

# Traditional or Montessori Pre-K? You can't go wrong!

The Sparta Area School District offers both traditional and Montessori options for Pre-Kindergarten. We've created this resource to help you decide which option is the best fit for your child. Remember, there's no wrong choice! Traditional Pre-K and Montessori Pre-K each provide a unique, rigorous, "fun/play" learning environment that is truly magical for your child's first school experience.

## Traditional Pre-Kindergarten

Traditional Pre-Kindergarten is offered at:

### Southside Early Learning Center

AM and PM sessions available

Door to door busing available

New, beautiful Pre-K addition to Southside building

Contact: Principal Diane Everson-Riley at [deverson@spartan.org](mailto:deverson@spartan.org)

Traditional Pre-K offers a playful learning environment that is driven by both the children's interests and abilities as well as developmentally appropriate practices. We know that children learn best through hands-on experiences, playing and exploring.

A typical day includes rich opportunities for large and small group times, pretend play, music, art, science, literacy and math activities. Learning is enhanced through thematic units such as fire prevention, seasons, farm, insects, friends, apples, families and many more.

Not only does our high-quality Pre-Kindergarten program prepare children academically for later school success; it offers opportunities to build social-emotional skills and self-esteem. Relationships are at the heart of our classrooms. Our staff create a safe environment where children can thrive and feel successful.

## Montessori Pre-Kindergarten

Montessori Pre-Kindergarten is offered at:

### Sparta Montessori School

AM session available

Door to door busing available

Newly renovated building

Contact: Principal Dr. Wendy Bennett at [wbernett@spartan.org](mailto:wbernett@spartan.org)

Sparta Montessori School offers a carefully prepared multi-age PreK classroom with materials designed to be presented in a specific order by a teacher who acts as a learning guide.

Materials are Montessori-specific and were identified by Dr. Maria Montessori to support children in mastering the skills at each level. Children are encouraged to choose which materials they want to work with during uninterrupted blocks of work time.

Student choice within boundaries is a hallmark of Montessori education as is respect for self, others, and the environment. Another hallmark of Montessori is students learning from each other; that's why the multi-age classroom is vital. Children are encouraged to explore their world and learn from each other. The staff has been trained in the Montessori Method and are committed to offering a Montessori experience.