

July 27, 2020

Dear Pre-K Families,

Welcome to MKA! We are preparing for the upcoming school year and would like to share some important information so that you can plan for the first few days of school in September.

We look forward to welcoming your child to school in the fall. Please save the date for Pre-K **parent orientation**, which will be held virtually on the evening of Tuesday, September 1. Pre-K Blue parent orientation will be held virtually from 7-8 pm, and Pre-K Green parent orientation will be held virtually from 8:15-9:15 pm. You will receive class assignments later this summer, and we will share the technology information you need to connect with parent orientation prior to orientation night.

We look forward to meeting your children at Pre-K **student orientation**, which will be held in person on a staggered schedule for small groups of Pre-K students and one parent per child on Tuesday, September 8. Masks, social distancing, hand hygiene, symptom checklists/temperature checks, and meeting of small groups within cohorts will be measures we will take for everyone's safety at student orientation. We will share more details about Pre-K student orientation in the coming weeks.

Please bring the following items to school when your child comes to student orientation:

- A complete change of clothing (including underwear and socks) in a Ziploc bag
- A smock (an old, oversized T-shirt works best) labeled with your child's name
- A pair of rubber rain boots to be kept at school all year, labeled with your child's name (you might want to buy a half- or full-size larger than your child's current size so that the boots can be used for the full year)

Please **label all items** that come to school with your child's name. It is especially important to **label all outerwear** your child will use at school to help minimize clothing loss. All found clothing items that are unlabeled will be placed in the Lost and Found, and children can check there for missing items.

The **dress code** for Pre-K is simple play clothing in any durable fabric. Pre-K students are not required to follow the Primary School Code of Attire except for concerts and on

field trip days, when they are required to wear a white pique polo shirt with navy MKA logo. Students must wear shorts (or in the winter, tights or leggings) under dresses or skirts. Please know that spills and stains are an inevitable part of a school day.

**Sneakers with Velcro are required** for Pre-K students during the 2020-2021 school year so that they can independently secure their shoes on their feet and help teachers and students to maintain social distancing. When choosing clothing items, please choose items that children can manage as independently as possible.

Your child will need a **full-sized backpack** for school that will easily accommodate a standard-size lunchbox as well as papers or projects. (**Please do not send in backpacks with wheels.**) It is very important that your child can easily open his or her backpack; this helps foster independence in our students. For safety reasons, please do not allow your child to add additional key chains or toys to the zippers of the backpacks.

**Lunch:** You may opt into the school's dining services program from Culinart or send lunch in with your child. Primary School parents will be able to opt into the lunch program in late August. When sending lunch from home, please refrain from sending in heavily-sugared dessert items or candy. Please note that the Primary School campus is nut-free. If you want to add a cold pack to your child's lunch box, we suggest a mini cold pack.

**Water bottles:** Pre-K students should bring their own reusable water bottles to school. Please label the bottle with your child's name in large letters on the side of the bottle.

Please contact your child's teachers with any questions or information by email or phone; we will always return your phone calls or answer your emails as soon as possible. If your message is timely and you need a response before the end of the day, it is best to call the school and leave the message. All emails and other notes from home should be addressed to both teachers.

If there is a change in your child's after school or end-of-day transportation plans, an email or note is required to inform us of such changes. If you send a hard copy of a note to school, please pin the note to your child's backpack for easy access.

Birthdays are an important part of Pre-K students' experiences. We will share updated information about how we plan to celebrate students' birthdays in the classroom (including whether students may safely bring birthday snacks to share with

classmates) when such information is available in the fall. If students can bring birthday snacks to share, all birthday snacks must be reviewed by the nurse ahead of time to ensure the safety of students with allergies or other dietary restrictions. Pre-K birthdays are typically celebrated during snack time and students with summer birthdays celebrate them in May or June.

Class parents will be in touch about PAMKA (Parents' Association of MKA) events, including opportunities to be involved with classroom activities throughout the year.

**Wednesday, September 9** will be the first day of school for Pre-K students and a full school day. In addition to the administrators who will greet students as they arrive on car line, the Pre-K teachers will help students transition into the school building. At dismissal, faculty will help students safely get to their cars in car line or the appropriate buses under faculty supervision if bus service is available from school.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Breanna Conley, Suzanne Giarrusso, Caylie Marden, and John Odell

Pre-K Teachers