

August 2020

Dear New Hackensack Nursery School Families,

We are busy planning and preparing to see you all in the fall. Although things will be different, the loving care and fun that our school family shares will never change. Our ultimate goal is to identify ways to protect our staff, students, and family, and we are doing our best to implement protocols to keep everyone safe.

In preparing the following guidelines, CDC and Department of Health guidelines were researched. In addition, guidance was provided by Public Health nurses, representatives from the Department of Health, and other preschool Directors. Finally, these guidelines have been vetted by the Church Consistory Board, the School Committee and the Staff.

These precautions are in addition to the thorough cleaning and safety protocols that have always been in place in our school.

Cleaning

- Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing
- Toys will be changed out or sanitized between classes and sanitized at end of day
- Desks and classrooms will be sanitized between classes and at the end of the day
- Classroom bathrooms will be sanitized between classes and at the end of the day

Safety

- Staff will wear face masks and/or face shields
- Staff, parents and guardians will be required to complete and submit an Attestation Form (health screening questionnaire), which will be mailed to you. A different form is to be completed on your behalf as well as your children's behalf, which will be kept on file
- Children will be encouraged to wear masks when they are not able to be distant from friends and teachers while in school. A child's mask must be available, at all times, to the child, and we will require that it be worn in such a way that it cannot be removed from around the child's neck. An extender can be placed on a mask so that it hangs around the child's neck if the child removes it from the face.
- Face masks will be required to be worn by all adults entering the building.
- Children will wash their hands upon entering the classrooms and frequently during their time in school.
- Sanitizer will be available at all times.
- The number of people in the building will be limited.
- All public bathrooms will be closed.

Room set-up

- Learning will take place in person; virtual learning will not be offered.
- The 4's MWF AM class will be divided into three groups of eight students and one teacher
- Currently, the other classes are small enough to stay together as a cohort
- Students will stay within the same group with the same staff
- There will be no snack served in the classrooms
- Water bottles may be brought from home
- There will be no sharing of materials.
- Each student needs their own materials: a plastic pencil box labeled with the child's name, a box of 24 crayons (the 3's children may do better with bigger crayons), colored pencils, two glue sticks, a small Elmer's glue, and safety scissors.
- Cubbies will not be used
- Desks will be spaced out
- "Soft" toys will not be offered for play
- Children will not be allowed to bring toys from home

Orientation

- The 4's students will begin regular, full session on the first day of school
- Orientation sessions will be offered to the 3's students; details will follow

Arrival

- Drop off will occur outside of the building; details will follow
- Arrival times for the 4's and 3's classes will be staggered
- The AM 4s will arrive at 9:00 and the AM 3s will arrive at 9:15
- The PM 4s will arrive at 12:30 and the PM 3s will arrive at 12:45
- The staff and Director will open entrance doors, and a daily health check will be administered to students before they enter the building
- This daily health check will include a temperature reading and a quick inspection for any signs of respiratory distress or illness
- If a child has a fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater) and has NO other symptoms, they will be sent home and may not return until they have been fever free for 24 hours without use of fever suppressing medication
- If the child has a fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater) and other symptoms, they may not return to school until cleared by their pediatrician

Dismissal

- Pick up will occur outside of the building; details will follow
- Dismissal times for the 4's and 3's classes will be staggered
- The AM 4s will be dismissed at 11:30 and the AM 3s will be dismissed at 11:45
- The PM 4s will be dismissed at 3:00 and the PM 3s will be dismissed at 3:15

COVID Policy

Scenario 1

- if a child's parent/guardian or family member (of the same household as the child) is exhibiting signs or has tested positive for Covid, the child may not return to school until the end of the quarantine and must submit a Covid negative test result;

In this case, the children and staff in the child's cohort may continue to attend.

Scenario 2

- in the event that the adult is being quarantined as a precautionary measure, the child may continue to attend school;

If an adult is quarantined and not sharing space with the child, the child may attend school and others in the cohort are not affected. If the parent is caring for the child while in quarantine then the child must quarantine as well.

In this case, the children and staff in the child's cohort may continue to attend.

Scenario 3

- if a child becomes symptomatic or tests positive, the child may not return to the program until quarantine is complete and must submit a Covid negative test result.

A child who tests positive must isolate for ten days from start of symptoms or date of test if asymptomatic. If that child was at school in the 48 hours before symptoms or test, the cohort would have to quarantine for 14 days from last exposure.

Scenarios 1 and 2 could become Scenario 3 if the child tests positive while in quarantine.

In the event that we experience any of the above, our liaisons at the Dept. of Health will be notified, and they, along with medical personnel, will be involved in the above-outlined process to assure that we are in compliance with all guidelines.

If a child becomes sick while in school, (COVID related or not), parents will be notified, the child will be separated from the class and will be made comfortable as they wait on a bench by the school's entrance doors to be picked up. This area will be sanitized when no longer in use.

Liability Waiver

- The Church Consistory has asked that every family sign a liability waiver that will be kept in your child's file. This waiver will be mailed to you.

The summer mailing will include the following:

- Start date – this date will depend on Wappingers Central School District's first day of school
- Orientation details for 3's students
- Tuition schedule

The following are to be completed and returned to school on or by the first day of school:

- Attestation forms – health screening forms
- Liability waiver
- Information/Safety forms
- Medical physicals – a child may not begin school without a current physical exam and a current immunization record.

The following will be emailed:

- Parent Handbook
- NYS Immunization Requirements
- Classroom information for 4's students
- Orientation schedule for 3's students

I appreciate the fact that this is a lot of information to process. Modifications may be made as guidelines change. We will keep you informed of any updates. Please contact me if you have any concerns.

Wishing us all a healthy and happy school year,
Mrs. Garcia
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