

August 23, 2021

Dear Westminster Nature Preschool Families

We are so excited to be starting this new school year! We have so many ideas to make our outdoor classrooms fun, imaginative, and fulfilling. We cannot wait to see your children, and hear all about their adventures!

Our first day of school this year will be **Monday, September 13th**. We will have a slightly staggered drop off and pick up schedule this year:

The 4's arrival time will be 8:50. 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 arrival time will be 9:05 and will be picked up at 2:05. (Fridays 12:10)

The 3's arrival time will be 9:20. The half day 3's will be picked up at 12:20, and the full day 3's will be picked up at 2:20.

The 2 ½'s arrival time will be 9:00 and pick up time will be at 11:00.

This year all children will be dropped off and picked up in the parking lot. The 3's and the 2 ½'s will go straight to their respective designated areas. The 4's will go straight to the playground. The kindergarten will go inside to their classroom. The staff will greet and accompany your child to their class. In addition, we will need you to take your child's temperature every morning before they are dropped off and provide us with the read out. You will also be asked a set of COVID questions each morning. We will hand these out on your visiting day.

We will have visiting days on Wednesday, September 8th and Thursday, September 9th. This visitation will take place on the playground exclusively. We ask that you be socially distant. Masks are not required for the adults but strongly suggested. The children do not have to wear masks outdoors. Mask wearing is a must for all upon entering the building. 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, and the changes we have made due to COVID. We will also be distributing additional paperwork. Please make sure whoever 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 as follows:

Wednesday September 8th - 2 ½'s 9:15 to 9:45, 3 Half Day 3's 10:00 to 10:30, 3 Full Day 3's 10:45 to 11:15, 2 Half Day 3's 11:30 to 12:00

Thursday September 9th - 4 Half Day 4's 10:00 to 10:30, 4 Full Day 4's 10:45 to 11:15 Kindergarten 11:30 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. **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. We do have a refrigerator and microwave if necessary. If your child is staying for lunch please send the lunch and snack in separate **labeled** bags or containers. **We are a nut free school.** (Peanut butter is not allowed, seed butter is fine.) This year we will also have coolers outside for each of the classes.

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

We do celebrate birthdays at the school. Please just let your child's teacher know when you would like to bring in a special treat. The teacher will make sure that any child with

an allergy has a special snack for that day as well. Due to Covid, all treats must be store bought and in a sealed package.

We need all of your child's medical records by the first day of school. This includes the 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 13th. 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 a change 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 and undies!
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 the weather requires it. Please feel free to leave extra sunscreen and insect repellent here for the teachers to use for your child. Please check your child for ticks every day.
7. Donations of paper towels, tissues, wipes, and hand sanitizer are always welcome!

COVID specific information:

The teachers must wear masks all day with the exception of extreme heat outdoors. We will talk with your children about why we are wearing these. The children do not have to wear masks outdoors but they must wear them indoors, per the most recent mandate.

Please label your child's mask, and if possible pin it to your child's shirt. (Perhaps

with a mitten clip.)

You must take your child's temperature every morning. If they have a fever of 100.4 or above they will not be permitted to come to school that day. Children must be fever free for 72 hours before they return to school. Please hand sanitize your child upon arrival. We will have hand sanitizing stations and hand washing procedures throughout the day while indoors.

The classes will remain in their age appropriate pods and will not be allowed to co-mingle. This makes us very sad as we believe strongly in community, but this is the safest thing to do right now.

Please be hyper vigilant about your child's health, and your family's health. We are trusting one another to keep us all safe and healthy. If you suspect anyone in your household has COVID, please keep your child home. Please err on the side of caution.

If your child is having a hard time with separation, you are permitted to bring them to their class if you are wearing a mask, and you allow us to take your temperature.

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."

At this time, we are not permitting visitors in the school. Hopefully, later in the year and as restrictions are lifted, you can come in and help with projects or share your interests with the children.

This year more than ever it is important to remember that we are partners. We are all working to make this a safe, happy school year. We had a successful year last year largely due to our commitment together in maintaining a safe and healthy school environment. 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. The pictures will be displayed in each classroom on a family tree.

Please drive slowly in our parking lot. 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 . We have a lot of fun activities planned, and we look forward to seeing you and your children soon!

Stacy McGann and Anne Plunkett (Gluck)