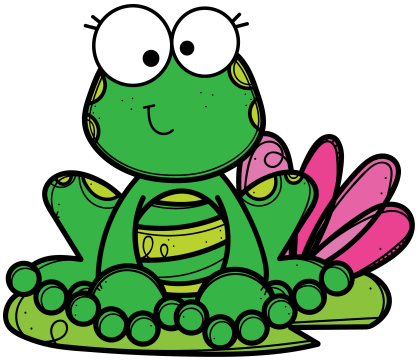
PRATT
PRE-KINDERGARTEN
PARENT
HANDBOOK
2026-2027



Pratt USD 382 School District
and
South Central Kansas
Special Education Cooperative

900 W. 8th St., 620-672-4520
www.usd382.com

Mission Statement

Pratt PreK provides an early childhood education for 3-5 year old children including cognitive, language, social, emotional, physical, cultural and aesthetic development. The goal of our program is to help PreK children acquire knowledge, skills and behaviors needed to transition successfully to kindergarten. This is a very exciting first step for your child's education. Our mission is to have a positive, exciting beginning for young children and their school career.

Staff

Superintendent of USD 382	Steve Blankenship
PreK Principal	Kirsten Blankenship
PreK Asst. Principal **PreK Beyond the Bell Admin.**	Jessica Hanvey
Teachers	Trinity McDonald Heather Lynch Shelly Barrett Dani Ricke Crystal Newby Oakley Stephens
Occupational Therapist	Kelli Gallagher
Physical Therapist	Jessica Ohler
Speech/Language Pathologist	Shelby Starks
School Nurse	Jennifer Sowards
Secretary	Meranda Jack
Assistant Secretary	Becky Sidman
PreK Beyond the Bell Director	Valerie Morrell

Eligibility

- USD #382 – All children living in the Pratt area who are **4 years old or will be 4 years old on or before August 31, 2026** are eligible to attend 4 year old preschool. Children who are **3 years old or will be 3 years old on or before August 31, 2026** are eligible to attend 3 year old preschool. Children must be potty trained to attend USD 382 preschool!
- Bridges To Learning (BTL) – All children with qualifying special needs and those who qualify to be peer models between the ages of 3 and 5 are eligible. Peer models, not on an IEP, must be potty trained and meet the age requirements for USD #382 preschool.

Tuition rates for 26-27

- 4 year olds
  - ½ day non-grant qualifier/ parent is not an employee/ no IEP
    - **$25/ mo.**
  - ½ day grant qualifier/ parent is an employee/ IEP/ 5 year old
    - **FREE**
  - Full day (8:00-3:00) non-grant qualifier/ parent is not an employee
    - **$325/ mo.**
  - Full day (8:00-3:00) grant qualifier/ parent is an employee
    - **$250/ mo.**
- 3 year olds
  - ½ day non-grant qualifier/ parent is not an employee/ no IEP
    - **$150/ mo.**
  - ½ day grant qualifier/ parent is an employee/ IEP
    - **FREE**

Schedule

Monday – Friday

- Morning Session: 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Afternoon Session: 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Breakfast: 7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

- Breakfast is offered in one session. Students must arrive no later than 7:40 to be allow enough time to eat breakfast prior to school beginning at 8:00. Parents will enter the school at the FRONT of Southwest with their child and walk their child down to the PreK MPR room for breakfast.
- 4 year old full day PreK students may have breakfast on **late start days** between 9:30-9:50 in the Southwest gym. Breakfast is not served in the PreK MPR on late start days. **PreK full day students having breakfast in the SW gym between 9:30-9:50 must be supervised by a parent until 10:00**

when teachers begin receiving students <u>in the PreK lobby.</u> Please do not take your child directly to the classroom after eating breakfast. Teachers will receive the children in the PreK lobby.

- Lunch is offered in two sessions:
  - AM (only) students staying for lunch and (1) full day 4 year old class will eat lunch from 11:00-11:30.
    - AM (only) students who will stay for lunch must be picked up no **later** than 11:30 a.m. Parents will enter the school at the FRONT of Southwest to walk to the PreK MPR room to pick up their child from lunch.
  - PM (only) students and (1) full day 4 year old class will eat lunch from 11:30-12:00.
    - PM (only) students who will be having lunch prior to school beginning should be brought to school **<u>at 11:30</u>** to participate so students have enough time to eat before the p.m. session of preschool begins at 12:00. Parents will need to enter the school at the FRONT of Southwest and walk their child to the PreK MPR room for lunch participation.
      - **PM (only) students** <u>are required to commit</u> to having school lunch everyday that the child is in attendance at school so that a lunch can be ordered for the child in the morning as the kitchen requires. We do not want to throw away lunches, daily, for students who do not show up for school lunch in a PM (only) session. This is very costly to the district! Parents need to call the front office if their child will be absent for the PM session so lunch is not ordered for the child.

<u>Late Start Schedule</u>

- 2 hour delay **(school begins at 10:10 for ALL district schools)**
  - No a.m. ½ day preschool classes
  - Full day 4 year old classes begin at 10:10.
    - The PreK lobby is open from 10:00-10:10 for student drop off for full day preschool.
  - P.M. ½ day preschool classes run on a normal schedule beginning at 12:00 p.m.

<u>Early Release Days (K-12th grade)</u>

- **There is NO preschool for a.m. or p.m. on early release days (end of the quarter) when schools release at 11:30 for K-12th grade. This is a professional collaboration time for preschool teachers.**

Drop off and Pick up

- PreK drop off and pick up will be through the PreK foyer doors at the back of Southwest Elementary School. **To access the PreK parking lot and the PreK foyer doors, parents will need to enter from Washington Street (via 5th St.).** The PreK parking lot is for PreK parent pick/up and drop off only! A parent/ adult must remain with the child during the drop off and pick up process. Vehicles should not be parked and left unattended unless in a designated parking spot! The curb and crosswalk is **not** a loading and unloading zone.
    - The PreK foyer entrance/ exit doors will be opened for drop off and pick up during the following time frames:
        - 7:50-8:05 (a.m. drop off)
        - 11:00-11:10 (a.m. pick up)
        - 11:55-12:05 (p.m. drop off)
        - 3:00-3:10 (p.m. pick up)
    - Tardiness is unacceptable when picking up your child at the end of the PreK a.m. or p.m. session. Parents who arrive late, after the foyer doors are locked, will need to pick up their child in the Southwest office.
        - Tardiness may result in your child not being able to attend PreK at Lilypad Preschool.

Enrollment

Enrollment will be completed when all of the following have been received. There will be a grace period for completing some of these items.

1. An online enrollment application that includes all pertinent information concerning your child.
2. A report from your physician or health department of a physical examination within the 12 months before school starts.
3. A copy of the child's immunization record.
4. A copy of the child's certified birth certificate.

Transportation

Transportation to and from school is the parent's responsibility unless your child qualifies for transportation. There will be no exceptions for children who do not qualify.

Phone Numbers

The office needs to have current home and work phone numbers on file, as well as a daycare provider, if applicable. If your child is going to be out of school, please contact the office at 620-672-4520, no later than 8:30 a.m.

Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum

The PreK curriculum is designed to give maximum educational, social, and physical benefits to each individual child. The components include pre-reading, pre-math, handwriting, social skills, gross motor, fine motor, technology, and self-help skills.

Illness

If your child is running a fever (100.3° F or higher), has diarrhea, or is vomiting, they MUST stay home. We also ask that you keep your child at home until they are free from fever, diarrhea, and vomiting for 24 hours without the aid of medication.

Potty Trained Child

- A potty trained child will:
    - Let an adult know when he/ she needs to use the bathroom at school
    - Use the toilet independently
        - Wipe himself/ herself independently
        - May need help with buttons, snaps, buckles, etc. that require specific fine motor coordination.
- Accidents
    - Very rare
        - Can occur when a child waits too long to notify an adult about the need to use the bathroom and may start to potty on the way to the bathroom. Most common when a child does not want to leave recess to come inside and go potty and waits too long to tell an adult.
        - If an accident occurs, the child communicates the accident to an adult (wet or soiled) and does not continue to play/ sit in the mess.
- Transfer of toileting skill
    - A potty trained child will transfer the skill of independent toileting to different environments.
        - Home
        - School
        - Childcare provider
        - Outings outside of the home

Snacks

ALL classroom treats brought into our PreK classrooms, whether it is for a birthday, holiday party, or daily snacks, must be store bought or purchased from a recognized bakery business in town which can provide an ingredient list. Items may be individually

pre-packaged or purchased together in quantity as in the case of doughnuts, cookies, cupcakes, carrot sticks, etc. **We are a "Nut Aware" school. Snacks that contain peanuts or tree nuts of any kind may not be brought into classrooms.**

Nut/ Nut Products PreK Policy

Due to the increase in food allergies among our students, Lilypad Preschool at Southwest Elementary School is a Peanut/Nut Aware School. Snacks and party treats brought into the classroom MAY NOT contain peanuts or nuts of any kind for students. **Peanut butter sandwiches are only allowed in the PreK lunchroom.** Students with known nut allergies will not be seated with students who have brought lunches from home in PreK.

*Because preschool age children cannot advocate for themselves, we ask that parents with children who have severe allergies provide parent approved snacks for children at the start of each school year and as needed throughout the year. This will assure that no cross contamination occurs and better protects our children from any adverse reaction from pre-packaged snacks that might be present in the classroom.

Enrolling a student with a known Nut Allergy

Upon enrollment and notification of a food allergy, a healthcare plan will be initiated by the School Nurse in conjunction with parents, building administrator, teacher, and para-professionals. The Nurse will train appropriate staff members on proper usage of an epi-pen if applicable.

Birthdays

Parents are welcome to attend birthday parties with their child. We will ask that you check in at the office before going to your child's room. Please contact your child's teacher at least one full day ahead of time to arrange a time for birthday treats if you will be providing them.

Class Parties

We will be holding classroom parties throughout the school year. Your child's classroom teacher will have sign-up sheets for volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

Classroom Discipline

The goal of the PreK classroom is to have a positive learning environment for all students. The classroom teacher will handle discipline. Teachers will use a "take a break spot" for students who are disruptive and interfering with the learning environment of others. If needed, parents may be contacted by the classroom teacher about the situation. In a severe situation, Southwest administration may become involved and contact parents, after the teacher has initiated contact and the discipline issue has not improved.

Building-Wide Rules

Each classroom has adopted rules to reinforce positive behaviors in school. Rules are taught in each classroom.

Rule Number 1 - Listen and follow directions quickly
Rule Number 2 – Raise your hand for permission to speak
Rule Number 3 – Respect yourself, respect others, respect the world around you
Rule Number 4 – Make smart choices

PreK Beyond the Bell for 4 year-olds

- Beyond the Bell is available for 4 year old children who have reached the age of 4 years on or before 8/31/26. PreK BTB is available between the hours of **3:00-5:15** for a monthly fee based on lunch status. If you are interested in your child participating, please visit the Southwest office to complete an enrollment form and set up payment. PreK students attending BTB do not mix with K-5 students attending the Southwest BTB program. There is a discount for siblings attending the PreK and/or K-5 Beyond the Bell program.
- Beyond the Bell is an optional, elective program that is not part of the standard school day curriculum. Participation is entirely voluntary and requires explicit registration and payment. The program is not mandated by the school district and is provided as an additional service to families.
- Beyond the Bell provides supplementary activities and support. Services during school hours are not included or guaranteed. The program does not replace or assume responsibilities of:
    - School day-instructional services
    - Individualized educational support
    - Mandatory school-based interventions
    - Special education services
    - Medical diagnosis, treatment, or ongoing medical care

2026-2027 Beyond the Bell Tuition

- $85/ mo. for full pay lunch
- $70/ mo. for reduced pay lunch
- $60/ mo. for free lunch

We are so excited to have your child in our preschool! We are looking forward to an outstanding year!