



Welcome to the 2026-2027 School Year!

The Joys of the Early School Years

The first years of school are filled with countless memorable moments. This time marks significant social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth. The foundational skills acquired during this stage, such as letter and number recognition, may appear simple, but they lay the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

Active Learning Opportunities

Preschoolers are dynamic learners who thrive through hands-on experiences. Your child will engage in various active learning opportunities, including: seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, self-expression, inquiry, discovery, and problem-solving.

It is essential for children to develop critical thinking, questioning, reasoning, and decision-making skills. There's a wealth of cognitive activity happening during this time!

Fostering a Love for Language

A passion for language, reading, and books begins at an early age. Your child's teacher will employ a range of fun and engaging strategies in the classroom to nurture reading skills, including: reading aloud, poetry, storytelling.

Preschool also serves as a foundation for cultivating good learning habits and fostering positive self-esteem. Remember that for young children, school is not solely about reaching academic goals; it also plays a crucial role in fostering social skills.

Your child's teacher will discuss these topics with you throughout the school year. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have.





GCP Orientation - Friday, September 11th

****Please remember to bring the items listed on the Supply List.***

Preschool families are welcome to visit anytime between 9:30am and 11:00am to:

- Explore the school
- Meet the teachers
- Visit the classrooms
- Drop off your child's preschool supplies

First Week of Preschool

Classes will begin on Monday, September 14th.

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 9:15am - 9:45am** Parents remain with their child in class for a brief orientation.
- **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.

First Day of School

Classes begin on Monday, September 14th.

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

Preschoolers should be dressed in play clothes! Remember that your child may be climbing, painting, running, and attending to their bathroom needs. We prioritize having a positive experience over keeping special outfits pristine. Clothing with numerous buttons, buckles, belts, and straps can be challenging for small hands to handle. Additionally, overalls/jumpsuits and tights may complicate bathroom use. Elastic-waist pants are much easier for children to manage independently. Encourage your child's self-sufficiency by choosing clothing they can easily put on and take off themselves.

- **Jewelry should not be worn to school.**
- **Toes must be covered at all times for safety.**
- **Avoid sandals, flip-flops, or shoes that do not fit securely at the heel, such as crocs.**
- **Hats, watches, and similar accessories are discouraged.**

Gym Days - PreK 4 Classes Only

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.