

Welcome to the Iris Community

Welcome to a new school year! The fall season always brings change and growth—whether children are moving up from the Young Children's Community, becoming kindergarteners, or reaching new developmental milestones. This year, we are especially excited to welcome several new families to our classroom.

As we begin this journey together, I encourage **open, honest, and frequent communication**. Together, we will create a joyful, respectful, and peaceful learning environment for your child.

This year, your child will:

- Grow in **independence**
- Strengthen their **concentration**
- Refine their **senses and coordination**
- Reach important **developmental milestones**

It is my honor to observe, guide, and celebrate these moments with your family.

Observations

Observations begin after the first six weeks of school. You'll be invited to sign up for a time at our observation window. I'll gladly answer questions after school or by appointment.

Snack

Healthy snacks are provided by TCH, with fresh fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins—often prepared by the children themselves. We also enjoy food tastings and culinary experiments throughout the year.

Volunteering & Flowers

Our classroom thrives when families share their gifts! Please let our room parents, **Kaitlyn Dow and Hanna Lee-Kleb**, know if you'd like to share a tradition, hobby, or cultural experience.

We connect most with the environments we can be involved in, and we would love your help throughout the year. One of the sweetest and most popular works in the classroom is flower arranging. We are lucky enough to have beautiful flowers on the grounds to cut during certain parts of the year, while others require your help! Our wonderful room parents will send out a form for you to sign up to bring in flowers throughout the year. (Hint: It's a great way to get children in the door!)

Lunch

- The **school lunch program** is wonderful—check the monthly menu online: [School Lunch Calendar](#)
 - If sending lunch from home, please ensure:
 - Containers your child can open **independently**
 - Ice packs for perishables, thermos for warm food
 - No candy, desserts, juice, or chocolate
 - **Allergies:** Please avoid packing egg, soy sauce/tofu/edamame, peas, lentils, mustard, and tree nuts.
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Personal Belongings & Supplies

Please **label everything**.

At school (leave here):

- Indoor shoes (easy on/off, no characters or lights)
- 2 full sets of seasonal clothing (in wet bags)
- Rain gear & boots
- Large wet bag for muddy/wet gear
- Hairbrush & accessories in a pouch

Daily:

- Backpack (large enough to fit their lunch box and other belongings)
- Lunchbox & water bottle

Toys should remain at home.

Birthday Celebrations

Your child will be invited to have a special birthday celebration with their classmates during the school year. You will be invited to join us in the classroom for the special gathering this year. I will reach out to you before your child's birthday to choose a date and email you with the details.

In addition, your child will have the opportunity to plan and bake a special treat in the classroom to share with their peers. This is a very special tradition the children enjoy immensely.

Drop-Off & Pick-Up

- If someone new is picking up, they must be listed in your child's file or bring a signed note. IDs will be checked.
 - Arrivals after 8:40 a.m.: Please check in at the front desk.
 - For early pickups, check in at the front desk and wait outside the classroom door.
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Teacher Availability

The best support for your child comes from strong parent-teacher communication.

How to reach me:

- **Front desk:** Call for urgent messages.
 - **Email:** Kristi@traversechildrenshouse.org (checked before 8 a.m. & after 3 p.m., replies within 24 hours).
 - **Phone:** School (231) 929-9325 ext. 141 | Personal (864) 640-7660
 - **Office Hours:** Thursdays, 1:15–2:45 p.m.
 - **Meetings:** Available by in-person, Zoom, or phone appointment.
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“The child is both a hope and a promise for mankind.”-
Dr. Maria Montessori

I feel deeply grateful to walk alongside your child on this journey of independence, wonder, and discovery.

With warmth,

Kristi Johnson