

Beard School Tour Information 2019

Brief background of the school and history

Beard School was built in 1945 and 1994. The school is named after the first founder of the Boy Scouts of America, Daniel C. Beard. Beard School is a unique Specialty School with two very different types of programs housed in the same building. It is located in the Big Oakes neighborhood of Jefferson Park, Chicago and is bordered by the suburbs of Harwood Heights and Norridge.

Key Points

- Enrollment- can go up to 270
- School hours are 7:30-2:30
- Half day preschool sessions are 7:30- 10:05 for am and 11:55 – 2:30 for pm
- Beard school has a large preschool program and a large diverse learner program for students Kindergarten through 3rd grade. Once students reach the end of 3rd grade they transition to a new school setting for 4th grade.
- Beard has 9 (K-3) diverse learner cluster classrooms and 8 preschool classrooms
- Many diverse learner students are bussed to Beard School (18 bus routes arrive daily)

Preschool Program

- Beard offers a both full day and half day preschool programs
- There are currently 5 full day general education preschool programs with one teacher, one teacher's aide with 20 students.
- There is one half day blended preschool program.
- There are two intensive supports half day preschool programs with 1 teacher and 2-3 paraprofessionals in each class with a capacity of 10 students.

Kindergarten through 3rd grade

- Each classroom can go up to 10 students with one classroom teacher and 3 paraprofessionals for each classroom.
- Kindergarten through 3rd grade is a diverse learner cluster program with significantly modified curriculum and supports.
- Beard has a full related service provider team including a psychologist, nurse, social worker, speech, PT, OT, case manager and counselor.

The neighborhood community is free to utilize the playground outside of school hours.

Programs

For our music program Beard has residency programs with Tiny Tune Makers for preschool and Chime for K through 3rd grade.

For social emotional programs we offer Calm Classroom, Class Dojo, Second Step, PBIS (positive behavior interventions and supports) program, Restorative Practices, SS Grin, Beard PIP, and a partnership with Edison gifted program students.

In the hallways: PBIS lanyards, Calming Areas and Feelings People. In the classrooms, reflection sheets, choice wheels, and other adapted resources.

Curriculum at Beard

Teachers are trained in Orton Gillingham multisensory approach to teaching literacy comprehension.

Curriculums used at Beard include the Wonders Reading program by McGraw Hill, Singapore Math, Unique Learning Systems, Interactive Science by Pearson, Attainment, News-2-You, Imagine Learning (ESL), Raz Kids.

Awards

1. ExceleRate Gold circle of Quality Award for Standard of Excellence in Preschool Education in Preschool Education
2. "Exemplary" Supportive Schools Certified
3. Creative School Certified "Excelling" in the Arts
4. Healthier Generation "Silver" Certified School
5. Certified Nature Outdoor Sensory Classroom
6. Received "Well Organized" rating on the 5 Essential Survey, the highest mark possible

Cool Offerings at Beard

1. Snoezelen Sensory Room
2. Big Green Community Garden
3. Rock Climbing Wall
4. Walking Track
5. School Playground
6. Student fitness center
7. SEL Learning Fish Tanks
8. Movement Playlot in the back of the school
9. Free Rosetta Stone language subscription to all families enrolled at Beard School

Specials at Beard

1. Music
2. Art
3. ESL Support through Literacy in the Library
4. Gym
5. Second Step
6. STEAM