

Sherman Central School Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program Plan

2025-26 School Year

Sherman Central School will continue to provide a Universal Prekindergarten (UPK) program for all children who are residents of the Sherman Central School District and who turn four years old on or before December 1, 2025, in accordance with NYSED eligibility guidelines. The program is provided at no cost to families, and enrollment is voluntary.

The program will deliver an age-appropriate curriculum that promotes cognitive, linguistic, physical, cultural, and social development, aligned with the New York State Prekindergarten Learning Standards, including:

- **Domain 1: Approaches to Learning** – how children become involved in learning and acquiring knowledge.
- **Domain 2: Physical Development and Health** – children’s physical health and their ability to engage in daily activities.
- **Domain 3: Social and Emotional Learning** – emotional competence and the ability to form positive relationships.
- **Domain 4: Communication, Language, and Literacy (Parts A & B)** – how children understand, create, and communicate meaning.
- **Domain 5: Cognition and Knowledge of the World** – what children know about their world and how they apply it (Math, Science, Social Studies, Arts).

Students will learn through creative play and hands-on learning experiences. The Prekindergarten classrooms will be stocked with developmentally appropriate learning materials that support both the standards and student-initiated activities.

All students will be screened upon enrollment using the Brigance Early Childhood Screener, measuring development across multiple domains including gross and fine motor skills, cognitive abilities, language, self-help, and social/emotional development. The screening will be administered at the beginning, middle, and end of the year to monitor progress and adjust instruction accordingly.

Instruction will include center-based, developmentally appropriate activities, with an emphasis on early literacy and foundational math skills. Learning experiences will span all five NYS learning domains.

The district is committed to an inclusive program that supports the needs of students with disabilities and English Language Learners, in accordance with IEPs and applicable state

and federal guidelines. The district will collaborate with the Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) and other support services as needed.

Holidays will be celebrated according to the school population. While Sherman is not as diverse as urban districts, our community includes families from various ethnic and religious backgrounds. Students will learn about a variety of holidays, and families are encouraged to share their traditions. Celebrations may include snacks, songs, and games in a culturally respectful context.

The program will operate for five days per week, in alignment with the Sherman Central School District calendar, providing a full-day schedule (minimum five hours per day) for 180 instructional days. Each of the two Prekindergarten classrooms will be led by a New York State certified early childhood teacher, supported by a full-time classroom aide, serving up to 18 students per class with a 1:9 adult-to-student ratio.

The LEA is Sherman Central School. There are no eligible agencies in the community available for collaboration at this time.