

August 5, 2024

Dear Westminster Nature Preschool Families,

We hope you all have had an amazing summer and are enjoying these last few weeks before our schedules fill and school returns. We have made a few changes to our classrooms and spaces and we can't wait to share them with everyone. We are excited for the children to return and fill our hallways with laughter and chatter!

Our first day of school this year will be **Monday, September 9th**. We will have a slightly staggered drop off and pick up schedule this year:

All 4's classes will arrive at 9:00 and go directly to their outdoor classroom areas which will be clearly marked for the beginning of school. The half day 4's will be picked up at 12:00, and the full day 4's will be picked up at 2:00.

The Kindergarten/4s arrival time will be 9:00 and will be picked up at 2:00 (Fridays 12:00). Students should be dropped off to the front door of the building.

All 3's will have an arrival time of 9:15.

The half day 3s will begin their day on the playground while the full day 3s as well as the two day 3s will meet at their outdoor classroom area. The half day 3's will be picked up at 12:15, and the full day 3's will be picked up at 2:15.

The 2 ½'s arrival time will be 9:15 to the playground and pick up time will be at 11:15.

In the event of poor weather all classes should be dropped off at the front door.

It is important to abide by these times as teachers are getting all the fun ready for the day and this prep time is invaluable.

We will have visiting days on Wednesday, September 4th and Thursday, September 5th. This visitation time will take place on the playground exclusively. This is a time for your child to meet their teacher and their classmates. This year we will also be using this time to meet with the adults to talk about the school, as well as distributing additional paperwork. Please make sure whomever brings your child knows your

emergency contact information. We will not be having a Back to School Night this year. If you cannot make it to your visitation day, please let us know and we will arrange another time to meet with you.

The visitation schedule is:

Wednesday September 4th - 2 1/2's classes 9:30-10:00

Full day 3s and 2 Day 3s 10:15 to 11:00

Half day 3's 11:15 to 12:00

Thursday September 5th - Half day 4s 9:30-10:00

Full day 4's 10:15 to 11:00

Kindergarten/4 11:15 to 12:00.

Enclosed you will find an index card. This is for emergency phone numbers. Write your child's name on the top line and then write the names and numbers of your emergency contacts in the order in which we should call them starting with your name and number if you are the first person we should call. Also list any allergies or other medical information we should have in case of an emergency. Please hand this in on your visiting day or the first day of school!

As always, hourly childcare will be available before and after school. Before care begins at 8 am and after care ends at 3:30. **Please let us know as soon as possible if you will be needing hourly childcare on a regular basis.**

**Each child will bring their own snack/lunch.** Please send in a **healthy** snack, and don't send in too many items. Lots of choices often overwhelms the children, and they end up eating very little. **If your child is staying for lunch please send the lunch and snack in separate labeled containers. We are a nut free school.** (Peanut butter is not allowed, seed butter is fine.)

Please send in a labeled refillable water bottle especially during these beginning weeks of school when it can be quite warm.

We need all of your child's medical records by the first day of school. This includes a current Universal Health Care Form as well as the immunization record. Please note that it is mandatory for your child to get this year's flu vaccine by December 10th.

Please let us know if your child has any allergies, and fill out an allergy action plan form. We cannot let your child attend school if we do not have the medical records.

At this point you should have paid one tuition payment, the second payment is due on September 1st and on the first of each month going forward. Please let us know if you need an extension; late payments (after the 15th of the month) without prior agreement will incur a \$15 fine.

A few reminders:

1. We get messy; please dress your child appropriately. Also we hike every day so please have your child wear sneakers. Sandals and flip flops are not suitable for the outdoors.
2. **Please label all of your child's belongings!** This is very important.
3. If possible, leave a pair of rainboots at school. Make sure to label them with your child's name!
4. Please bring two complete changes of clothes for your child that we can keep at school. Please label all the items and place them in a bag with your child's name on them. Don't forget socks!
5. If your child is still in diapers or pull ups, please leave extras at school with a box of wipes. And don't forget to label them!
6. Please put sunscreen and bug spray on your child in the morning. If your child stays full day feel free to leave extra sunscreen and insect repellent here for the teachers to reapply in the afternoon for your child. Please check your child for ticks every day.
7. Donations of paper towels, tissues, wipes, and hand sanitizer are always welcome!

Please, no toys from home unless absolutely necessary for your child's transition.

We are trying to spend most, if not all, of our days outside, so please dress your child appropriately. Follow the adage: "There is no such thing as bad weather, only unsuitable clothing."

It is important to remember that we are partners. We are all working to make this a safe, happy school year. Please feel free to speak with us, or your child's teacher about any concerns you have. We are always open to learning new things. The first few days

of drop off and pick up may be hectic as we all get used to the new routine-let's just be patient and kind with one another.

We would like your child to bring a photo of their family to school the first week. Each class will be making a poster with the photos.

Please drive slowly in the parking lot and be mindful that we will be using the end of the parking lot, near the playground, for activities, please do not drive past the traffic cones.

If you have any questions please feel free to call us at 732 671-9011 or email us at [wmpreschool@gmail.com](mailto:wmpreschool@gmail.com) . We have a lot of fun activities planned, and we look forward to seeing you and your children soon!

Stacy McGann and Anne Plunkett