



August 2020

Dear Pre-K Children and Parents,

Welcome to the 2020/2021 school year! My name is Mrs. Buscemi and I am very happy to be your teacher! I am looking forward to helping you grow, develop and learn many new and exciting things with your classmates this year. The first few weeks of school are a time of transition and becoming familiar with our daily routines, as well as getting to know all about each other. I wanted to share some of my favorite things about myself with you. I love animals, especially dogs. I also love reading, spending time with my family and visiting new places. I am excited to learn about your interests and favorite things so that we can include them in our classroom.

Parents, below you will find brief details of expectations, requirements, and how we will be communicating with one another throughout the year. Thank you in advance!

□ **What will be coming home:**

At the beginning of school, your child will be bringing home a folder. The folder will be used for sending home notices, as well as the beautiful masterpieces your child creates in Pre-K! Additional communication will be sent electronically, including newsletters and pictures of your child enjoying classroom activities.

□ **What is needed from home: (PLEASE SEND IN BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH)**

- Accidents can happen to the best of us and we never make a child feel ashamed or upset by one if it does occur. In case of an accident, please send in an **extra set of clothes** (top, bottom, socks, underwear) in a Ziploc bag, labeled accordingly. Note - We will be swapping out their change of clothes routinely throughout the year as seasons change and bodies grow!
- Pre-K has a set and required rest time that will be implemented during the school day. Children will have their own individual cot that will be used only by them throughout the school year. Please send a **fitted crib sheet or a special cot sheet** to cover the cot, as well as a **sheet or blanket** to cover your child. Rest time blankets will be sent home weekly for laundering. Children may also bring a small comfort item, such as a stuffed animal, to be kept at school with their blanket. **This comfort item should not make noise or include batteries and will be used only during rest time.** Rest Time comfort items will remain at school and will not be sent back and forth each day.
- We ask that children use a 14-16 inch backpack - large enough to fit a standard folder.
- Please send in a painting smock or large t-shirt to use for painting. Must be labeled and sent in a Ziploc bag.
- To personalize our classroom, we also ask that you send in one recent photo of your child and one family photo for us to display in our cozy corner.

**** Please note: As part of the Pre-K For All program, you will not be required to purchase school materials. All school materials will be provided for the classes.**

**** Please make sure that all items (jackets, backpacks, etc...) are labeled.**

- **Breakfast/Lunch:**
Pre-K For All provides each child with breakfast and lunch. Breakfast and lunch menus will be distributed as they are received, generally once per month. Children eat in small groups in the classroom and not in the cafeteria.
- **School Uniform:**
Since our program is Pre-K For All, a Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy school uniform is not mandated, so clothes they can manage easily are the best choices! For safety reasons, sneakers are always recommended as we visit the playground each day during recess. Sneakers are required on days your child's class will visit the Gym.
- **Parent-Teacher Orientation:**
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD at 5:30pm via Zoom (link to be emailed separately). Information about the Pre-K for All Program and the first few days of school will be discussed.
- **First Day(s) of School:**

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2020 SCHOOL BEGINS!

- From 8:30-9:30am, families whose last names begin with letters A-G
- From 10:00-11:00am, families whose last names begin with letters H-Z
- Drop off and dismissal will be at the Portico entrance on Alameda Avenue.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH, 2020

- From 8:30-9:30am, families whose last names begin with letters A-G
- From 10:00-11:00am, families whose last names begin with letters H-Z
- Drop off and dismissal will be at the Portico entrance on Alameda Avenue.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2020

- Students will attend school as a whole class from 8:50-10:50am.
- Breakfast will be served.
- Drop off and dismissal will be at the Portico entrance on Alameda Avenue.

- **Arrival/Dismissal Procedure:**
 - We will begin our normal schedule starting on Monday, September 14th. The school day begins at **7:50am** with arrival at the school entrance under the Portico on Alameda Avenue. Children will be escorted to the classroom by a Pre-K teacher or assistant and will be supported learning our daily morning routine.
 - Dismissal will also take place through the entrance under the Portico on Alameda Avenue promptly at **2:00pm** every day. Children will be released one at a time as authorized adults wait for children outside the doors. For safety reasons, identification will be required if you are an unfamiliar face.
 - ****You must inform us if your child will be picked up by another family member or friend, as we cannot dismiss them if the school or teacher is not notified by the guardian of this change. We understand that during the first few weeks it may be hard to make the separation, but there are a few things that you can do to help ease the transition. It is important to develop a routine that works for you and your child. Always say goodbye and communicate with them when you'll be back. Try to act confident yourself. If you seem anxious and unsure about leaving your child, your child will pick up on that. Reinforce that you support and feel comfortable with them being here. As always, we are here to support you during this transition.**

Lastly we are sharing a "Getting to Know You" survey link to complete. This will help us learn about your child and their interests.

Once again, I want to say how pleased I am that your child will be part of our class. I am excited to meet all the students and families and begin our school year! Enjoy the last days of summer and please do contact me with any questions or concerns. My email address is cbuscemi@dwcaonline.org.

Looking forward to a year of fun and learning!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Buscemi