



What you always Wanted to Know About Preschool!



Preschool Orientation

Agenda

Introductions

Overview of Pre-kindergarten Program

Questions and Answer Handbook

Drop off and Pickup Procedures

School Calendar

Uniform Policy

Tour of Building and Classrooms

Principal

Questions and Answers

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. When will I find out who my child's teacher will be?

A. This information will be mailed at the end of August.

Q. Will my child be able to meet his/her teacher before the first day of school?

A. Yes, there will be a Preschool Meet and Greet meeting. Additional information will be mailed to you from your home school regarding the date and time.

Q. What will be the first day of school for preschool children?

A. The first day of school for preschool children will be September 3, 2019.

Q. What are the hours of the school day?

A. The school opens daily at 7:30 a.m. and closes at 5:30 p.m.
7:30-9:00 Before Care (service available for a fee through onsite YMCA program)
9:00-3:00 Pre-school Classroom Activities begin
3:00-5:30 After Care (service available for a fee through onsite YMCA program)

Q. Is there a before and after school program?

A. Yes, if your child needs extended hours, they can be arranged through the onsite YMCA program. There is a cost for this service. Children must be pre-registered for this program. Each child must be signed in and out daily by an adult. Transportation is not provided. For more information, please see your child's classroom teacher.

Q. Is there a supply list?

A. The school furnishes instructional supplies for preschool children. These items are kept in the classroom. Each preschool teacher will provide a list of any school supplies and materials your child should bring to the classroom. You will be notified of any other needed items. When sending money to school with your child, please put it in an envelope with your child's name, the amount, and what it is to be used for written on the envelope.

Q. What is the attendance policy for the Vineland Public Charter School?

A. Children enrolled in a preschool classroom are required to attend on a regular basis, and be on time. Regular attendance ensures that your child will receive all the benefits of the program including achieving academic and social/emotional success. We know that children require, and adjust well, to predictable routines and consistency, which is achieved through regular attendance. If your child is habitually absent, or is continually late, your child may be subject to removal from the preschool program. Preschool children must follow the school's attendance policy.

Q. Can my child come to school ill?

A. Children who are medically ill, with a temperature, may not return to school until their temperature has been below 99.0 degrees for a minimum of 24 hours. Children occasionally have signs and symptoms of illness, which will exclude them from school. The following symptoms will require a medical diagnosis:

- Fever greater than 100.5
- Vomiting
- Stiff Neck-leading with Flu symptoms
- Rash-with or without Flu symptoms
- Jaundice
- Diarrhea
- Skin Lesions
- Colored (yellow) drainage from eyes, nose and ears
- Difficulty breathing

If a child becomes ill while he/she is in our care, parents will be notified to immediately pick up their child.

Please notify us immediately of a change of address or phone number. It is paramount that parent and emergency contacts be kept up to date at all times. In the event of an emergency, we will need to reach a parent, guardian or emergency contact.

Q. Will my child need a doctor's note upon returning to school after an illness?

A. School policy requires that you send in a note with your child to return to school when he/she is absent for any reason. Absences of three (3), or more, days requires Doctor's note. A form will be sent home reminding you to send in the required note.

Q. What should I do if my child is late to school?

A. Late arrivals make for a difficult transition and children miss important learning activities. If your child does arrive late after 9:05 a.m., you must escort your child to the office to get a late pass.

Q. How will I know if school is cancelled or delayed due to inclement weather?

A. The school system will utilize the current telephone registered with the school to send an automated message. In the event you do not receive a phone call from the automated system Please notify the school immediately.

Q. What if I must pick my child up before the close of the day?

A. On the rare occasion that your child will need to be picked up before the close of the day, please stop in the office and sign him/her out. Please send in a note to inform the staff with your child. The school will only release your child to a person authorized by the custodial parent. Anyone who is authorized to pick up a child will be asked to provide picture identification. Teachers will not release any child without permission from the office.

Q. Is transportation provided for pre-kindergarten?

A. Yes, transportation is provided. Bus drivers will not permit a child to get on or off the bus without an adult present. If there is not an adult present then, your child will be returned to school, and you must arrange transportation for him/her. Preschoolers must demonstrate acceptable behavior, both at the bus stop, and on the school bus.

Q. When will I find out my child's bus number and time of departure and arrival?

A. The transportation information will be mailed with the school information during the month of August.

Q. How do I reach the transportation office?

A. If you have any transportation questions or concerns, please contact your home district's Transportation Department.

Q. What if my child misses the bus?

A. If your child misses the bus, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to arrange transportation to the school.

Q. Does my child have to wear a uniform?

A. Yes, we have a mandatory uniform policy. All children must wear the school uniform which is khaki/navy pants/skirts and navy, white, or light polo tops. Shorts are permissible during the warmer months. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. In addition, each student is required to have an extra set of clothing in the classroom at all times. This includes underwear and socks. All student items must be labeled. When cold weather approaches, please send your child with a hat and mittens. We will go outside on a daily basis weather permitting. Please see school uniform policy/guidelines.

Q. What is the school's educational program?

A. The preschool's educational program is developmentally appropriate. Vineland Public Charter School in conjunction with the Department of Early Childhood have chosen Creative Curriculum to be implemented during the school day. No more than fifteen children are assigned to a classroom. Our teachers are certified by the New Jersey Department of Education to teach students in grades preschool to grade 3.

The preschool program fosters cognitive, social, physical and emotional development with a strong emphasis on language development.

Q. How will my child learn?

A. Your child’s learning will take place in a safe and nurturing environment. Children are active learners and learn best through activity-based learning. The benefits of activity-based experiences address academic goals for reading, writing, math, science, social studies and the arts. The students will learn through a daily structure of thematic activities that include:

- Books, tabletop toys and activities that engage and motivate.
- Songs, finger plays and dramatizations of nursery rhymes and poems that stimulate movement and phonemic awareness.
- Interest labs with problem solving activities that develop language, mathematics, science, and creative abilities.
- Interactive story experiences to enhance language development and higher –level thinking skills.
- Writing experiences that help children make the connection between spoken and written language and encourage the children to begin attempts at letter formation to convey information.
- Outside play to develop gross motor skills.
- Meal and snack time to learn interpersonal skills, manners, and fundamentals of diet and hygiene.

Any parent who has concerns about the development of their child should contact their child’s classroom teacher and school principal.

Q. What are the assessment requirements?

A. We employ a systematic ongoing procedure for obtaining information from observations, interviews, portfolios, and developmentally appropriate assessments that can be used to make judgments about the strengths and needs of individual children and plan appropriate instruction.

Q. Will there be parent conferences for pre-kindergarten?

A. Yes, parent conferences are held twice a year. At this time you will receive information regarding your child’s progress. If you have any questions or concerns about your child’s progress or classroom activities please feel free to contact the classroom teacher to set up a meeting.

Q. Does my child need a book bag?

A. Yes, your child needs a book bag. Approximately 16” in length with your child’s name printed on the Inside. Please check your child’s folder in their book bag daily.

Q. Will breakfast, lunch and snacks be provided?

A. There are numerous studies that link the quality of a child's nutrition to his ability to learn. That is why we offer a nutritious breakfast and lunch. Snack time for all children is scheduled for the morning and afternoon. Snacks must be provided by the parent/guardian. Should your child have any allergies or specific nutritional needs, please advise your child's classroom teacher.

All students will receive an application for free and reduced price meals. Please return this form to school to apply for free or reduced breakfast and lunch. Please see snack policy.

HEALTHY SNACK SUGGESTIONS:

Graham crackers

Sliced apples

Orange slices

Bananas

Crackers with cheese

Bananas

Cheez-It Crackers

- *Microwaves or refrigerators are not available. We are not able to heat or refrigerate food brought from home.*
- *No candy or soda is permitted. We request that only healthy snacks be brought in to the classroom.*
- *No glass containers*
- *Fast food brought in is not permitted to be eaten in the classroom environment*

Q. Do pre-school students have a daily rest period?

A. Yes, please send in a labeled crib sheet and small blanket. We do ask that you do not send in small pillows or comforters. Bedding will be sent home on Friday to be washed and must be returned on Monday. We do not have extra bedding to provide. Your child will have a personal cot with his or her name marked on it.

Q. Does my child have to sleep?

A. No, but your child will be required to stay quiet during this period out of respect for those children who do fall asleep.

Q. What about birthdays?

A. We believe birthdays are special and that a child should be able to celebrate in school with friends because his birthday is important to him/her. We are open to different ways to celebrate your child's birthday, as long as they are simple and meaningful. You may send in special treats for birthdays; however they must adhere to nutritional guidelines and school policy. Sending in treats is not the only way to celebrate a birthday:

A loved one can come in and read their child's favorite story, donating the book to the class in the child's name.

Loved ones may put together a photo story of his/her child's life and come to school to share it with the class.

Please give your classroom teacher ample notice of your plans so that she may work them into the daily schedule. You will be notified if there are any allergy issues in the classroom. Summer birthdays can be celebrated in June.

All birthday celebrations will begin at 2:15 p.m. –The last period of the day. No Exceptions.

Q: What are the procedures for a safe arrival and dismissal?

A: It is our goal to have, each and every preschooler arrive in their classroom safely. We ask that all parents and guardians park and walk your child to the school entrance and at departure park and meet your child at their classroom.

Q: Will my child go on field trips?

A: Field trips provide students with valuable background knowledge that enhances our themes, as well as rich cultural experiences. We will be going on trips throughout the year. Permission slips will be sent home before each trip. It is important that all permission slips are received prior to the day of the trip. Chaperones will also be needed for the field trips. All payments for field trips must be received by the due date on the permission slip. Please send in cash only in a labeled envelope.

Q: If I move during the school year is my child still able to participate in Vineland Public Charter Schools Preschool Program?

A: If you move during the school year, please inform us immediately. It is important for us to have a current address and phone number on file. If you are no longer residing in the City of Vineland your child is not permitted to remain in the preschool program. We can only accept residents of Vineland in order to be enrolled in our Preschool program. All other grades do not have to live within the boundaries of Vineland, NJ due to funding restrictions.

Beginning School Books

(Available at the Public Library of children's bookstore)

Carlson, Nancy, Look Out Preschool Here I Come!

Hallinan, P.K., My Teacher's My Friend

Hains, Harriet, My New School

Martin, Ann Rachel Parker Preschool Show-Off

Moncure, Jane Belk, What's So Special About This Fall – I'm Going to School

Numeroff, Laura, If You Take a Mouse to School

Penn, Audrey, The Kissing Hand

Poydar, Nancy, First Day, Hooray!

Schwartz, Amy, Annabella Swift, Kindergartner

Senisi, Ellen, Preschool Kids

Slate, Joseph, Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Preschool

Wing, Natasha, The Night Before Preschool

LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY – Children experience a language-rich environment that promotes positive attitudes regarding reading, listening, speaking, viewing, composing, and researching. The program emphasizes the sharing of children’s literature and allows for all developmental levels of reading and writing behaviors. The environment also fosters the investigation of language patterns, letters, words, and sounds.

MATHEMATICS – Children develop basic mathematical skills and are encouraged to develop a curiosity and confidence working with mathematical concepts.

SCIENCE – Through a multi-sensory approach, children develop an interest about the physical world around them. Exploration, observation, and classification of the physical world will be an integral part of the science program.

MUSIC – Children are introduced to the basic elements of music. Concepts of loud/soft, fast/slow, high/low, same/difference, and the “heartbeat” of music are explored through singing, listening, movement, and playing instruments. Varied styles of music are incorporated into the curriculum to enhance a positive attitude towards learning.

HEALTH AND SAFETY- Children develop an awareness for personal health and safety practices as they apply to daily life. Areas include personal hygiene, nutrition, and safety both at home and in school.

TECHNOLOGY – Children explore the parts of the computer and instructional programs that will support and enrich their learning experiences.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT – Children learn to make new friends, work and play cooperatively with other children, develop independence and self-confidence, and learn self-control and how to follow rules.

ART – Children work with basic shapes, line direction, and color identification. They are encouraged to use symbols to convey ideas while taking part in drawing and painting activities. Proficiency with using pencils, scissors, paste, and paints are encouraged.

DRAMATIC PLAY - Students pretend to be someone or something different from themselves, and dramatize situations and actions to go along with the roles they have chosen to play. Enables children to better understand their world by incorporating their experiences, emotions and feelings into imaginative activities.

BLOCK CENTER – Facilitates learning in mathematics and science. Enhances social skills and assists a student in developing problem solving skills.

