

# RIVERHEAD CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT



## Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program

### **WELCOME FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dear Parents,

Going to school for the first time is one of the most important events in your child's life, and yours as well. I am proud to welcome you to Riverhead Central School District's Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program. The UPK Program is tailored to meet the developmental needs of this particular age group. Our curriculum is created to provide a nurturing environment for the safe and healthy development of our youngest students.

It is Riverhead's philosophy that the development of a lifelong love of learning is a task that schools and families enter into together. It is for this purpose that this informational brochure has been created. As you read on, it is our hope that you will feel prepared to interact with your child and our schools. Welcome!

Sincerely,

*Dr. Aurelia Henriquez*

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*Superintendent of Schools*

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### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **ELIGIBILITY**

All Riverhead resident families that have four-year-old children or children turning four December 1 and before are eligible for the **Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program**. Applications are available starting in April at the Office of Pupil Personnel Services, please call (631) 369-0272. **If parents decide to keep their child out of kindergarten the following September, those children are not eligible for UPK in that year they are eligible for kindergarten.**

#### **LOCATIONS**

The Riverhead Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program presently has five sites:

- **Alternatives for Children** in Aquebogue
- **Phillips Avenue School** in Flanders
- **Riverhead Head Start** in Riverhead
- **Southampton Head Start** in Flanders
- **St. David's** in Riverhead

#### **HOURS OF OPERATION**

The **Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program** opens in accordance with the Riverhead Central School District calendar:

**5 days per week, 2 1/2 hours per day**

Morning or afternoon classes will be offered dependent upon program location and availability.

#### **TRANSPORTATION**

Parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program, **except for the Phillips Avenue School program.**

#### **ATTENDANCE**

Children are expected to maintain regular attendance. Your child is required to be at **Universal Pre-Kindergarten** promptly each day. Children who do not attend regularly can be removed from the roster after review by the Director of Pupil Personnel Services.

#### **STUDENT PROGRESS**

All students will be screened in the fall of their **Universal Pre-Kindergarten** year and again in the spring as they prepare to enter the Riverhead Central School District Kindergarten program. Progress reports will be sent home in January and June. All Universal Pre-Kindergarten programs offer parent-teacher conferences.

#### **TRANSITIONING TO KINDERGARTEN**

Universal Pre-Kindergarten will prepare students and parents for the transition to elementary school. Such efforts will include orientation programs as well as opportunities to visit kindergarten settings to insure a smooth transition to the next school environment.

## FUNDING

The Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program is funded 100% from the New York State Department of Education. This program is not funded through the Riverhead Central School District operating budget. The program is offered only with the funding from the NYS Education Department and the approval of the Riverhead School Board.

## PROGRAM GOALS:

- Promote Early Literacy
- Provide academic experience that will assist Kindergarten adjustment
- Provide social experiences.
- Provide continuity with the early elementary grades within the Riverhead Central School District
- Encourage strong parental involvement.
- Earlier identification of potential learning problems

## ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Universal Pre-Kindergarten** provides curriculum and activities that are developmentally appropriate to meet the needs of children at this specific age level. The curriculum was developed through the collaborative efforts of the Riverhead Central School District Universal Pre-Kindergarten Committee consisting of school district personnel as well as representatives from local preschools.

## CURRICULAR GOALS AT A GLANCE

**Cognitive Development** - to build upon children's natural curiosity to develop a sense of order in their world

**Physical Development** - to develop and refine motor skills

**Cultural Development** - to develop awareness for and appreciation of multicultural diversity

**Linguistic Development** - to establish an appreciation for written and spoken word

**Social-Emotional Development** - to establish a sense of self and personal responsibility

## UNIVERSAL PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM COMPONENTS INCLUDE:

- Creative and performing arts
- Blocks and construction
- Library, media and technology
- Mathematics and manipulatives
- Science and nature
- Writing
- Role-playing
- Indoor/outdoor activities



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Pupil Personnel Services  
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Eileen Manitta, Coordinator of UPK

Dr. Aurelia Henriquez, Superintendent of Schools

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