

Welcome
To
Kindergarten



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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

A. This information will be mailed mid August.

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

A. Yes, there will be a kindergarten “Meet the Teacher” meeting. Additional information will be mailed to you in August regarding the date and time.

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

A. The first day of school for kindergarten children will be August 26, 2019.

Q. What are the hours of the school day?

A. The school hours for Vineland Public Charter School are as follows:

		Early Dismissal
Staff Arrival	7:40 a.m.	7:40 a.m.
Student Day Begins	8:00 a.m.	8:00 a.m.
Student Day Ends	4:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m.
Staff Departure	4:15 p.m.	1:15 p.m.

Q. Is there after school program?

A. Yes, if your child needs extended hours, they can be arranged. There is a cost for this service through the YMCA. Children must be pre-registered for this program.

Q. Is there a supply list?

A. Yes, the supply list can be found on the home page under the parents tab.

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

A. Children enrolled in a kindergarten 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. Kindergarten children must follow the attendance policy of the Vineland Public Charter School.

Q. Is a school nurse available?

A. Yes, there is a registered nurse available. If your child becomes sick or injured, the nurse will provide emergency care and notify you.

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 for a minimum of 24 hours without medication. Conditions such as active live lice, or symptoms such as vomiting, severe coughing or diarrhea, will require removal of the child from the school setting. If a child becomes ill while he/she is in our care, parents will be notified immediately to pick up their child. Until parents arrive, these children will be separated from the other children and cared for by the school nurse. An

alternate plan for your child must be established if you are unable to pick up your child, or if you cannot be reached by telephone during the workday. This plan must be given to the school nurse who will keep it on file.

Please notify us immediately of a change of address or phone number. We need to have working phone numbers at all times. In the event of an emergency, we will need to reach a parent or guardian.

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 five (3), or more, days require a doctor's 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 8:00 a.m., you must escort your child to the office to get a late pass.

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. 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 kindergarten?

A. Yes, transportation is provided. Kindergarteners 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 by the Vineland Board of Education in August.

Q. How do I reach the transportation office?

A. If you have any transportation questions or concerns, please contact the Vineland Board of Transportation office at 856-794-6700.

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. How should I dress my child for kindergarten?

A. Please see uniform policy.

Q. What happens in the case of a delayed opening or an emergency?

- A. VPCS has the capability of contacting parents to notify them of snow days, delayed openings, and other emergencies. Our electronic voice message notification system is used for all weather related school delays, emergencies, or snow days.

Q. Will my child learn to read in kindergarten?

- A. The kindergarten program is literature based and focuses on developing readers and writers. Your child will be developing letter recognition, letter sounds, and phonemic awareness (rhyming/word patterns). Whole group reading activities are geared towards modeling reading comprehension strategies. Small group instruction targets children at various levels of their reading abilities and provides students with the opportunity to practice using reading strategies modeled in class.

Q. What is Read Aloud?

- A. Teacher read-alouds are an important part of the overall kindergarten reading program. This develops listening skills, story comprehension, and a higher level of vocabulary to support developing reading skills.

Q. Will my child be writing?

- A. Your child will be developing as a writer as well. Writing skills will be modeled in the classroom. Your child will dictate words to the teacher, copy words from the classroom environment, and will often write by sounds (phonetic spelling) independently. As your child begins to develop as a writer, he/she will write using a left to right and top to bottom progression, attempt to use sounds to spell unfamiliar words (beginning and ending sounds – vowels develop last), use spacing between words, begin to use correct capitalization and punctuation, and begin to use high-frequency words in his/her writing. VPCS has adopted Zaner Bloser as our school wide handwriting program.

Q. How will my child learn?

- A. The child's learning takes 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.

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 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. Will my child receive music, art, physical education, and dance and drama instruction?

A. Yes, children will have the opportunity to participate in art, music, dance, physical education, and drama on a weekly basis.

Q. What about books?

A. It is important to read many different types of books to and with your child. Try to engage him/her in conversations about the story, the characters and the problems they may be facing. Ask your child what he/she would do in a similar situation. This will encourage your child to "think" about the story as you read it.

Q. What types of books should I read to my child?

A. The children of today are fortunate to be able to hear wonderful literature at a very young age. The books of today have interesting stories and beautifully illustrated pictures. If you are not sure, ask the local library, or go to a local bookstore and ask for assistance. Alphabet books are an excellent choice for young children as well as books by Tomie DePaola, Patricia Polacco, Bill Martin, Eve Bunting, Leon Lionni, Lois Ehlert, Jane Yolen, Mem Fox, and Angela Johnson. Not only should you read, but you should also just recite old-fashioned "nursery rhymes" to your child. This should begin when your child is an infant. When is the best time to do this? Whenever you are in the mood. Singing and reciting nursery rhymes during bath time is great or when walking up/down stairs. Learning nursery rhymes helps prepare a child for reading by hearing the "sing-song" pattern of songs, rhymes and poems. They develop a sense of rhyming, understand beginning sounds, and are able to begin or blend and segment sounds in words. These skills are all necessary for beginning reading to take place. Try to engage him/her in conversations about the story, the characters and the problems they may be facing.

Suggested Beginning School Books

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

Silly Silly – Audrey Woods

Chicka Chicka Boom Boom – Bill Martin

Rosie's Walk – Pat Hutchins

The Very Hungry Caterpillar – Eric Carle

Click Clack Moo – Doreen Cronin

If You Give a Mouse a Cookie – Laura Numeroff

The Mitten – Jan Brett

Bugs! Bugs! Bugs! – Bob Barner

Healthy Habits – Rebecca Weber

My Visit to the Aquarium – Alike

First the Egg – Laura Vaccaro Seeger