



Setting a course for excellence

**EAST ROCKAWAY
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Universal Prekindergarten Program- UPK

Board of Education

March 22, 2022

Building a Strong Foundation For Kindergarten

East Rockaway
Universal Prekindergarten



What Families Say About our Program

PRE-KINDERGARTEN



Mrs. Teresa Castro
Centre Avenue Parent



Universal PreK

- Universal Pre-Kindergarten is a New York State early childhood initiative focused on the educational development of 4 year olds.
- The program promotes the development of children's language, early literacy skills, cognitive, physical, social and educational skills.
- Children will meet or exceed the criteria established for their age, be ready to learn and be inquisitive, and be successful as they transition to the kindergarten environment.
- By June, children are ready for Kindergarten!



East Rockaway Universal Prek



- Our program is run by **Scope Education Services**, through an RFP Process
- Children must be 4 years of age prior to December 1, to be eligible to participate.
- The program is funded by a New York State Department of Education grant
- Students are selected through a lottery in the spring
- Two classes of 18 students each
- We receive funding for 26 students and the district provides funding for 4 students
- Six spots are available for self pay by parents to Scope directly.
- All placements in the program are contingent upon the reauthorization of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten grant

Big Picture



- Programs are in session Monday through Friday
- One teacher and one teacher assistant
- Five Hour Instructional Program
9 AM -2 PM
- Lunch Provided to All Students
- Two snacks provided by SCOPE
- 180 Days per Year

Mrs. Ashley Tavormina and Russell

UPK Curriculum



- Curriculum based on the NYS Learning Standards for pre-school age children
- A balance of academic and social learning
- Music, movement, purposeful play and hands on activities integrated throughout the day
- Instruction delivered in individual, small and large groups
- Teacher and child guided instruction
- Differentiated learning styles for all children



ASPECTS OF THE CURRICULUM

Readiness for Kindergarten

The UPK program enhances a child's readiness skills to support a smooth transition into Kindergarten classrooms.

- Letter and sound recognition
- Language and Listening Skills
- STEAM skills
- Social/Emotional skills
- Development of fine/gross motor skills



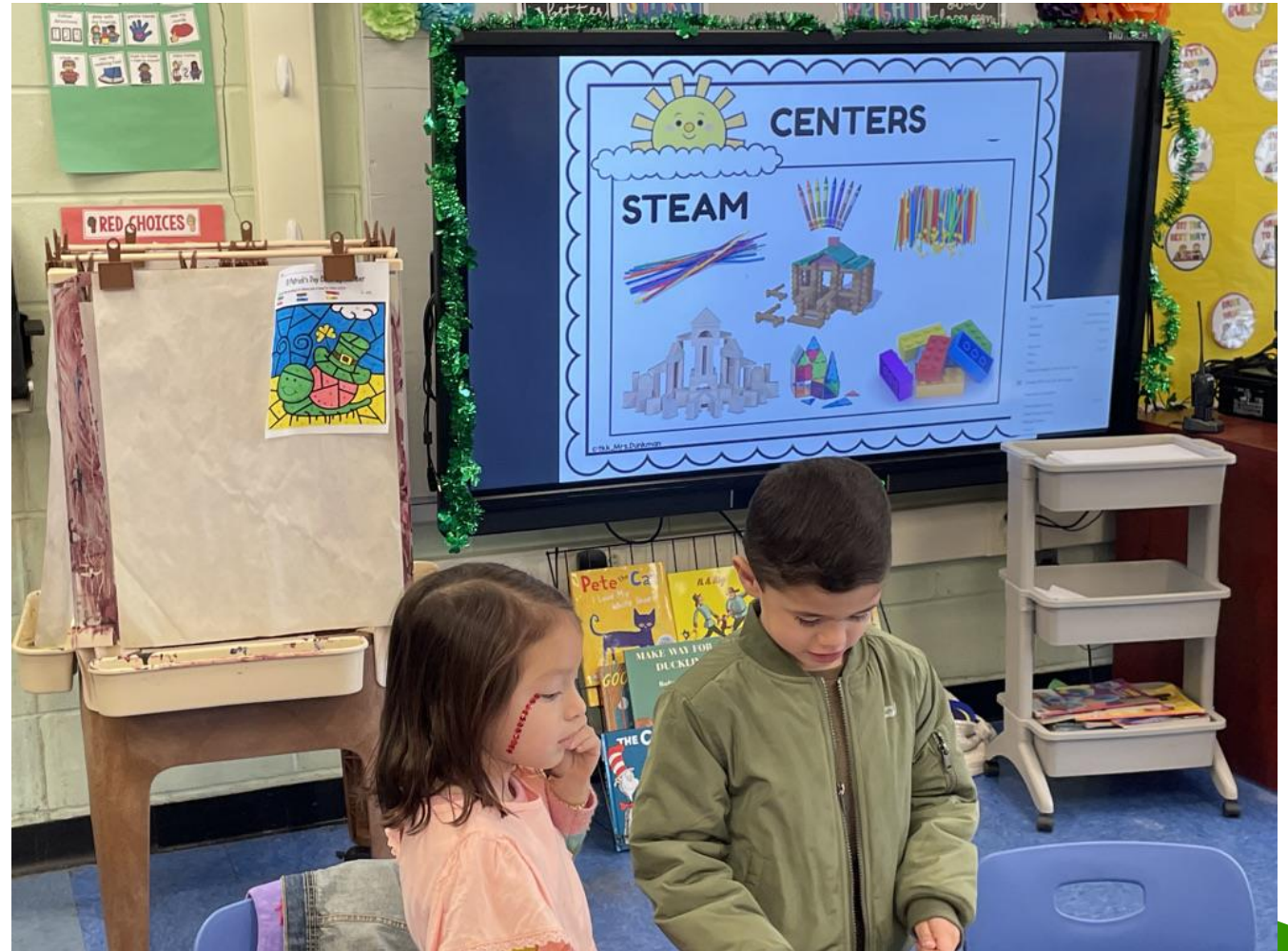
Daily Schedule

- Arrival
- Morning Meeting
- Center Time
- Snack Time
- Whole Group Learning
- Read Aloud
- Gross Motor Activity
- Lunch
- Afternoon Meeting
- Center Time
- Snack
- Gross Motor Activity
- Closing Activity
- Dismissal



Center Time

- Activities and Groups Change
- Children work at centers independently and in small groups



Parent Involvement

Parents are an important part of the team.

Our teachers provide several opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's learning environment.

- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Meet and Greet
- Evening Open House
- Mystery Reader
- Class Sing Alongs
- Helping Hands
- Special Occasions



In Addition....

- Progress reports are distributed twice per year
- Monthly Newsletter keeps families informed
- Every classroom is supplied with a SCOPE cell phone
- If an early pick up is required, UPK follow our security procedures
- Classrooms are peanut/tree nut free
- Teacher and teacher assistant/aide are CPR/FA certified



What Our Parents
Have to Say!



Mrs. Christine Heal
Rhame Avenue Parent



What Our Parents Have to Say!

Mr. Vince Roth
Rhame Avenue Parent





**Pre-K
ROCKS**

A Few Words from Our Principals

**Dr. McArthur – Rhame Avenue
Ms. Ashley Jones UPK Teacher**

**Mrs. Kelly – Centre Avenue
Ms. Taylor Kellogg -UPK Teacher**



Next Steps

Greater integration of UPK Program into our Elementary Buildings

- Collaborative activities with other classes
- Parent Engagement with greater school community
- Greater opportunities for meaningful curriculum alignment with district programs



Next Steps

Monitor Student Outcomes

- Review UPK students' Kindergarten Screening results
- Follow UPK students' progress

THANK YOU!



Questions?

