



Cornerstone Preschool

APPLE Accredited/Florida Gold Seal Preschool ~ License #C860613

New School Year

August is a bittersweet month for us at Cornerstone. We will be saying goodbye to some of our students as they head off to kindergarten. We will miss you all and wish you well! At the same time, many new children will be joining the Cornerstone family as our new school year gets underway.

We also ask that you take a few minutes to review our policies such as arrival procedures, what to wear to school, tuition policies, etc. Policies, calendars and newsletters can also be found on our website: www.cornerstonepreschool.info.



Here are a few things that will help make our day run smoothly:

- Please arrive early enough to get your child settled in the classroom and then *depart the school by 8:55 AM* so that our teachers can begin their day on time
- Children must wash their hands upon arrival at school (before entering the classroom)
- If you ever have questions about tuition, our policies, the curriculum, or anything else about our program, don't hesitate to ask Alex or Sonal. We are looking forward to a great year!

August 2020 Newsletter

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Cornerstone will be closed on Friday, 8/21 for a staff in-service day. See you all Monday the 24th!



Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ August 21 - CLOSED
- ◆ August 24 - First day of VPK & the 2020-21 school year
- ◆ September 7 - CLOSED

VPK Updates/Reminders

(only for children enrolled in VPK)

- VPK begins Monday, August 24th
- VPK attendance is required and monitored by the State (5 days/week)
- Children must be in their classrooms on-time so that the teachers can begin their scheduled activities
- Five tardies will count as one absence
- Frequent tardies and absences may result in dismissal from the program
- Please call the school if your VPK child is going to be absent or tardy
- Refer to your VPK Parent Policies for policies and parent responsibilities

Family Pictures

During our Family & Friends unit we will be asking parents to bring in a family picture that we can keep and use for a class project. Please give the pictures to your child's teacher by Monday, 8/24 if possible.



School Supplies

Back-to-school sales are underway and some of you have asked what your child will need to bring in for the school year. At Cornerstone, we provide everything your child needs and do not ask for supplies or charge extra for special programs. Out of respect for your time and budget, we also do not do fundraisers. *That doesn't mean we don't appreciate donations!* 😊

For those of you who can and want to help, we can always use colored dry erase markers, old computer paper, envelopes, spiral notebooks, old clothes for dress up, and gift cards to Barnes & Noble for books. Cash donations are also welcome and will be used to purchase books for our school library in your child's name or other supplies.

Please bring donations to the office so that we can distribute items fairly. Thank you!

APPLE Accreditation

You may have heard that Cornerstone is an APPLE accredited school. Did you know that APPLE (Accredited Professional Preschool Learning Environment) is a voluntary, nationally recognized program that earns us a Gold Seal designation from the Florida Department of Children and Families?

Accreditation is not the same as licensing. While all preschools need to be licensed, only a small percentage choose to add on accreditation. Licensing monitors for basic health and safety whereas accreditation examines all components of a program (administrative procedures & policies, classroom environment, curriculum, staffing credentials, parent & community involvement, staff-to-child ratios, and advocacy) and holds it to much higher standards. Cornerstone Preschool was the first preschool in Pinellas County to earn accreditation back in 1988!

Snacks & Lunch

Our licensing and accrediting agencies have the following requirements regarding nutrition:

- Children's lunches should include milk or another form of dairy each day (unless we have written instructions that the child should not have dairy).
- We provide two nutritious snacks daily and an optional pizza lunch on Fridays.
- Please have your child eat breakfast *before* arriving at school (morning snack is served around 9 or 9:30).
- Snack donations or special "treats" for holidays and birthdays need to be approved as we have some children with food allergies and need to make sure we are always in compliance with Health Department and licensing regulations regarding food served.

