



Welcome to the 2025-2026 School Year!

The first years of school are filled with many wondrous moments. It's a time of tremendous social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development. The skills learned at this stage—letter/number recognition, may seem simple but they will set your child up for a lifetime of learning. Preschoolers are active learners. They learn by doing. Your child will be given opportunities for active learning: seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, self-expression, inquiry, discovery, and problem solving. Children need to learn to think, question, reason, and become active decision makers. There's an intense amount of brainwork going on! A love of language, reading, and books starts early. Your child's teacher will use a variety of fun and engaging strategies in the classroom to help develop reading skills such as: reading out loud, poetry, and storytelling. Preschool is also a time for developing good learning habits and positive self-esteem. Keep in mind that for small children, school is all about having fun and acquiring social skills - not achieving academic milestones. Your child's teacher will be discussing all of these things with you many times throughout the school year. Again, please communicate any questions and/or concerns with your child's teacher.





First Week of Preschool

Classes will begin on Monday, September 8th.

The prek 4 classes start the year off with regular school hours which are 9:15am – 11:45am.

The prek 3 classes have shortened mornings for the first week of classes:

- Monday & Wednesday 9:15am – 10:30am
- Friday 9:15am – 11:00am

Please note that arrival is from 9:00am – 9:15am, and dismissal is at 11:45am.

Please wait quietly in the hall until the teacher opens the classroom door to begin welcoming the students to school. It is also important to arrive to school on time. This allows your child time to adjust from being at home with you, to being at school. Being prompt also ensures that your child won't miss any classroom learning. Parents who arrive to school earlier are asked to please wait in your vehicle until 9:00am to enter the building and start lining up. Parents who enter the school earlier will be asked to return to their vehicle until the scheduled time.

GCP Orientation- Friday, September 5th *Please bring items listed on the Supply List*

- **PreK 3 Parent Orientation 9:15am - 9:30am, Room 219** - Parents of children enrolled in Mrs. Marcello's PreK 3 class are invited to a brief meeting prior to orientation. During this time, parents will learn about our 3's program and receive important information.
- **Orientation 9:30am - 11:00am** - This time is for all preschool families. Feel free to stop in anytime between 9:30am - 11:00am to explore the school, meet the teachers, visit the classrooms, and drop off your child's preschool supplies.

First Day of School

Classes begin on Monday, September 8th.

The first day of school may be an emotional time for some of you. To make the transition more smoothly for your child, it is important that you say your good-byes in a timely manner as your child will begin to grow wings and explore on their own.

What to Bring to School

Your child will need to bring a bag or backpack to school every day to carry home papers/projects from school. Your child will receive a GCP folder at orientation. This folder needs to be brought to school every day. Please check the contents of this folder daily.

Communication Between Home and School

We all have the same goal for your child's preschool experience – for your child to be happy, challenged, comfortable, and secure at school. We need to work together to see this accomplished. We ask that you please review things that your child is learning at school on a daily basis. Have fun...read books, play letter games, review letters/sounds, numbers, practice letter/number formation, etc. Your child's teacher will be sending home materials and various ideas for you throughout the year. Please be sure to look through your child's folder daily, as well as your email for class calendars, newsletters, and information. Writing notes and/or emailing are great ways to share information with your child's teacher. Please contact your child's teacher anytime you are unsure about something.

Preschool Attire

Preschool children should wear play clothes! Keep in mind that your child will be climbing, painting, playing with water, and helping himself/herself with bathroom needs. We emphasize having a good experience rather than keeping special clothes spotless. Clothing with many buttons, buckles, belts, and straps are hard for little hands to maneuver. Overalls and tights are also difficult when it comes to using the bathroom. Children can manage elastic-waist pants with ease. You should help your child work toward independence by selecting clothing he/she can manage easily on his/her own.

- Jewelry should not be worn to school.
- For safety reasons, toes should be covered at all times.
- No sandals or flip-flops.
- Hats, watches, extra large hair bows, etc. are discouraged.

Gym Days

If your child is enrolled in a PreK 4 class, he/she will need to wear sneakers or athletic shoes on Gym Days. It might be helpful if he/she has slip-on or velcro sneakers for gym to avoid untied laces. There is no need to buy a separate pair of gym shoes, just make sure that your child is wearing sneakers on Gym Days.