

September 9, 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the school year. Jana and I are looking forward to sharing the year ahead with your family. It appears that once again creativity, communication, adaptability and flexibility will be critical throughout the year. Now more than ever, our partnership and collaboration will ensure the best for all!

Below you will find information regarding the logistics of our classroom. Please contact me with any additional questions that may arise after your review this information.

Schedule

We start our morning work time promptly at 8:20 each day. **Students are marked tardy if they arrive after 8:30.** Morning carline runs from 8 am -8:15. Any students arriving before 8 am need to b sign up for Early Care in advance. If your child comes between 8:00-8:15, they will head out to the playground and have the chance to have some outdoor playtime before they start their day. Steve will send everyone in at 8:15, so that we all can be in the class and ready to go at 8:20. On Monday mornings we start out with a class meeting, otherwise the children will begin their work at 8:20. We have physical education at the end of our morning work cycle. After gym, we have time for read aloud. Lunch starts at noon, followed by recess.

Afternoons include work time, jobs and quiet reading and time with our specialists. Cultural enrichment activities are something that the children really look forward to throughout the week.

- Art and Music will take place each Thursday and the children will attend both specials over the course of the afternoon. Alison Hoffman, art teacher extraordinaire, will offer open studio time for research project related art during the mornings, host art lunches and present group technique lesson in the afternoon.. Angela Aleo, our wonderful music teacher, has a rich and fun filled experience planned for your children.
- Monday and Wednesday afternoons, Melissa Waterstripe is returning to give Spanish lessons.
- DiAnn Service will lead the children with .Della Terra (gardening) projects, with each student spending one afternoon a month in the garden with her. DiAnn also will be offering reading support to our class as well as The Great Books curriculum.
- The children will have two rotations in the Kitchen Classroom with Brenda Lijewski and Todd Warnke over the course of the school year. During their Kitchen Classroom time, they work on lunch prep, menu planning and learning culinary skills.

Trips and Swimming Lessons

We will visit the Leelanau Outdoor Center twice this year with a day visit September 17th and an end of the year trip the during the first week of June. Your child may schedule outings throughout the school year that coincide with work they are doing in class. You will receive a permission form to sign when that is the case. Please see our volunteer form as parent drivers are always needed. We will be attending swimming lessons in January. Stayed tuned for further details as the date approaches.

Spelling Tests and Math Fact Sheets

Lots and lots of repetition is the best aid for memorization so please support your child with their weekly work in math and spelling. Each Thursday a spelling and math list for the upcoming week sheet will come home in your child's home folder. Please practice with your child at home over the course of the week. Spelling and math tests will take place on Thursday mornings. If your child has not gotten at least 80% on their tests, the material will be repeated the following week so you will see the same sheet coming home again.

Lunch/ Allergies

We are eating lunch outdoors or in the great hall and classroom. We have student who have peanut and shellfish allergies. **Please label peanut products and shellfish in your child's lunches.**

Snack

The school will be providing a daily morning snack for all elementary children. Please keep any other snacks for home.

Personal Belongings

Please label all of your child's personal belongs on the tag of the clothing item. This aids our effort in helping the students keep track of their things and minimizing lost and found items. Many children end up having the same or very similar items and labels are helpful! We will be keeping their rain gear and extra clothing in their lockers.

If your child has something from home that they would like to share with classmates, they will have an opportunity during "Show and Tell" on Fridays. Please help us limit items to the following: something from nature, photographs, something they have made or something from another culture. Please keep toys at home.

Birthday Celebrations

Your child will celebrate his birthday or half-birthday during the school year. Your child will bring home a letter detailing the celebration prior to the big day. Each student brings in a poster of photographs (please no digital frames). The photos can be of themselves, people and or places that are important to them and there should be **one picture from each year**, for example, a favorite shot from when your child was one years old, two, and so on. We encourage your child to write captions to help them present their story. We

will not serve birthday snacks from home this year again, as part of the joy in doing so was eating together, which we are currently unable to do.

Home-School Communication

Each student will have a “home folder” that comes home every day and should return to school every day. This folder is used to send papers and for you to send notes / forms to school. Please help your child to develop a system to share contents with you when there are some, have a spot where they keep it and to get in the habit of bringing it to school daily. This is a great opportunity for them to develop independent responsibility.

During the school day (8:20 - 3:40), the person at the front desk will forward your calls to my voicemail. If you have a message regarding something that I need to know over the course of the day, such as an early pick-up, please notify the person at the front desk and they can let me know directly. I am available most days from 7:45-8:00 and 3:40 until 4:00 (often later) on our class phone.. If you would like to meet with me, let me know so that we can set up an appointment. Please know that I am available to meet anytime the need arises, not only during the scheduled conferences. Email is another great way to communicate; my address is Nadine@traversechildrenshouse.org Please keep in mind that during the days I am engaged with your children, not at a computer, which means that you will not hear back from me via email immediately, but always within a 24 hour time period (with a possible exception on weekends). If you have immediate information to get to me, it is best to leave a message at the front desk.

I look forward to a wonderful year ahead and feel so fortunate to be sharing my days with your children.

Warmly,