

Welcome to the
Blue Owl
Pre-4K Class

Dear Blue Owl Families,

Welcome to 4K aka the Blue Owl Room at Mother's Day Out! I look forward to getting to know you and your child. I have a lot of exciting learning, growing, and playing activities planned for this year. I am confident your child is going to enjoy his or her time with me! Here is some info about myself to help make the transition to the 4k classroom as easy as possible.

My name is Amy Orthmann (Ms. Amy). This is my 11th year as a teacher for the 4K program at MDO. I have been married to my husband Jon for 32 years. We have 2 adult children. Lindsey is in her 4th year of college at UWM. Nicholas was married this past June. I enjoy reading, walking, pinterest and going up north to our cabin.

This school year your child will be learning a wide variety of things. Starting with the basics to help them be good students.

1. How to stand in line
2. How to be a good listener
3. How to share
4. How to take turns
5. Self help skills
6. How to manage their emotions

Academics:

1. **Hand writing.** I teach handwriting without tears, which is a fun interactive way to teach kids how to form and write their letters using big lines, little lines, big curves and little curves. You start with letters that are straight lines..L,F,E,T. Then you move on to letters with curves C,G,D,B,P. And finally letters with diagonal lines R, K,V,W. I teach these using wood pieces to form letters. Stamp and see boards to form letters and writing these letters on dry erase boards, worksheets, letter binders, etc. There are many fun songs to go along with this program including the kids favorite "Matman" and the "tap tap song".

They will learn what sound each letter makes.

I also casually teach sight words.

Along with this we work on correct pencil grip.

2. **Recognize their first and last name, then write their first and last name.**

3. **They will learn math readiness:**
 - Recognize and write numbers 1-20.
 - They will know their colors and shapes.
 - Know numbers 1-10 in random order.
 - Count items one by one
 - Sort and Classify by color, shape and size.

4. **They will have fun exploring many STEAM activities** (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) which helps them with their exploring and problem solving skills.

5. **Each week we explore a different theme.** It could be from the Solar system to Famous Artists, what happens in fall, winter and spring, Dr. Seuss, healthy eating, pets Etc. We will read a book based on our theme and then do small group activities related to our theme.

Daily Schedule

Our daily schedule is:

9:00-9:15 Arrival

9:15 Circle time

9:30 Outdoor/gym time

10:00 Bathroom

10:15 Snack

10:30 Music and movement

10:45 Handwriting without tears

11:00 Theme/ small group/STEAM activities

12:15 Lunch

12:50 Bathroom

1:00 Rest

2:00 Dismissal

There is a separate sheet that describes the activities in our daily schedule. Please refer to it for more information.

Snack

We ask our parents to bring their child's snacks at the beginning of each month. Please provide enough snacks for 12 children to help carry us through the month. Your snack should include two food groups for the classroom. A list for healthy snack ideas was sent out and also will be posted on our website resource page. MDO will provide water using water filtration pitchers.

Lunch

Please pack your child a healthy lunch in easy to open containers. Lunch is another opportunity to work on self help skills. 2% Milk will be provided for the children. We ask that you don't send food that needs to be heated.

Rest Time

Each student will need a sleeping bag and if they would like, a small pillow. If your child has a special item they need to sleep with, please bring it each day and consider having a backup to leave at school. The sleeping bags will be stored in xl ziploc bags, and will be sent home to be washed EVERY WEEK.

Backpacks

This year we are not storing items at school. Each day please send your child to school with a backpack with the following items:

- **Complete change of clothes** (Tops, bottoms, underwear, socks, and shoes) If you child is still potty training please send multiple sets.
- **Lunch**
- **Water Bottle** (They will take their water bottles everywhere with us.)
- **Face Mask for children ages 5 and over**-if your child forgets their mask, MDO will provide one at the cost of \$1.00 per mask.

Reminders & Additional Information

- Please alert us, prior to your child's first day, of **any special health concerns or allergies**. Allergies will be shared with MDO Staff and posted in the classroom.
- Please send a family photo with your child. This will be returned at the end of the school year.
- Remember to label all of your child's personal items, along with the sleeping bag. Some days are extremely busy and we can easily mix up their belongings.
- Keep in mind we are right by the lake, please place a sweatshirt/coat in your child's backpack for us to use on chilly or windy days.
- Our monthly information will be posted on our website www.mdoracine.com at the beginning of each month

Thank you for entrusting your child with us this school year. I am looking forward to a fun and exciting year! If you have any questions please feel free to email me at amy.orthmann@mdoracine.com

Peace,
Ms.Amy