

Praise and Data for "Tools"

- "Tools" was named an exemplary innovative educational program by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- Children in "Tools" were found to have higher rates of self-regulation as measured on neurocognitive tests.
- Children in "Tools" were found to have higher achievement levels on standardized testing.
- Children in "Tools" report higher literacy and math scores.
- Children in "Tools" have fewer discipline problems
- Children in "Tools" have better memorization skills
- Teachers in "Tools" classrooms have fewer classroom management difficulties
- Teachers in "Tools" report better able to differentiate instruction

Our Mission

At The Walnut Ridge School our mission is to prepare all students to become life-long learners. Through the Tools of the Mind curriculum our teachers use research – based best practices and empower students with student-centered activities aimed at building academic and social skills to prepare students for Kindergarten and beyond. Our highly qualified, friendly, and professional staff members pride themselves on working together to reach the individual needs of each and every child.



The Walnut Ridge School

"An Early Learning Academy"



Karen Stoeckel
Supervisor of Pre-K
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Karen Stoeckel
Supervisor of Pre-K &
Pre-K Special Education Teacher

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"This program is providing my son a solid foundation both academically and socially. A wonderful beginning to his academic career"

"The students are actively engaged in learning and they think they are playing! Learning is fun!"



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Vernon Township School District



Tools of the Mind

- Research-based curriculum based on the work of Russian psychologist Lev Vygotsky
- Aligned to all state and national standards for Pre-K
- Focused on the development of both cognitive and social-emotional self-regulation at the same time that academic skills are taught
- Instructional strategies include a combination of child-initiated activities, teacher scaffolding and explicit instruction, individualization through multiple levels of scaffolding, and on-going use of assessment data to tailor interactions to meet individual needs.
- Examples of Activities include:
 - o Graphics Practice
 - o Buddy Reading
 - o Play Planning
 - o Making Collections
 - o Play Centers
 - o Solving Mysteries
 - o Calendar, Weather, Message-of-the-Day, Freeze Dance
 - o Music
 - o Library
 - o Art
 - o Music
 - o Physical Education

Requirements

- The student must be 3 years old to begin preschool. Walnut Ridge has open enrollment all year long as long as there are spots available in the classes.
- To register, please go to the vtsd.com website and go under The Walnut Ridge School. There is a link on this page to register online through InfoSnap.
- Proof of Residence must be provided. A copy of the deed/lease to the home and a current utility bill along with a \$50 deposit is required to register. The \$50 will be credited toward your child's last month of enrollment, provided 30 days notice of withdrawal is provided.
- You will then need to bring the following items to The Walnut Ridge School:
 - o Original birth certificate
 - o Immunization records
 - o Recent physical
 - o First month's tuition
- Tuition is \$3,000 for the year, broken into 10 \$300 monthly payments.
- A reduced rate is available for families that meet income guidelines for Free/Reduced lunch

Did you attend Walnut Ridge? Share your stories by emailing Mrs. Stoeckel - kstoeckel@vtsd.com. Your story may be included on our website!!

Important Notes

- Transportation, before care, after care, and related services (speech, OT, PT, etc) are not provided unless a child qualifies from Early Intervention
- The Preschool program runs 5 day per week for 2 hours 25 minutes per day in two sessions:
 - o AM: 9:35am – 12:00pm
 - o PM: 12:50 pm – 3:15pm
- Classes are mixed age groups. There are a limited number of spaces available in our classes; students will be placed on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The preschool program is open to all children in Vernon.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) are asked to drop off and pick up their child(ren) by the front door at the appropriate time. Parent(s)/guardian(s) must sign out their child(ren). If another adult will be picking up the child(ren), a note authorizing that adult to sign out the child(ren) must be provided.