



## RCS Blended Preschool Program

The Rochester Community Schools Blended Preschool Program was established in 2013. The program is a cooperative endeavor between the Rochester Preschool Department and the Rochester Schools Early Childhood Special Education Department. By incorporating research based programming and access to specialized resources, the Blended classroom provides rich educational experiences for all 3 and 4 year old students.

Blended classrooms are supported by two teachers, one through the district Preschool program, and one through the Early Childhood Special Education Department. A Para-Professional supports students on a daily basis. In addition, the program has access to a district Speech Pathologist who may provide services and valuable expertise with students. A district School Social Worker is also available for consultation or services when needed to support Social and Emotional development vital to school success. Other ancillary supports (ie. School Psychologist, Occupational and Physical Therapist) are also available to support students on an as needed basis.

Each student enrolled in a section of the Blended Program attends for 3 hours a day, Monday thru Thursday. On occasional Fridays throughout the year, students are invited to attend planned community outings. Trips to a local Apple Orchard, Bowling, etc., provide students with ample opportunities for social interactions within a community setting. The children follow the same calendar year as the K-12 School Community Calendar, including attending school until June dismissal.

HighScope is the district wide Preschool Curriculum, and is used in the Blended program. The curriculum targets Key Developmental Indicators (KDI) within eight content areas for student growth. The children work on attaining milestones in the areas of academic, social-emotional, problem solving, and gross and fine motor skills. Early Childhood Special Education students are also engaged in achieving specified Individual Educational Plan (IEP) goals while immersed in the classroom curriculum and daily routine. Each week the children are engaged with each teacher in the classroom. Teaching routines are shared between the teachers throughout the day to create a cohesive and shared experience for children.

The goal of the Blended Program is to provide a nurturing environment where all children feel themselves a valued part of the classroom community. All children learn about personal differences and commonalities. Through adult facilitated role modeling, coaching, and classroom activities based on student interests, students acquire skills for future success in all developmental areas.

Since its inception in 2013, the Blended Preschool Program has continued to grow. There are currently several sections within the district for both 3 and 4 year-old students. Its diversity of student population, as well as access to diversified school personnel and their expertise, has created a well-rounded and sought after experience among the community. Please check the District Preschool Program page for section and enrollment information. The page can be found on the Rochester Community Schools website under Schools/Pre-K.