VIRTUAL LEARNING

Who is eligible for prekindergarten (Pre-K) programs?
All Pre-K students must be age four on or before August 15, 2020, with some exceptions, and a resident of Davidson County for the 2020-2021 school year.

Do I still need to apply for the Pre-K program if it's virtual?
Yes, since Pre-K is a voluntary program, families will need to apply for Pre-K. MNPS is currently accepting Pre-K applications for the 2020-21 school year and applicants will be placed as vacancies occur. For information on how to apply, visit: https://www.mnps.org/early-childhood-education

How will MNPS provide virtual learning for Pre-K students?
MNPS is committed to providing a quality Pre-K program for students. During virtual learning, MNPS Pre-K teachers will connect with students virtually to provide lessons from the Pre-K curriculum using both live and pre-recorded formats. Virtual instruction will be developmentally appropriate in content and length of time. Teachers will also be providing information on at-home activities to further support students’ learning experiences. A parent/guardian will need to accompany the child throughout this learning experience, including virtual sessions.

How do you access virtual learning for Pre-K programs?
Pre-K Teachers will be providing virtual instructions through the platforms in the chart below. These platforms are free for families and can be accessed through a computer/laptop or mobile device.

The virtual environment will provide opportunities for both asynchronous learning, meaning students will work at their own pace, and synchronous learning where students can connect with their teachers and peers in real time.

Required MNPS Log in credentials:
- Many of the resources on this webpage require MNPS student log in credentials.
- If students need help logging in to any of their school accounts, or resetting their password, call the MNPS Help Desk: 615-269-5956

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Platform</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>How to Access</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flipgrid</td>
<td>Platform used to provide asynchronous virtual instruction to Pre-K students.</td>
<td>Flipgrid is a free video discussion platform for MNPS students that can be used on any mobile device or computer. It allows our teachers to</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
both see and hear from students in class.

In Flipgrid, educators post discussion prompts or videos and students respond with short videos. The Flipgrid apps are available for Android and iOS. *Students log in to classes with the MNPS credentials.*

https://info.flipgrid.com/

Microsoft Teams | Platform used to send communication to students and families and provide synchronous virtual instruction for Pre-K students.
Microsoft Teams is used to connect through video, audio calls, chat, document sharing and screen sharing. Teams is a free tool you can use on any mobile device or computer. Teams apps are available for Android and iOS. *Students log in to classes with the MNPS credentials.*

Teaching Strategies | Website used to support the curriculum and connect with families.
Teaching Strategies website is where families can access activities from the Pre-K curriculum, which have been shared by their child’s teacher. Families can also communicate with the teacher about their child’s progress.

**Will MNPS provide a technology device for my Pre-K child during virtual learning?**
Through the Mayor’s Office and CARES Act funding, all MNPS students will be receiving a laptop, including Pre-K. These devices will be deployed to families as they are delivered to the district.

**What happens if a computer breaks or is not working and a student cannot get online to get instruction?**
Technology support will be offered through the MNPS Help Desk at (615) 269-5956.

**How can a family that speaks a language other than English get technology support in their language?**
Starting July 27, 2020, families that speak a language other than English can receive technology assistance by calling 615-259-8787. MNPS will have an interpreter and technology support specialist ready to assist them.
Are the online classes going to be livestreamed, or will it be a pre-recorded lesson (from their instructor) that they watch, or will the student be given a link to an online module to go through?

Teachers will provide opportunities for both asynchronous learning, meaning students will work at their own pace, and synchronous learning, where students can connect with their teachers and peers in real time.

Will my child’s Pre-K teacher contact us?

Your child’s MNPS Pre-K teacher will be contacting Pre-K families in the following weeks. Once the school year begins, the expectation is that Pre-K teachers will be meeting with families for live virtual learning throughout the school week, as well as one on one meetings with families on a weekly basis.

What are the virtual classroom expectations for my child during this virtual learning period?

Students are expected to participate daily by connecting with their teacher through the on-line platforms Flip Grid and Microsoft Office Teams. Below is a suggested schedule for families during virtual learning. Direct instruction with the teacher each day includes a synchronous whole group time in Teams, a synchronous small group time in Teams, a literacy video on Flipgrid and a math video on Flipgrid. Check with your child’s Pre-K teacher for information on the exact timing of these activities.

**Pre-K Student At-Home Learning Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Hour</td>
<td>Direct Instruction with teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Hour</td>
<td>Breakfast &amp; Lunch Conversations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Minutes</td>
<td>Playing outside (weather permitting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour &amp; 30 Minutes</td>
<td>Free Choice Play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Minutes</td>
<td>Books read by family members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Minutes</td>
<td>Art and/or Music activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 Minutes</td>
<td>Teaching Strategies study activities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If a student or family has an issue with the implementation of the student’s IEP, who should the student or parent contact to discuss the issue?

The family should contact their child’s school principal and special education teacher to discuss their concern. If there are additional concerns that have not been resolved, please contact [EEquestions@mnps.org](mailto:EEquestions@mnps.org).

When will the MNPS Pre-K program return to an in classroom setting?

Metro Schools will continue to monitor the spread of COVID-19 in consultation with the Metro Health Department to determine when it is safe for in-person schools, following the Mayor’s roadmap for reopening when possible. Key factors will include the rate of community spread, with the goal of being at or below an R0 of 1. Decisions will be
communicated at least two weeks prior to a shift back to in-person classes so that students and staff can appropriately prepare.

**Is attendance mandatory during Pre-K virtual learning?**
School attendance is important at every grade level, including Pre-K. During virtual learning, attendance is mandatory. MNPS will be following Pre-K attendance policies during virtual learning.

**If I decided that my child is not going to participate in MNPS Pre-K virtual learning, can I hold my seat until the district offers in-person learning?**
Pre-K seats cannot be held for families that do not participate in Pre-K virtual learning. If a family does not participate in virtual learning they will be withdrawn from their Pre-K seat. If a family decides to withdraw from the MNPS Pre-K program, they can reapply, and be placed on the school’s waiting list. Applicants will be placed in the order they appear on the waiting list as vacancies occur.

**PRE-K PROGRAM FEES**

**Why do some classrooms require a fee, have an income, or zone requirements and others do not?**
Metro Pre-K classrooms are funded in a number of different ways, including using local and state funding. Each funding source has different requirements, such as serving only low-income students or charging a fee.

**How much do Pre-K programs cost?**
Some Pre-K seats at schools have fees or income requirements and some do not. Fees are charged on a sliding scale and could range from $0-144 per child every week. The fee does not include before or after care.

**Are families expected to pay Pre-K program fees for virtual learning?**
Program fees will be assessed during virtual learning at a 25% reduce cost. MNPS is committed to providing a high-quality virtual Pre-K program by providing a researched based curriculum, technology devices and daily instruction in whole group, small group and weekly one on one meetings with classroom teachers.

**How do I pay my fees for the MNPS Pre-K Program?**
Payments can be made using a check, money order, online or cash. Monthly payment slips are included in the initial packet (families do not need to submit a slip if paying weekly). Please include the slip with each monthly payment. Payments made by:

- Check or Money Order: Made out to “Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools.”
  Please send your payment to: PO Box 40144, Nashville, TN 37204
- Online: Visit www.mnps.org. Click on the Early Childhood Education webpage to make a payment.
• **Cash** *(This option is only available when MNPS offices are open to the public)*: Must be paid in person at the Family Information Center located at the MNPS Board of Education Office, 2601 Bransford Avenue, Nashville TN 37204.

**What type of payment schedules does the MNPS Pre-K Program offer?**
Families can select to pay program fees on a weekly or monthly schedule. Payment fees begin the 1st day your child attends school.

- Weekly payments are due by the preceding Friday of each week.
- Monthly payments are due by the 1st of the month. Families selecting to pay monthly will receive a 5% discount off the Pre-K sliding scale fee.

**Does MNPS provide any tuition assistance for the MNPS Pre-K Program?**
During virtual learning all families will qualify to receive a reduced rate. The tuition assistance program will resume once students return to in-person learning within the classroom. Families can apply for the tuition assistance program at that time to continue to receive the reduced tuition price.

Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, MNPS provided Prekindergarten Tuition Assistance. Tuition assistance will offer a reduced tuition rate to qualifying families accepting a Pre-K fee-based seat. Families currently experiencing hardship, family emergency or trauma that meet the criteria will qualify to submit a Pre-K Tuition Assistance Application along with documentation to their child’s accepting school site. Applications along with documentation will be reviewed by the prekindergarten leadership should this be capital??), should these be for consideration. For more information visit: [https://www.mnps.org/early-childhood-education](https://www.mnps.org/early-childhood-education)

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**How can families access an interpreter if they need support in a language other than English?**
Families can contact the Family Information Center at 615-259-4636. The Family Information Center will connect the family with a member of the MNPS Office of Translation Interpretation and Services.

**Are there additional resources to support families and prepare their child for kindergarten?**
The district has collaborated with Alignment Nashville and many other community organizations to develop the Countdown to Kindergarten (iTrails.org) website, a Pre-K and kindergarten readiness website. This website provides free resources and information for families. Visit: [www.mnps.org/countdowntokindergarten](http://www.mnps.org/countdowntokindergarten).

You can visit the MNPS Countdown to Kindergarten YouTube Channel for at-home activity ideas at: [https://www.youtube.com/c/MNPSCountdowntoKindergarten](https://www.youtube.com/c/MNPSCountdowntoKindergarten) and follow @MNPSPreK on Facebook and Twitter for additional information.
Who do I contact if I have questions about MNPS’ Pre-K Program?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questions?</th>
<th>MNPS Department</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submitting a Pre-K Application, Pre-K Wait List &amp; General MNPS Questions</td>
<td>Family Information Center</td>
<td>(615) 259-INFO (4636) or <a href="mailto:FamilyInfo@mnps.org">FamilyInfo@mnps.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Pre-K Program Questions, Program Fees or Pre-K Tuition Assistance</td>
<td>Early Learning Department</td>
<td>(615) 298-6766 or <a href="mailto:earlylearningprek@mnps.org">earlylearningprek@mnps.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-K Classroom Questions</td>
<td>Child’s School Site/Pre-K Teacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology Assistance (i.e. Accessing technology learning platforms, MNPS login, etc.)</td>
<td>Help Desk</td>
<td>(615) 269-5956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Starting 7/27/20: In-Language Support: (615) 259-8787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNPS Back to School Updates</td>
<td>MNPS</td>
<td><a href="https://www.mnps.org/backtoschool">https://www.mnps.org/backtoschool</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MNPS Covid-19 Updates</td>
<td>MNPS</td>
<td><a href="https://www.mnps.org/covid19">https://www.mnps.org/covid19</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>