March 5, 2020

Dear Brick Township Public School Community:

I am writing today with wonderful news for the students and families of Brick Township Public Schools. We have been informed by the New Jersey Department of Education that we are recipients of $4,290,330.00 in Preschool Grant Funds through the Preschool Expansion Grant Program. We are thrilled with the prospect of continuing to expand our efforts in the area of early childhood education!

The purpose of The Preschool Expansion Grant Program through the New Jersey Department of Education is to increase access to high quality preschool programs for three and four year old children. As a district in the grant program, the goal is to continue to increase the number of students served each year. We are pleased to announce that with these funds we will be servicing 330 general education students between our two locations. Our “preschool universe” as determined through the department of education, is over 1100 students. The purpose of the grant funds is to continually work toward servicing the preschoolers in our “universe”. In addition to the grant funding to run our preschool program, entrance into the grant allows our district access to materials, professional development and implementation support through a partnership with NJ Grow Kids.

Having a location on each side of town helps to provide equity across the district and allows for more families to be served in our program. The New Jersey Department of Education has commended Brick Township for opening our second location and is impressed with our commitment to the expansion of our preschool program through use of the grant.

The profound impact of this program on our students is apparent. The number of special education students who are already being projected for our inclusion kindergarten classrooms rather than self-contained for next school year is significantly higher than in past years. As we continue to keep data on our students who were served in this first full year of implementation, we will be able to determine the true educational impact. We are looking forward to seeing our referrals to special education in early childhood years decline, as well as improvements in the ability of our students to self regulate. Students who have the benefit of this program are academically prepared for kindergarten, creating better school outcomes for our students and setting them up for a successful school experience.

I would like to take this time to acknowledge the support of our Superintendent, Central Office Staff, the Board of Education and Ms. Theresa Goodfellow for making this program possible for the families in Brick Township. Our preschool staff of teachers, paraprofessionals, CST Members and therapists are some of the most dedicated and talented educators I have ever had the pleasure of working with. We are so excited to continue to provide such a wonderful program to our families. Continue to check our website for announcements regarding lottery applications and important dates and deadlines. Click on the link below for lottery registration information.

http://www.brickschools.org/PreK

Sincerely,

Kristen Hanson
Director of Special Services