

Dawson Springs Independent School System

Expanded Preschool Proposal
Little Panther Academy



Little Panthers Prowling to Proficiency

Increased hours of preschool instructional time will have a positive correlation to Kindergarten Readiness which in turn lays the foundation for a positive and successful educational experience.

Students who attend our Little Panther Academy will not only be exposed to preschool curriculum on a daily basis, but they will also be provided extended daily activities that are directly aligned to kindergarten entrance skills.

Physically moving the preschool from its current location to our new preschool directly across from the kindergarten classes will allow for flexible grouping of students who exhibit advanced skills.

Guidelines and Curriculum

Tuition/ Eligibility

- At Risk 4 year olds
- Identified Developmental Delays for all 3 and 4 year olds
- Tuition Based (all 3 year olds that do not qualify for IDEA-B PreK guidelines must pay tuition)
 - \$2,625 per school year (\$75 per week, \$300 per month no prorating)
- ALL Eligible 3 and 4 year-olds
 - As of August 1, 2021
- Program will run 5 days a week
 - 8 AM thru 2:30 PM

Curriculum

- KERA and IDEA-B programs
 - 4 days per week
 - 3 hours daily
- Preschool appropriate activities reinforcing KERA and IDEA-B PreK skills
 - Remaining 18 hours weekly
- Students are provided the following daily:
 - Breakfast
 - Lunch
 - Snack
 - Required rest time

2021/2022 Preschool Numbers

- Survey results as of 3/3/2021:
 - 4 students returning
 - 25 new students scheduled to be screened
 - 25 out of 25 eligible for preschool
 - 4 out of 25 confirmed paid
- Parents are continuing to call and schedule screenings. As we get more numbers, we will update the board.

Transportation

- Bus option
 - All students within city limits
 - Transported per KDE guidelines
- Car Rider Option
 - Out-of-district students

Placement/ Physical Structure

- Current preschool room will be moved to the first floor across from the kindergarten rooms.
 - Two full-day preschool classrooms
 - Two certified preschool teachers
 - Two certified instructional assistants
 - Sink in rooms
 - Easy access to bathrooms
 - Natural light
 - Playground access
 - Continue to use current preschool room for gross motor activities
 - Limited steps
 - Increased safety w/ close proximity to front off
 - Close proximity to administrative staff

Support from our Board of Education

- Requests for approval:
 - 1 additional IECE certified teacher
 - 1 additional classified assistant

Potential Needs for the Future:

- We anticipate the possibility of needing a third classroom opened due to numbers.
 - 2 additional classified assistants

Little Panthers Prowling to Proficiency

Thank you for your support in always ensuring our students have exactly what they need to be successful each and every day. We know that expanding our preschool will not only increase our current enrollment, we feel very confident that this in turn will increase our enrollment in the elementary building for years to come. Once we grow our “Little Panthers”, you know as well as we do, “Once a Panther, Always a Panther”.

- Goals and Objectives
 - Increased enrollment
 - Increased kindergarten readiness
 - Increased overall school achievement
 - Based on early readiness skills
 - Improved preschool attendance