FACT SHEET:
Mt. Pleasant Blythedale Union Free School District

Why Choose Mt. Pleasant Blythedale UFSD?

Mt. Pleasant Blythedale UFSD (MPB) is a New York State public, special act school district, chartered since 1971 to serve the highly specialized needs of the patients of Blythedale Children’s Hospital. Children in grades K through 12, who require intensive rehabilitation and medical care, attend school either as inpatients or through Blythedale’s Day Hospital Program. There is also a preschool, special education program that accepts community Committee on Preschool Special Education (CPSE) referrals. Each day is a dynamic interplay of medical care, therapies, and education. All children receive daily medical and nursing care, physical, occupational and/or speech therapy, as well as appropriate medical consultation based on an individualized treatment plan. Education is a vital component of the rehabilitation program, and our multidisciplinary approach ensures that students receive coordinated services. MPB offers them a comprehensive, public school alternative to homebound instruction.

MPB offers all New York State accredited diploma options, Regents and local diplomas. There is also a General Educational Development (GED) preparation program for students ages 16 and up. All teachers are certified by New York State in special education, and either a secondary content area or elementary education. Teachers provide specialized learning environments to address the academic, social and emotional needs of students in small class settings. The instructional programs are congruent with the New York State Learning Standards and the Common Core Curriculum. They are designed to address Individualized Education Program (IEP) goals while simultaneously helping students to maximize their learning potential and work toward grade level standards and recognized secondary credentials. Special subjects, such as technology, art, music and library are also part of the school curriculum. The District is governed by the Regulations of the New York State Education Department. MPB is a public school district and New York State residents attend tuition free. Out-of-state students attend by referral from their home school districts. At the time of discharge, a comprehensive transition program helps students, parents and local school districts identify appropriate placement options. Even though they are patients in a hospital, children are encouraged to pursue the primary tasks of childhood and adolescence: having fun and growing emotionally, socially and academically.

- Staff of 21 certified educators, a school psychologist, guidance counselor and 23 teaching assistants and aides.
- Services provided in 32,000 square foot, state-of-the-art school building built in 1998, attached to Blythedale Children’s Hospital.
- Experienced nursing staff.
- Differentiated instruction.
- Central Westchester location, convenient to the New York City boroughs, Long Island, and the lower Hudson Valley, including Putnam, Rockland, Orange and Dutchess counties.
- Medical supervision by Board-certified pediatricians and pediatric specialists.
- Largest hospital-based pediatric therapy department in New York State, with 75 full-time pediatric therapists (physical, occupational, respiratory, speech pathology and feeding).
- MPB can accommodate 120 school-aged children and 24 preschoolers.
- Transportation is provided by the child’s home school district, by school bus or ambulette.
- Full-day program runs 9:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.
- Flexible schedule to accommodate intensive therapy regimens.
- Transition services to ensure successful return to community.
- Extended year/summer school programming.
- Parent support groups.

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Mt. Pleasant Blythedale UFSD Team

Ellen F. Bergman, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Dr. Bergman has been superintendent of Mt. Pleasant Blythedale UFSD since 2004. She is a veteran educator with extensive experience as a teacher and administrator in both community and special school districts.

Emily Hersh
Principal
Ms. Hersh has been the principal of Mt. Pleasant Blythedale UFSD since July 2011. Prior to this, she was a teacher for 16 years at the Mt. Pleasant Blythedale School. Emily is currently pursuing her Doctorate at Manhattanville College.

Amelia Carpanzano
Assistant Principal
Ms. Carpanzano has been the assistant principal of Mt. Pleasant Blythedale UFSD since 2011. She previously served as a reading specialist. She is a graduate of Manhattanville College.

Joelle Mast, Ph.D., M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Blythedale Children’s Hospital
Dr. Mast is a pediatric neurologist with a Ph.D. in cognitive psychology. She completed residencies in Pediatrics and Neurology at The New York Hospital – Cornell Medical Center. She is Board Certified in Pediatrics, Hospice & Palliative Care, Child Neurology and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities.

On-Site Services and Support Areas Serving Students:

- Pediatric Medicine
- Pediatric Rehabilitation Medicine
- Child Neurology
- Pediatric Orthopaedics
- Pediatric Pulmonology
- Child Psychiatry and Psychology
- Pediatric Nursing
- Pediatric Nutrition
- Pain Management
- Pediatric Occupational Therapy
- Pediatric Physical Therapy
- Pediatric Respiratory Therapy
- Speech Pathology and Feeding Therapy

Clinical Support Services:

- Audiology
- Social Work/Case Management
- Radiology
- Lab Services
- Assistive Technology
- Patient Advocacy
- On-site Equipment Clinic

Contacts:

For more information about the School, please contact the Mt. Pleasant Blythedale UFSD at:
914-347-1800, ext. 301

For medical referral information, please contact:
Theresa King, R.N.,
Director of Clinical Outreach
theresak@blythedale.org
914-831-2431
Pager: 877-325-6394
Fax: 914-592-0381

Common Conditions of Patients Who Attend Mt. Pleasant Blythedale UFSD:

- Brain Injury
- Burns
- Cancer
- Cardiac Disease
- Cerebral Palsy
- Chronic Pain Syndromes
- Genetic and Neuromuscular Diseases
- Hematologic Disorders
- Intracranial Hemorrhage and Stroke
- Post-Orthopaedic Surgery
- Pulmonary Disorders
- Renal Disease
- Rheumatologic Disorders
- Spinal Cord Injury and Disorder

About Blythedale Children’s Hospital

As New York’s only freestanding, specialty children’s hospital, Blythedale Children’s Hospital is dedicated to improving the health status and quality of life of children with complex medical illnesses and disabling conditions through superb multi-disciplinary patient care, teaching, research, and advocacy programs. Blythedale’s board-certified physicians, nurses, and other clinical staff (social workers, respiratory therapists, clinical pharmacists, Child Life specialists, etc.) and New York State’s largest hospital-based pediatric therapy department (PT, OT and Speech) work together to provide intensive and innovative multi-disciplinary clinical and therapeutic care to help children achieve their medical and rehabilitative goals for independent living, and return to their communities. Blythedale is also the only Hospital in New York State with its own, on-site public school district.