

Kindergarten 2020-2021 FAQ Sheet

CLOTHING

Q: What is the school uniform?

The Code of Attire has been adjusted tri-campus for the 2020-2021 school year to include more washable fabrics and to help children be more comfortable. To view the Primary School Code of Attire, please go to mka.org/parents/back2school, then see the Primary School section and click Forms and Info, All Grades.

Q: Should my child bring a change of clothes?

Yes. Please send in a large Ziploc bag filled with school uniform clothing: pants/skirt, leggings, long sleeve shirt, short sleeve shirt, socks, and underwear.

Q: Does my child need snow clothes/boots?

For rainy/muddy days, we do like the children to have a pair of boots left in the classroom for the duration of the school year. These boots can be used all year long during the cold weather months when the children still get outside and on muddy days for exploring and jumping in puddles. We will send out an email as the winter season approaches to send in snow clothes, which we prefer to stay at school. However, if you do not have an extra pair, we can certainly send snow clothes home.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Q: How can my child celebrate a birthday at school?

We are confirming if and when students can bring snacks to share with classmates. We will share this information with families when we have it. It may be possible that students can bring pre-packaged snacks (i.e., small bags of popcorn or cookies) to share for their birthdays, but we await confirmation. All birthday or party snacks must be approved by the school nurse to check for allergies in the class. Summer birthdays will be celebrated in May.

Q. Whom do I notify if my child has allergies?

Notify your child's teachers and Primary School nurse Candice Carlson (ccarlson@mka.org) of any allergies prior to the start of the school year.

SNACK AND LUNCH

Q: What do the children eat for snack?

Our dining services provider, Culinart, will provide a daily snack to students in individual single servings. The snack menu is being developed.

Q: What are the procedures for lunch in K?

Students may bring lunch from home or opt into the school's dining program via Culinart. (Families will have the option to opt into this in late August.) If students opt into the school's dining program, pre-ordered, individually packaged lunches will be delivered to classrooms. Whether they are on the school's dining program or bring lunch from home, students will eat lunch physically distanced at tables/desks in classrooms. When possible, students will be able to eat lunch on the back field, physically distanced. Please note that the Primary School campus is nut-free if you choose to send lunch from home.

Q: Should my child bring a water bottle to school?

Children will keep a water bottle in school. Please label this water bottle with your child's name. They will have opportunities throughout the day to fill their water bottles at the water station.

TRIPS AND TRANSPORTATION

Q: Will K go on field trips throughout the year?

Trips are not planned for 2020 but may be planned if possible for 2021. If field trips are possible in 2021, Parent "Sign-up Genius" online forms will be sent out by Class Representatives to request chaperones.

Q: What are the morning drop-off procedures?

Pre-K and K students and their first-third grade siblings will arrive in car line or via bus between 7:45-8:05. Each morning by 7:30 am, families must have completed the Magnus health checklist via the downloadable app in order to progress through car line. Families must have also taken students' temperatures at home. Temperatures will be rechecked before students enter the building.

Q: If my child takes the bus, where does he/she go at the end of the day?

Students who take the bus will be called to be dismissed. A teacher specifically assigned to bus duty will help students to be matched to the right bus and to board the bus safely.

Q: If my child is signed up for Extended Day, where will he/she go?

Teachers and members of the Extended Day team will support students in going to designated locations outside on the back field to play for Extended Day, or designated locations indoors if it is raining.

Q: If my child participates in carline, where and when do I need to pick up?

Carline begins at 2:20 each day in the main driveway circling around the Primary School. Please place a sign in your front window with your child's last name in large letters to assist us in helping your child get to your car quickly.

Q: If we walk to and from school, where can I drop off and pick up at the end of the day?

Before the first day of school, we will let you know where to pick up once we have finalized our arrival and dismissal routine.

Q: Who do I email or call if there is a change in my child's dismissal plan?

If there is a change to after-school plans for your child, please email both psnotifications@mka.org AND teacher by 1:30 pm. This ensures that someone will see your email before the school day ends.

GENERAL KINDERGARTEN LOGISTICS

Q: What will the school day schedule look like under these new guidelines?

Each Kindergarten cohort will have a 45 minute encore period each day, along with two thirty minute recess periods, a fifteen minute snack time, and a thirty minute lunch.

Q: Will my child study a world language?

K students will take French this year. French will take place in the classrooms.

Q: What is "Cougar of the Week" in kindergarten?

"Cougar of the Week" provides students with an opportunity to share with fellow classmates as well as teachers more about themselves, families, and culture. Each day has a specific theme for which each child will bring an object of importance to them and

share it with the class. You will sign your child up to be “Cougar of the Week” on Sign-up Genius early in the school year.

Q: When are the Writing Celebrations?

At this time, in-person Writing Celebrations are not planned due to health and safety. We look forward to sharing your child’s writing with you in December and May in other ways, such as virtually or by sending their published work home to share with you.

Q: When will recess occur during the day?

Recess takes place twice a day, typically in the morning and afternoon. Recess will be outside each day, weather permitting, and in the event of snow, students will need snow clothes, snow boots, gloves, and a winter hat in order to participate. **Please mark all items with your child’s first and last name.** If the temperature goes below 25° F, recess will be held indoors.

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Q: How often will I be in communication with the teacher?

You will be contacted by your classroom teacher at least once a month by phone or email, whichever is easiest and most convenient for you, to discuss your child’s progress and social/emotional well-being. During months when we have conference day, conferences count as your monthly contact; however, please do not hesitate to reach out at any time!

Q: How should I contact my child’s teacher?

Please address the teacher via email. We try to check our email at various times/breaks during the day and will do our best to get back to you within 24 hours.

Q: What does the K Orientation Day look like for students and parents?

It’s an opportunity for children and one parent per child to come into the classroom, take a tour, meet the teachers, and hopefully begin to feel a bit more comfortable before the first day of school.

Q: Whom do I contact if my child will be absent?

When your child is ill and will be absent, please call Primary School reception at 973-783-8805 or email psnotifications@mka.org between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Please copy your child’s teacher on any emails about absence.