CMU Children’s School 2019-2020
Kindergarten Parent Meeting

Introducing the Kindergarten Team...

• Mrs. Donna Perovich  perovich@andrew.cmu.edu
• Mrs. Krissy Opferman opferman@andrew.cmu.edu
• Miss Grace Dzina  gdzina@alumni.cmu.edu

Orientation Days (September 3-6):
  o Greeting 8:30 at rotunda
  o Dismissal 12:00 at rotunda

When students arrive on Orientation Days, they will begin the day walking through our morning routine. Students will explore the classroom, complete a morning work activity, enjoy circle time and explore centers, such as painting a picture and playing with playdoh. Students will also begin learning our daily work routine by creating a nametag for their lockers.

Greeting/Dismissal

Greeting is at 8:30 at the rotunda in front of Margaret Morrison. We ask that you use the greeting area rather than walking your child into school. This practice establishes a clear routine. It also helps to alleviate separation issues. PLEASE be on time. Children who arrive late miss a valuable portion of the day.

Morning Routine

  - Arrive at the Rotunda
  - Walk downstairs to the classroom
  - Unpack backpack and take off jacket, hat, etc.
  - Wash hands in the classroom sink.
  - Place photograph on the seating chart.
  - Write name and answer the question of the day.
  - Complete morning job (if necessary).
  - Free choice

Dismissal is at 2:30 (M-Th) at the ROTUNDA in front of Margaret Morrison.

Friday dismissal is at 12:00 at the ROTUNDA in front of Margaret Morrison.

Theme Schedule

  September: You, Me & Us
  October: Elements of Art
  November: Pittsburgh
  December: Author Study: Jan Brett
  January: Coral Reef/Ocean (Whole School Unit)
  February: Planet Earth
  March/April: Ancient Egypt
  April/May: Birds & Flight

We would love it if you have any resources you could offer!
Clothing

- Wear play clothes that are washable.
- Tennis shoes are necessary for your child to safely play at school.
- We go outside in the winter months unless the temperature is dangerous. 
  Please send rain gear (no umbrellas), snow pants, boots, hats, scarves, and mittens. They can be left in your child’s locker.
- Please send labeled extra clothing to place in our lockers. *You may want to send new clothes as the season changes and your child grows.
  *Please remember to label all items brought to school.

Things to Bring:

PLEASE label anything sent to school!
- If your child wants to ride a bike at school, please send a bike helmet. This helmet will stay at school all year.
- Make sure your child’s backpack is large enough to fit an 8 ½ X 11 folder.
- We welcome theme related objects for your child to share during that theme. 
  PLEASE discourage your child from bringing random articles such as toys, small objects (i.e., jewelry), or other precious items to school. If they break or get lost, it can be heartbreaking for the child.

Lunch (Monday–Friday)

The school is Nut free. SunButter can be used as a peanut butter alternative.
- Talk with your children about what they like to eat for a healthy lunch.
- Please label your child’s lunchbox with his/her name.
- We do not have a space for refrigerating or heating food. Please use cold packs to keep your child’s lunch at a safe temperature. This prevents food spoilage.

Campus Exploration

- Closed toe, athletic shoes can be kept at school in your child’s locker and need to stay at school all year.
- A water bottle can be kept in your child’s locker for outdoor exploration and playground time.

Conferences

Parent /Teacher Conferences: December and April
- While you will meet with only one teacher, the teaching team and the associate teacher work with your child and confer on the writing of the conference report.
- Keep in mind that some children will do a second year of Kindergarten at their next school.
2019-2020 Children’s School
Kindergarten Schedule

Monday – Thursday

8:30  Greeting at the Rotunda
8:35  Morning Routine/Handwashing
8:40 – 9:30  Independent Learning Centers and Free Choice/*Roving Snack
(library, housekeeping, blocks, games, extended projects, sensory table)
9:30–10:00  Group Time
(calendar, weather, morning news, story)
10:00–11:00  Work Time
(teacher directed activities, daily work, independent learning centers)
11:00–11:20  Group Time
(music and movement, story)
11:20–12:00  Bathroom/Hand Washing/Lunch
12:00–1:00  Playground
1:00–1:20  Bathroom/Handwashing
1:20–2:20  Journal/Group Time/Work Time
2:20 – 2:30  Clean-up
2:30  Dismissal at the Rotunda

Friday

8:30  Greeting at the Rotunda
8:40 – 9:00 Independent Learning Centers/Free Choice/*Roving Snack
(library, housekeeping, blocks, games, puzzles)
9:00-11:00 Project Time/Outdoor Adventure
(Inquiry and Exploration in Schenley Park)
11:00–11:30  Bathroom/Handwashing/Lunch
11:30 – 12:00  Playground
12:00  Dismissal at the Rotunda

Birthday Policy
The kindergarten welcomes families to read a book to the class during one of our circle times. Please email the teachers at least a week prior, indicating your availability.

*Roving snack is offered at the child’s choice and follows The Children’s School monthly snack menu.
Parent Involvement

We know that parents want to be involved as much as possible in their child’s education. We try to provide many occasions for you to help in the classroom. However, at the beginning of the year, we do ask that you give us a chance to establish our routine and to become familiar with the children before volunteering.

- Special events
- Special talent/expertise – Let us know what you can share or demonstrate! Be sure to check our theme schedule!
- Communication – Check backpacks every evening to be sure you receive school information.
  - Each child also has a yellow folder, which will be used to transport important messages home.
  - Phone calls – Leave a message with the office and your call will be returned after school hours. *Call if it pertains to that day.*
  - Use Email for non-urgent issues.
  - Newsletters
  - Kindergarten Web Page – You should have received an invitation to join our classroom web page. Please let us know if you did not.
  - Instagram – Follow us @cmukindergarten for sneak peeks and projects!

Bus Service

- Busing is provided by your school district, not The Children’s School.
- One-way transportation is available.
- All children who live in the city of Pittsburgh are eligible for busing.
- If you live outside the city limits, you should have received a letter from your school district regarding your child’s eligibility.
- Once you are notified of eligibility, please decide if you plan to use the service and be consistent.
- If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the bus company to tell them that your child will not be on the bus.
- Any questions concerning the bus need to be directed to the bus company.

Illness

(Check the Family Handbook for the school policy on illness.)

- If there is a question of illness, keep your child at home, even if he/she says, “I want to go to school.” This caution is in the best interest of the other children and adults, as well as your child.
- If you feel your child is too sick to go outside, please keep him/her home.