

Welcome to the Red Owl'sl Class

Dear Parent(s),

I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you. My name is Ms. JoAnne (JoAnne Jensen) and I am looking forward to a creative and fun filled school year. I am married and have two children. Our family dog "Charli" is six years old and is always ready to go for a walk. I enjoy spending time with our family and friends. I enjoy a good book and a Sudoku puzzle and coloring. I spend much of my time tending to the yard and I always enjoy going to the movies. Autumn and winter are my favorite seasons and I love snow.

I am looking forward to meeting you at our Open House on Tuesday, August 28th from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to familiarize yourself with our classroom and school. Our classroom is located on the lower level of MDO in room 109. I will be available to answer any questions and help you and your child feel more comfortable about our new school year. Please remember to bring your [required forms](#) with you. We also encourage you to participate in our back to school pictures. Lifetouch will be up in the gym for school pictures during the open house. Even if you do not plan on purchasing pictures please plan on having your child's picture taken. No purchase is necessary.

Each month, you will receive (via e-mail) a classroom calendar/newsletter informing you of our monthly planned activities. This information will also be available on our website www.mdoracine.com We try to follow our planned schedule as close as possible. We take advantage of beautiful weather with outside play time and nature walks.

PARENT INFORMATION BOARD

Drop off time is 9:15am and pick-up time is at 2:00pm. Drop off will be in our classroom and pick-up will be in the napping room. All students, not in After Care, must be picked up by 2:15 pm. If they are not picked up by 2:15 pm they will be placed in our After Care program.

The parent board is located inside our room and offers daily classroom information - **[Snack Calendar, Daily Schedule, Monthly Calendar/Lesson Sheet and Volunteer Sign-up Sheet.](#)**

CUBBIES

Your child will have their own cubby, with their name on it, that holds their belongings. **Please label** all of your child's belongings which will be **a full change of clothes, socks, underwear, lunch box, comfort item and sleeping bag.** **If your child is still in diapers please provide diapers for him/her.**

SNACK SIGN UP

We ask our parents to sign-up each month for snack. Each month you will be asked to provide snack for the classroom on your given days. Your child will be assigned 1 or 2 days each month to provide snack for 8 children. The snack list will go out before the start of each month. Please, see us if you would like any ideas on what to bring. This year, we are introducing a few changes to our snack policy. The first thing is, we will no longer be asking for juice at snack time. After reviewing the state guidelines and talking with our families, we have decided to serve water at snack time. MDO will provide the water using water filtration pitchers. The second change is we are offering a second option to providing snack.

Option 1: On or before your child's snack day, you will bring in snack for 8 children.

Option 2: MDO will provide snack for your child's classroom. This option costs \$10.00 for each snack day. MDO will charge your account and then provide the snack for your child's class.

The last change to our snack policy this year is, if you forget snack on your snack day, we will charge your account \$10.00 to cover snack for that day. We will allow you the opportunity to bring in your snack the next day and reverse the fee. The exception to this rule is, if your child is sick or on vacation. In those cases, we ask that you bring snack in on the next day your child is in attendance.

LUNCH TIME

There is a shelf next to the cubbies for your child's **lunchbox**. MDO supplies milk at lunch and we encourage you to pack a nutritious healthy lunch. Please save sweets and candy for home. We will be practicing self-help skills all year long. Please pack self-serving lunches, it is very helpful. Please remember to label all containers including the lunch box because it is a busy time of our day and easy for items to be misplaced.

SEPARATION ANXIETY

I truly understand that it may be difficult for you to leave your child in a new surrounding and in the care of someone new, especially if your little one is in tears. It is normal for both parents and the child to have feelings of sadness and anxiety. I would suggest the following to help with this transition period:

- * Talk to your child a week before attending their new adventure. Going to their new school and visiting their classroom before the school begins can help them feel safer and more secure.
- * Explain to your child about all of the fun, new things that they will be doing including rest in their sleeping bag. Perhaps practice sleeping in their sleeping bag at home.
- * Always say "Goodbyes" before leaving and reassure your child that you will return after rest time. Never sneak out... hugs are always encouraged.
- * A prompt drop-off and goodbye is easier for your child and the tears usually last for a short time. That's OK... We also have lots of tissue for your tears too!

At any time, please feel free to call or stop and speak with the director.

NAP TIME

Each child will need a sleeping bag and a small pillow if you would like. These items will be stored in a xl ziploc bag. If your child has a nap time comfort item, please remember to bring it. Please, no toys for nap time. Especially for the beginning of the school year. Our naptime usually runs from around 12:30 pm to 2:00pm.

DAILY INFORMATION BOARD

The classroom white board is located outside of our classroom. Each day, I will inform you of our daily activities and any important reminders for the week.

Please **alert** us, prior to your child's first day, of any special **health concerns or allergies**. Allergies will be posted in the classroom and communicated to the entire school.

I look forward to meeting you at our "Open House" and hope that I have provided answers to most of your questions. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at joanne.jensen@mdoracine.com

I am looking forward to a wonderful school year!

Ms. JoAnne

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