

20 July 2021

Dear Preschool Families,

The preschool staff is very excited for the start of our 2021-2022 school year! We can't wait to welcome our students back in September. Our goal is to create a safe learning environment while still maintaining the integrity of the quality, developmentally appropriate preschool that we are known for. This plan is based on guidance from the Allegheny Health Department, CDC, and PA Department of Education. Listed below are important details regarding our parent and student orientation days, as well as guidelines for the start of the school. Please take a few minutes to read through the details of our Back-to-School Plan. We are looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

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2021-2022 Back to School Plan

Parent Orientation, Wednesday, September 8

Parent Orientation Meeting will begin in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM. This meeting will provide parents with helpful information for our 2021-2022 school year. Please make every effort to attend. This informational meeting is for adults only, no children please.

Student Orientation, Thursday, September 9 & Friday, September 10

Student Orientation dates are assigned by class (see schedule and signup information below). These 15-minute sessions are a time for parents and the student enrolled at MPCP to visit the classroom, meet the teachers, become familiar with the classroom setting, and receive important classroom information. This time to explore the classroom with parents helps to eliminate some of the first day unknowns so that your child will feel more confident when coming school. **No Siblings please.** Parents will receive an email with sign up information through Sign Up Genius the last week of July.

Thursday, September 9

9:00-11:00 AM slots for morning classes, 1:00-3:00 PM slots for afternoon classes

Classes to schedule slots on this date include:

- Unassisted 2-year-old Monday Class (UA2M)
- Unassisted 2-year-old Tuesday/Thursday Class (UA2 T/TH)
- 2 Day 3-year-old Tuesday/Thursday Class (2D3 AM)
- 4 Day 4/5-year-old PM class (4D4/5 PM)

Friday, September 10

9:00-11:00 AM slots for morning classes, 1:00-3:00 PM slots for afternoon classes

Classes to schedule slots on this date include:

- Unassisted 2-year-old Wednesday/Friday Class (UA2 W/F)
- 3 Day 4-year-old AM & PM Classes (3D4 AM/PM)
- 3 Day 3-year-old AM Class (3D3 AM)
- AM Transition Class (AMTR)

First Day of School, Monday, September 13 (for our classes that meet on Mondays)

NEW CARPOOL PROCEDURES:

In an attempt to keep our preschoolers safe during drop off and pick up, we will be eliminating all cross traffic in the parking lot. **Parents will no longer be permitted to enter the parking lot for drop off or pick up from Peebles Road. All traffic will enter the parking lot from Duncan Avenue and proceed to the back of the parking lot to form a carpool line.** Cones will be set up just above the lower parking lot blocking the entrance to the upper parking lot. Any parent who enters from Peebles will have to turn around in the lower-level lot and exit back out on to Peebles and proceed to the Duncan entrance. Likewise, parents will not be permitted to turn left out of the carpool line (where the NO LEFT TURN sign is) when exiting carpool because they will not be able to exit to Peebles Road. This will keep all traffic flowing in from Duncan, around through the carpool line, and then back out onto Duncan. **Please help us work together to make the parking lot a safe place for all of our preschool families.**

Health and Hygiene:

- If ill or experiencing symptoms, staff and students should remain at home. This is the best way to help keep our preschool community healthy.
- It is recommended that staff and students with health concerns should consult their physician regarding the risks of participating in the preschool program. Information about illness prevention is available from the [CDC website here](#).
- The PA mask mandate was lifted on June 28. Currently the recommendations from governmental/public health agencies for unvaccinated individuals are recommendations, not mandates. **MPCP will begin preschool in September with a Mask Optional Masking Policy.** The preschool staff will do our best to encourage proper mask wearing for those students whose parents opt to have their child wear a mask. However, in the course of a busy preschool day, now that masking is no longer mandated, we cannot guarantee that your child will keep his/her mask on at school if that's your preference.
- In the event that COVID cases in Allegheny County increase, MPCP may return to mandatory mask wearing for all students if necessary.
- At the county level, the COVID positivity rate is very low. Over the past month we have been specifically monitoring the ACHD dashboard of COVID cases in children ages 2-5. The data reinforces low levels within that group, as well. [You can find that information here](#).
- We will continue to enlist the support of parents to keep children with symptoms at home.
- MPCP will begin the school year **without** temperature checks at the curbside. This practice will be re-implemented at any time if deemed necessary.
- Classes will continue to be kept separate to minimize cross contamination between classes. This allows us to still remain open and only quarantine individual classes if needed.
- **Discovery Days will NOT be offered at the beginning of school.** However, we plan to offer this program as soon as we feel that students from multiple classrooms can be combined safely.
- Per recommendations from public health officials, quarantine requirements will continue for those who are unvaccinated and considered to be a close contact to a confirmed positive individual. You can view the [CDC quarantine protocols here](#).
- Electrostatic cleaning between morning and afternoon sessions, as well as nightly, will continue.
- MPCP will continue to provide individual art supplies for each child.
- Children will wash their hands upon arrival to school each day.
- Hand sanitizing and hand washing procedures will be in place throughout the day.

In the event of illness:

- If a child or staff member becomes ill at school, they will be separated from the group and return home.
- A separate area will be designated for the child to wait with an adult when ill.
- A student who is exposed to a positive case of COVID-19 through close contact will be required to stay home for 10 days, or as advised by a licensed medical professional/the [Allegheny County Health Department](#).
- **If a child or staff is diagnosed with COVID-19, please notify the preschool right away so that we can respond appropriately in conjunction with the Allegheny Health Department and communicate with parents in a timely manner.**
- Per the [CDC Guidelines](#), children may return to school: *after 10 days since symptoms first appeared **AND** * 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications AND other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving prior to being released from quarantine (symptoms may include):
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

Snacks at school:

- The preschool will continue to provide snacks for the beginning of the school year
- Children will not be 6 feet apart when eating
- While MPCP is providing snacks, there will be no birthday treats sent in from home. **We will celebrate birthdays with birthday books, which parents may come into the classroom and read.** The child will also be the line leader and classroom helper on their special day.
- **Parents of children with food allergies will always provide the snack for their child.** Parents may also send in an “allergy free” box of snacks to be stored in the classroom. The teacher will notify you when your child’s snack needs replenished.

Volunteers:

- We are excited to welcome parent volunteers back into the preschool! **All parents must have up to date volunteer clearances in order to volunteer.** Please visit <https://www.memorialparkchurch.org/preschool> for details about how to obtain your required clearances.