

LAKE PLACID FULL DAY UNIVERSAL PRE-K

Making available high quality early childhood education is crucial if we are to realize state and national goals of educational equity and excellence and increase high school graduation and college matriculation rates.



The awarding of the Universal Pre-K grant and resulting two-year collaboration have met a critical educational need. Lake Placid now offers UPK to the youngest members of our community, equipping an economically and culturally diverse group of four-year-olds with school readiness skills.

IN 2014 THE LAKE PLACID CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT (LPCSD) ESTABLISHED A PARTNERSHIP WITH ST. AGNES SCHOOL (SAS) TO MAKE AVAILABLE FULL DAY UNIVERSAL PRE-K (UPK) TO ALL FOUR-YEAR-OLDS IN LAKE PLACID, NEW YORK

The Lake Placid UPK earned high scores in the comprehensive 2015 NYSED quality assurance protocol. The UPK teaching staff at St. Agnes is proficient in the guidelines set forth by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Developmentally Appropriate Practices (DAP), and the Response to Intervention (RTI). The program offers a curriculum aligned with the NYS Pre-Kindergarten Foundation for the Common Core. In each of the past two years, LPCSD and SAS have

refined instructional methods to ensure that the learning environment enriches four-year-olds' development through play, social interaction, and exploration of the world around them. After only one year, LPES Kindergarten and specials teachers offered anecdotal evidence that UPK is achieving immediate results: Kindergarten students demonstrate an improved ability to follow directions, work independently, manage transitions, sustain attention, and draw on problem-

solving and organizational skills to complete classroom assignments. Additionally, assessing and benchmarking preschoolers *before they start Kindergarten* creates a critical efficiency in identifying those students who will benefit from services through the Committee of Special Education, as well as a number of support programs and services available through Essex County and NYS.

For more information about Lake Placid UPK, please call Catherine Bemis, St. Agnes School principal and UPK curriculum leader at (518) 523-3771



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CURRICULUM

The academic sequence for preschoolers includes learning how to spell and identify one's name, the ABC's, letter sounds, number identification, counting, quantity discrimination, and shape names – all while developing listening, speaking and social skills. With a “whole child” approach, the curriculum, instructional methods, and schedule support school-readiness development, instill confidence, and facilitate the social-emotional growth essential for success in elementary school.

SCHEDULE

Arrival
Morning meeting
Learning activities center time
Indoor or outdoor play
Morning snack
Math meeting
Math centers
Buddy lunch
Music and movement
Quiet time and lasting lessons
Dismissal

