

Virginia A. Boone Highland Oaks Elementary School  
Pre-Kindergarten Programs for Children with Disabilities

Frequently Asked Questions



**About the Pre-Kindergarten Inclusion class...**

This is a full day program (8:20 AM- 1:50 PM) for children with varying special needs in an inclusive setting. There are 8-10 students with disabilities, along with 8-10 typically developing students (role models). Typically developing students (role models) are selected to participate in the program based on their language, behavior, and social skills. Students must be 4 years old on or before September 1<sup>st</sup> of that school year, and require a VPK Certificate of Eligibility. There is 1 special education teacher and 1 paraprofessional in this class.

**About the Pre-Kindergarten LEAP class...**

This is a half day program (morning OR afternoon session) for children with autism spectrum disorder in an inclusive setting. Within each session, there are 4-5 students within the autism spectrum, along with 8 typically developing students (role models). Typically developing students (role models) must exhibit age appropriate language, behavior, and social skills. Because this is a half day program, students may be 3 or 4 years old. There is 1 special education teacher and 2 paraprofessionals in each session.

**What should I do if my child has a disability?**

Students with special needs are placed in each program by the North Region staffing specialist. Please contact the Pre-Kindergarten Program for Children with Disabilities at 305-271-5701 for more information.

**What Should I do if I am interested in placing my child as a ROLE MODEL student?**

Potential role model students are observed/interviewed by the classroom teacher during the spring semester PRIOR to the school year of enrollment. Interested parents MUST request an interview date through EMAIL starting March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. **DO NOT** contact the teacher prior to that date. Candidates' names will be taken thru email ONLY beginning March 1<sup>st</sup> until interview dates are no longer available.

**Who should I contact to set up an interview date?**

For the half day program (Pre-K LEAP class), email Ms. Faggans at [sfaggans@dadeschools.net](mailto:sfaggans@dadeschools.net). For the full day program (Pre-K Inclusion), email Ms. Argiro at [oargiro@dadeschools.net](mailto:oargiro@dadeschools.net). In the email, please include: your name, child's name, child's birthdate, phone number, and mailing address. The classroom teacher will then respond BY EMAIL with your child's interview date. Interview dates are given on a "first come" basis. There are limited interview dates available and we cannot guarantee your child will receive an interview date.

**What does the interview/observation process entail?**

Interviews begin April 3<sup>rd</sup> and will continue through May. Children applying for the full day class will spend 1 full school day (8:20 AM- 1:50 PM) in the pre-K classroom to be observed by the teacher. Children applying for the half day program will attend an entire session (morning OR afternoon) to be observed by the teacher. Children must be appropriate role models for students with disabilities. They should exhibit age appropriate language and social skills, be toilet trained, independent in self-help skills, initiate play and conversation with other children, and follow the classroom routine with minimal prompting.

**How many role model openings are available in each program?**

There are 8-10 openings available in the full day class. There are 16 openings available in the half day class (8 for the morning session and 8 for the afternoon session).

**When will I know if my child has been accepted into the program?**

Letters will be mailed to your home by May 22. Please do not contact the classroom teacher prior to receiving your letter. Unfortunately, there are limited spots and we cannot guarantee your child's acceptance into any program.

**What are my options if my child is not accepted into the program?**

Because there are limited role model spots available, it is important to have a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> option in mind. We also encourage you to contact neighboring schools (public and private) to see what programs they offer.

**What should I do if I have additional questions?**

Please contact the main office at 305-931-1770 with any additional questions.