



Website: [www.mpsdk8.org](http://www.mpsdk8.org)

500 Speedwell Avenue  
Morris Plains, NJ 07950  
County: Morris

District grades: PreSchool-8  
Approved Choice grades: K-8  
Total number of students enrolled in district:

Choice Parent Information Center Phone number:  
973-538-1650

Name of Program Contact:  
Susan Vere

Phone Number & E-mail of Program Contact:  
973-538-1650  
svere@mpsdk8.org

<b>Choice Seats Available For the 2017-2018 School Year</b>	
District Name: Morris Plains	
<b>Maximum number of <u>NEW</u> students that can be accepted: 2</b>	
<b>NOTE: Districts may have more seats available than they are able to accept.</b>	
<b>A LOTTERY WILL BE HELD AND A WAITLIST WILL BE DEVELOPED IF MORE THAN THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS IS RECEIVED.</b>	
<b>Grades</b>	<b>Seat availability per grade</b>
Kindergarten	<b>2</b>
1-8	<b>0</b>

**CHOICE PROGRAM:**

MOUNTAIN WAY SCHOOL

Mountain Way School is an early childhood learning community serving the needs of Morris Plains' children in preschool through second grade. Our school philosophy embraces each child entering school and recognizes his or her unique needs, abilities, aptitudes, and interests. A creative, caring, and competent professional staff encourages every child to learn, grow, and flourish within a challenging yet supportive environment. Children develop positive self-esteem coupled with a love for learning, acquisition of knowledge, and problem solving skills.

The academic program in the primary schools is comprehensive and enriched with instruction in the subject areas of language arts literacy, mathematics, social studies, and science being implemented by classroom teachers. Special emphasis is placed on the language arts areas of writing, speaking and listening. Health, physical education, music, art, computers and library skills are coordinated by certified area specialists who meet regularly with each class. A Primary Enrichment Program exists for gifted and talented students in Kindergarten through Second Grade. Additionally, two integrated Preschool Classes serve the needs of our

youngest children, and one classroom at the first and second grade level is co-taught by a general education teacher and special education teacher, providing a great opportunity for all students to learn together.

Mountain Way School is truly an exciting and challenging learning environment where children learn, grow, and flourish as individuals. This is due, in large measure, to a team of dedicated staff and an involved parent community who cooperatively focus on meeting the needs of all members of the learning community.

### BOROUGH SCHOOL

The Morris Plains Borough School features a comprehensive curriculum for students in 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Student success is noticeable as a reflection of the varied programs and activities which are offered, in academics, athletics and the arts. Our students are provided with a warm, safe, nurturing environment in which to learn. We believe that when children feel good about themselves they are most able to achieve at their highest levels. We offer a challenging curriculum that engages the students and prepares them for high school. Our students achieve at the highest levels at both the public and private high schools that they attend. Our mission is to provide a safe and stable learning environment in which all students can acquire the skills to become confident, self-directed, life-long learners and contributing members of society.

The school district is truly a “School Community” with its membership working collaboratively, focusing on improving instructional practices and programs that will directly impact student success. Students, teachers, administrators, and parents have a vested interest in this success. The Borough School goals this year continue to focus on the improvement of language arts literacy skills, especially in the ongoing improvement of student writing proficiency across the curriculum. There is also an added focus on the implementation of a new mathematics curriculum and the instructional tools and resources that go with it.

As a progressive school district, we recognize the advancements made in technology on a yearly basis. We have many technological resources available to students and staff. In specific, 2 computer labs, smartboard and easiteach board in every classroom, Elmos, notebook carts, two iPad carts (25 iPads/cart), and desktop computers stationed in our interactive media center. Additionally, classrooms and learning centers are equipped with Redcat Sound Amplification Systems for Sound Waves. These devices assist with student focus and making instruction more accessible for students in the classroom.

Borough School students have the opportunity to participate in many extra-curricular activities, such as: Art Club, Chess Club, Drama Club, Jazz Band, Jr. Band, Band, Media Crew, and Student Government via Student Council. Homework Club is offered to those students who need extra help in completing and organizing themselves with homework. Our after school sports programs include: boys and girls soccer, cross country, basketball and track & field teams, cheerleading, girls softball, boys baseball, and intramural sport programs.

Communication is an important component of our overall school program. Parents utilize a web-based program called School Brains to view student reports. These reports include absence records, schedules, and grades. Also, each teacher maintains a homework webpage.



*Navigating a changing world through excellence and innovation*

<b>District Choice Policies</b>	
a. The district accepts Tier 2 students.	Yes
b. The district gives enrollment preference to students who have a sibling currently attending the choice district, provided they will enroll in a choice-approved grade/program and they meet any program-specific criteria.	Yes
c. The district gives enrollment preference to choice students who have completed the terminal grade of the sending district (i.e., students who attend a choice district with grades that terminate before 12th grade and with a natural progression to this choice district).	N.A.
d. The district gives enrollment preference to resident students who move <u>before</u> the application deadline. If resident students move and file choice applications for the following year prior to the deadline, the district will give them enrollment preference (i.e., accept them ahead of other applicants), PROVIDED that there are choice seats available in the choice-approved grades/ programs and the students meet any program-specific criteria. <i>If the district has already reached its approved choice enrollment maximum, this preference will not apply.</i>	No
e. The district gives special consideration to resident students who move <u>after</u> the application deadline. Students in this situation may apply as late applicants, PROVIDED that there are choice seats available in the choice-approved grades/programs and the students meet any program-specific criteria. <i>If the district has already reached its approved choice enrollment maximum, this special consideration will not apply.</i>	No

**TRANSPORTATION NOTE TO PARENTS:**

***Transportation of choice students is not guaranteed. If a student is eligible for transportation (within 20 miles of the school) and the cost will exceed \$884, the parent/guardian will be given \$884 as aid in lieu of transportation and, in some cases, the option of receiving the transportation and paying the additional amount over \$884. By Aug. 1, 2017, parents should receive notification of their transportation options from the resident district. For more information, read the [Transportation Procedures](#) for choice students.***

**Tier 1 students** are students who are enrolled in a NJ public school in their resident school district during the time of application and for the entire year (2016-17) immediately preceding enrollment in a choice district. If a student moved during the school year and attended the resident public school of his/her old district of residence, he/she is also considered Tier 1. Choice districts must first fill their available seats with Tier 1 students. If the number of Tier 1 applications exceeds the number of choice seats available, the choice district must hold a lottery to randomly select students. Charter school students are considered to be Tier 1. To qualify as Tier 1 for kindergarten, a student must be attending a state-funded preschool in his or her resident district or a student resides in a district that does not offer a state-funded preschool program or a student has a sibling currently attending the choice district. Most students applying for kindergarten are in Tier 1.

**Tier 2 students** include NJ residents who have not attended their resident public school for the entire year immediately prior to enrollment in the desired choice district and do not otherwise meet the requirements for Tier 1. This would include students who have been attending public school outside their districts of residence or private school. Choice districts are not obligated to accept Tier 2 students. If a choice district accepts Tier 2 applicants, they may do so only after all of the qualified Tier 1 applicants have been accepted. If the number of Tier 2 applications exceeds the number of choice seats available, the choice district must hold a Tier 2 lottery to select students.