of you and your child.

Health Screenings:

Within the first few months of school, all Preschool students will have their height, weight, vision, and hearing screened. A dental screening will also be made available to preschool students within the school year. Any required parental consent for these screenings will be shared and collected prior.

Please click this link to find the [Let's Move](#) national health and safety preschool standards that are incorporated into your child's daily routine while in school.

Sickness

When to Keep Your Child Home From School:

Deciding when a child is too sick to go to school can be difficult. In order for your child to be healthy and alert for learning, and to control communicable diseases in the school, it is important to keep your child home for the following reasons:

- **Fever above 99.6°F** - Your child should be fever free, and off all fever reducing medication for at least 24 hours before he/she returns to school. A student who returns to school before he/she is well is more susceptible to illness and may infect others. Please do not give your child medication to treat a fever and then send him/her to school.
- **Sore throat or tonsillitis** - A minor sore throat is usually not a problem, but a severe sore throat could be a symptom of a more serious illness. Keep your child home from school and contact your health care provider. If your child is diagnosed with strep throat, he/she may return to school 24 hours after antibiotic treatment begins.
- **Spots/Rash** - Do not send your child to school with a rash until your healthcare provider has said that it is safe to do so.

- **Bad Cough/Cold Symptoms** - Children with bad coughs/colds need to stay home, and possibly see their health care provider. When the cough improves and the child is feeling better, he/she may return to school. It can take well over a week for a bad cough to completely go away.
- **Eye Inflammation or Discharge** - If your child's eye is red with a cloudy or yellow/green drainage; eyelids matted or crusted after sleep; eye pain and/or redness, you should keep your child home, and contact your child's healthcare provider.
- **Vomiting and/or Diarrhea** - Your child should stay home until the illness is over, and for 24 hours after the last episode (without medication).
- **Ear Pain** - Consult with your healthcare provider. Untreated ear infections can cause problems with hearing loss.
- **Head Lice** - Child must be treated with a special preparation for killing head lice (available over-the-counter). After the treatment is completed, the child accompanied by the parent or guardian must report to the school nurse, with treatment box, to be re-examined and ensure there is no sign of lice.
- **Acute Pain** - Students who have pain that requires narcotic medication for relief should not attend school.

Your child **may** attend school if he/she has:

- **Mild Cold Symptoms** - If your child feels well, and there is no fever, it is usually OK to send your child to school.
- **Allergic Conjunctivitis** - known allergy diagnosed by a physician.
- **Vague complaints of aches, pains or fatigue.**
- **Single episode of vomiting and/or diarrhea** - that happens at home without any other symptoms.
- **Diagnosed skin condition.**

Administration of Medicine

Students who need medication during school hours must:

- Present a written consent signed by the parent or legal guardian.
- Present written orders from the MD including:
 1. dose, time and length of administration
 2. diagnosis/purpose for medication
- Bring the medication in the original bottle, properly labeled by a registered pharmacist.
- Medication must be brought in by a parent/guardian.
- Please contact the preschool nurse to request any required medication forms.

Daily Activities/ Schedule Early Childhood Department

Nutley Public Schools is fortunate to have the opportunity to provide free, high-quality preschool to enrolled students. We provide a 6 hour school day program, Monday through Friday, for our 3 and 4 year old students. Hours are typically 8:20-2:20 but are subject to vary depending on the location. Raising Raiders follows the Nutley Public Schools academic calendar, in all locations.

Arrival	8:20 AM - 8:25 AM	5 Minutes
Handwashing, Breakfast, Sign-In,	8:25 AM - 8:55 AM	30 Minutes
Group Meeting	8:55 AM - 9:15 AM	20 Minutes
Gross Motor Time Outdoor or Indoor (Includes transitions)	9:15 AM - 10:00 AM	45 Minutes
Small Group	10:00 AM - 10:20 AM	20 Minutes
Free Choice/Centers	10:20AM - 11:20 AM	60 Minutes
Clean-Up	11:20 AM - 11:30 AM	10 Minutes
Student Lunch	11:30 AM - 12:00 PM	30 Minutes
Rest Time	12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	60 Minutes
Read Aloud	1:00 PM - 1:15 PM	15 Minutes
Small Group (1:15 pm-1:30 pm) / Limited Choice Time/Clean-Up/ Snack Time	1:15 PM - 2:00 PM	45 Minutes
Large Group Roundup	2:00 PM - 2:10 PM	10 Minutes
Departure Preparation	2:10 PM - 2:20 PM	10 Minutes
Dismissal	2:20 PM	

**Activity order and time subject to change based on building location.

Arrival/Dismissal

Arrival and dismissal times vary by location. Extended day is offered at limited locations and is not considered a part of the instructional day. If your location offers extended day, please contact the provider director or district administrator directly for the fee schedule and enrollment requirements.

Arrival:

PreK students should arrive at the scheduled drop off time. Please drop your child off at your classroom's designated entrance. If you are unsure of the proper entrance, please contact your child's teacher. Staff will accompany your child into the school building.

Dismissal:

PreK students are dismissed at the scheduled dismissal time through your classroom's designated exit.

The names of all individuals who are allowed to pick up your child should be provided via a contact in the Parent Portal. Any changes from this list must be communicated in writing to the main office and classroom teacher.

Single Session Days:

Programs following 8:20-2:20 will end at 11:20 on single session days.

Programs following 8:30-2:30 will end at 11:30 on single session days.

Programs following 8:35-2:35 will end at 11:35 on single session days.

Programs following 8:45-2:45 will end at 11:45 on single session days.

Meals and Food Services

Students have time to eat breakfast, lunch and snack within each full school day. Single session days will not have lunch time. Parents have the option of sending in their child's food or ordering through the district Pomptonian Food Services.

The menu can be found at <https://nutley.fdmealplanner.com/>

There is an FD Meal Planner app that can be downloaded onto your smartphone for convenience.

Funds are used electronically and can be added to your child's [MySchoolBucks](#) account which can be accessed on our Nutley Public Schools website (under the parents tab).

The district offers free and reduced price school meals for students who qualify. The [instructions](#) and [application](#) can be found on our Nutley Public Schools website (under the parents tab).

If you do send breakfast or lunch in with your child, please be sure that your child's lunch is prepared to be readily eaten. Classroom staff cannot heat or refrigerate lunches for all students. We recommend putting an ice pack for food that needs to remain cold or using a thermos for food that needs to remain hot.

It is important to note that we are a NUT free program. All sent in food items must be nut free (this includes peanuts, hazelnuts, almonds, walnuts, etc.)

Please make sure that you inform the teacher and nurse of any allergies specific to food. In keeping with the Nutley Board of Education District Wellness Policy, we encourage healthy foods from the following five food groups:

- ❖ Vegetables & Fruits
- ❖ Grains. Foods that are made from wheat, rice, oats, cornmeal, barley, or another cereal grain are grain products. Examples include whole-wheat, brown rice, and oatmeal.
- ❖ Low-fat dairy. Examples include yogurt and cheese
- ❖ Protein such as lean meats, beans, fish, seeds and eggs (or peanut butter alternatives like Wowbutter or Sunbutter).

Healthier food choices support a healthy body and mind. Therefore, please do not send your child to school with candy, soda, sugar drinks, gum, etc. Instead opt for fresh fruit or vegetables, water, low fat cheese, rice cakes, yogurt, etc.

Rest/Quiet Time

Having rest time encourages preschoolers to slow down and relax in order to better process what they have learned that day. All students are encouraged to nap. If a student prefers not to rest, quiet activities can be provided for him/her on their cot.

Students will be provided with a cot in the classroom. Parents should send in a sheet (crib size) for the cot. If you would like to, you can also send in a crib-size blanket. Any items you send in will be returned home weekly for washing.

Preschool Student Dress Code

Student clothing should be weather-appropriate and comfortable to play in! Sneakers are encouraged for daily outdoor play. Children go outside every day, weather permitting.

It is advised to provide your child with a FULL change of extra clothing on the first day of school. Each item should have his/her initials on the tags. If soiled clothes are sent home, please remember to send in another change of clothes on the following school day.

If your child uses pull-ups, please send in pull-ups and baby wipes weekly.

Early Screening Inventory-Third Edition (ESI-3)

The NJ Division of Early Childhood Education requires using an approved screening inventory tool upon entry into the full-day preschool program. Raising Raiders currently utilizes the Early Screening Inventory-Third Edition (ESI-3) which is a 15 minute assessment administered by the teacher designed to identify children who might be at risk for a possible learning problem or developmental delay.

This screening tool will be administered within the first six weeks of school. More information regarding the ESI-3 will be provided during the first few weeks of school.

Preschool Intervention and Referral Team (PIRT)

The Preschool Intervention and Referral Team (PIRT) is a school-based, problem-solving team to collaborate with teachers on intervention strategies for children in the general education setting with evidence of learning, behavioral, social-emotional, or health difficulties. Students are identified by teachers through the screening process or the observation of the classroom teacher and Preschool Instructional Coach. Parents can also refer their students to the Preschool Intervention and Referral Services Team.

The Preschool Intervention & Referral Services Team (PIRT) may include the following: Early Childhood Administrators, Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist,, Preschool Social Worker, Community Parent Involvement Specialist, Preschool Instructional Coach, General Education Teacher, Child Study Team member, Nurse, Parent/Guardian, and any other district or preschool team member deemed appropriate based on the area of need.

Preschool Child Study Team (CST)

The Preschool Child Study Team is composed of a School Psychologist, Learning Disabilities Consultant, and School Social Worker. Related Services are also provided

based on individual needs as outlined in a student's Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) including but not limited to speech and language, occupational therapy, physical therapy, counseling, and behavioral consultation. Please visit the [Special Services](#) page under Departments on the Nutley Public Schools website for more information.

2024-2025 Curriculum Studies Schedule

9/5/24 to 10/18/24	Beginning of the Year
10/21/24 to 12/13/24	Trees
12/16/24 to 12/20/24	Holiday Week
1/2/25 to 2/28/25	Clothes
3/3/25 to 3/7/25	Read Across America
3/10/25 to 4/25/25	Balls
4/7/25 to 4/11/25	Week of the Young Child
4/28/25 to 5/2/25	How can we say thank you to people in our community?
5/5/25 to 6/6/25	Getting ready for Kindergarten
6/9/25 to 6/13/25	What Jobs can we do at home or at school?

Celebrations

The Creative Curriculum consists of studies throughout the year. Celebrations are the finale to each study unit. Whenever a study ends in the classroom, teachers and children reflect and celebrate the wonderful learning that occurred throughout their investigations of a topic. *We take this opportunity to invite a special adult in the student's life into the classroom to interact with students while they share what they have learned.* Adult participation offers meaningful dialogue to ask children questions, recall what they've learned, share about their work displayed around the room, and much more.

Parent Academies

Throughout the year, information sessions will be provided on various topics related to early education. We invite you to join us to enrich your knowledge of development in the preschool years.

Parent Academies are held virtually. Once the presentation has passed, the video will be available to view online on the Nutley Public Schools website under "Preschool."

Once topics are available for 2024/25 school year, they will be available for you to access [here](#).

Topics from previous years have included:

- **Introduction to Creative Curriculum, Attendance as a Key Component of Your Student's Success, & Understanding Your Child's Report Card-** Participants will learn about the different components of Creative Curriculum including ways to extend learning at home. The ways in which student attendance is tied to student success will be explored. Lastly, an understanding of your child's report card and GOLD assessment will also be discussed.
- **Healthy Habits for Preschool Aged Children** - Join us for this virtual session to learn about the importance of nutrition, sleep and movement and how this impacts your child's development.
- **Positive Behavior Supports: Supporting Emotional Regulation** - Learn about the development of self regulation in preschool aged children and ways adults can understand, respond, and support their behaviors and emotions.
- **Speech & Adaptive Skills-** Participants will learn about the development of speech, language, and communication skills as well as self help skills. This session will explore informative and interactive speech and language activities to incorporate throughout preschool students' daily routines. Learn how play, modeling, and

activities of daily living can increase communication and independence in preschool-aged children.

- **Preschool Mental Health-**Science tells us that the foundations of good mental health are built early in life. This session will explore the impacts of early relationships with parents, caregivers, relatives, teachers, and peers. Children's first five years are linked to emotional well-being.
- **Community Resources-** Families will be made aware of the variety of community resources available to Nutley residents and ways to access them.
- **Kindergarten Readiness-** This session will provide tips to support a successful transition from preschool to kindergarten.
- **Preschool Readiness-** Starting preschool is a big milestone for both your child and you. Learning to spend time apart can be a difficult transition, but beginning the formal learning journey is exciting too. Join us for tips to help make the transition to preschool a smooth one and learn about our Raising Raiders Preschool Program.

Report Cards

Report cards are based on Teaching Strategies GOLD. The GOLD assessment is an ongoing, observation-based assessment for preschool students. Teachers observe children in the context of their everyday experiences to determine what they know and can do, as well as their strengths, needs and interests within six areas of development:

- Social Emotional
- Physical
- Language
- Cognitive
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- English Language Acquisition

Report Cards will be distributed in alignment with the Elementary School trimester schedule.

Support Staff Roles

- **Preschool Instructional Coach**, Daniella DaCunha

Preschool Instructional Coaches are funded in New Jersey's Preschool Expansion programs to provide and maintain high levels of quality by helping and supporting preschool teachers. Their primary role is to visit classrooms and coach teachers using reflective practice by providing strategies that support the Creative Curriculum and social emotional learning.

- **Preschool Intervention and Referral Specialist (PIRS) Specialist**,

The Preschool Intervention Specialist (PIRS) facilitates the PIRT team. Another primary role of the PIRS is to coach and support teachers with the Pyramid Model for Promoting Social-Emotional Competence. You can learn more about the Pyramid Model [here](#). In some cases, this process indicates the need for further assessment. Here the PIRT specialist will facilitate the formal involvement of the Preschool Child Study Team.

- **Preschool Social Worker & Community Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS)**,
Daniella Jernick

The role of the Preschool Social Worker is to collaborate with the classroom teachers, Preschool Instructional Coach, and other school district professionals to foster social and emotional learning in the Preschool Program. The Preschool Social Worker also works closely with families, determines individual needs for students, provides advocacy services and helps refer families to available community services.

The Community Parent Involvement Specialist (CPIS) promotes and supports family involvement in the preschool program. The CPIS strives to promote family engagement through workshops, classroom/family activities, parent contact and sharing community resources. The CPIS also chairs the Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), where both the school community and local community are involved in assessing and addressing the needs of the students in the program.

- **Preschool Nurse**, Nicole Pacchini

The Preschool Nurse conducts health screenings (vision, hearing, height, and weight screenings), provides health-related training to staff, parents, and children, as well as monitor and follow up on individual child health records and needs. The school nurse also assists parents in locating appropriate medical and health resources, as needed.

Raising Raider Spirit Wear

Nutley Raising Raider apparel is available for purchase at this website.

<https://raisingraidersprek.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

Parent Acknowledgement

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Raising Raiders Parent Handbook. I understand that it contains important information on policies and procedures. I realize the handbook is not intended to cover every situation which may arise, but is simply a general guide to refer to. I understand that it is my responsibility to familiarize myself with the materials and that I agree to follow the provisions and other policies/rules of the program. I further understand and acknowledge that the program may change, add or delete any policies or provisions in this handbook as it sees fit in its sole judgment and discretion. I acknowledge and understand that this Parent Handbook supersedes and replaces any and all prior handbooks or materials previously distributed. You are required to read the handbook in its entirety. **You must acknowledge receipt and agreement to follow the components of this handbook in the Realtime Parent Portal.**

