5-star DPS preschools set students up for long-term success

Students of all ages have undoubtedly been affected by the pandemic to some degree. Even the youngest learners have educational experiences in preschool that set them up for success later in life. If students are not in school, they will miss out on these opportunities.

Preschool students in the Dayton Public Schools were brought back for full-time, in-person learning in March. The district encourages families to send their young learners back to school and enroll them in preschool next year so they do not miss out on the fun and foundational learning opportunities that a high-quality preschool provides.

In addition to Rosa Parks Early Learning Center, each DPS elementary school has a preschool. All DPS preschools have received the highest rating of 5 stars from Step Up To Quality, the rating system administered by the Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

A 5-star preschool is one that has learning and development programs that meet and exceed standards for preschool licensing, school-age child care licensing, health and safety regulations and more. These standards are proven to improve outcomes for children. In essence, DPS preschools are among the best places for young learners to grow and develop.

DPS preschools are structured around play, which means students are learning while they are having fun. While students are being curious, using their imaginations, and learning how to interact with peers and adults, they are also learning important academic concepts that will help them to be more successful later on. After a year of near-isolation, allowing children to have social interaction with other children their age, and with adults outside of their home, is very important for their wellbeing and development.

DPS preschools use Creative Curriculum, which is the most widely-used curriculum in the nation. It supports the development of the whole child — academically, socially and emotionally — and helps educators teach more effectively during these formative years. Preschoolers learn language and cognitive skills, along with pre-math and pre-literacy skills. For example, students learn how to talk about books, plan stories, problem solve and share ideas. They begin to rhyme and understand the sounds in words, along with basic math, science and social studies concepts.

To support emotional development, DPS uses an approach called conscious discipline in place of traditional punitive measures. Rather than punishing students for not following directions or for having an emotional outburst, teachers will help them understand and communicate their feelings and learn to manage their emotions. This approach is based on current brain and child development research.

Studies show that students who attend preschool are better prepared for Kindergarten. Students who are prepared for Kindergarten are more likely to be better readers in 3rd grade. Reading
well in the 3rd grade is a very important indicator of future success. This means simply attending preschool will set students up for success throughout the remainder of their academic careers.

DPS preschoolers attend full-day sessions Monday-Thursday. To learn more about DPS preschools, or to enroll your child, please visit DaytonPublic.com or call the Student Enrollment Center at 937-542-5555.