



Primary Southeast 2019 – 2020

Welcome to a new year! The fall is always a time of change as children move up from the young children's community to primary, reach important milestones, or finally become extended day children. This year is no exception, especially as we welcome several new families to our community. I ask that we keep communication open, honest, and frequent as we navigate this transition together.

This year, your child will reach new levels of independence, develop their ability to concentrate, refine their senses, and coordinate their movements. Please know I feel honored to observe and support your child's developmental milestones.

This document includes important logistical details about our class. Many of you will notice that most of the guidelines in this letter have not changed from previous years.

Observation

I encourage you to observe your child in the classroom setting as often as possible.

It is the best way for you to have a clear understanding of their life at school. During the first six weeks, please use the one-way window for your observations while the group gets settled.

Remember, you will get the best representation of their classroom activity if they don't know you are watching. After this initial period, you may either use the observation window or come into the classroom and sit in our designated observer's chair. If you come in, please do your best to be a "fly on the wall" to allow the children to show you what they can do!

Snack

Children at TCH enjoy a school provided snack. Our school is very committed to healthy living and will provide fresh fruits and veggies, lean proteins, and whole grains as snack options, using local, organic ingredients whenever possible. As always, much of the preparation will be done by the children in the classroom. Outside of normal, everyday snack, we will do specific tastings and culinary experiments.

Volunteering

Please let our room parent, Erin Gartland (eeprasse@gmail.com), know if you have time, energy, hobbies or interests to share. Your help makes this all possible. Stay updated with volunteer schedules by checking the class Sign Up page (<https://signup.com/go/ttEGwMz>) Thank you!

Save the Date

There are lots of fun TCH events to attend throughout the year, but the list can be overwhelming! Below is a list of some important events to put on your calendar, but feel free to attend any others on the school-wide calendar.

- Classroom potluck (Monday, September 9th)

- Parent's Visiting Days (Wednesday, October 16th and Thursday, February 20th)
- Seasonal Sing (Friday, December 20th)
- Grandparent's Day (Friday, May 22nd)
- Dance of the Cosmos (Friday, June 5th)
- Parent Teacher Conferences (End of October and end of March)
- For Extended Day parents: Dragon Dance, May Day, Moving Up Ceremony

Lunch

- The school lunch program is wonderful. I encourage you, without reservation, to check the calendar on the website and select your choices. You will not be disappointed.
- If you pack your child a lunch, know that we will supply cloth napkins, tablecloths, plates, silverware, and glasses of water for your child, so you needn't pack them. Milk is available for purchase for \$.75/glass.
- Our refrigerator is very small, so we ask that you include an ice pack in their lunchbox if they have perishable food items. Please pack their warm food in a thermos as we are not able to heat food in our classroom.

Personal Belongings

- Please label all of your child's personal belongings on the tag of the clothing item. This aids our efforts in helping them keep track of their things and minimizing "lost and found" items.
- If your child has something from home that they would like to share with their classmates, they are welcome to tell me in the morning and share the item when we gather as a group. Please limit items to these categories: something from nature, photographs, something they have made or something from a different culture. Please encourage them to keep toys at home.

Supplies

Please supply your child with these items to leave at school:

- One pair of indoor sneakers with non-marking soles (Please refrain from lights, bells or whistles.)
- At least one extra change of labeled clothing for accidents and spills, weather appropriate.

Birthday Celebration and Snack

Your child will be invited to have a special birthday celebration with you and their classmates during the school year. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on their half birthday. I will contact you around the time of their celebration to schedule a date and a time with you. If you like, you may bring a few photos of them on the morning of their celebration; it is always great fun for the children to see them "growing up." Many children also enjoy bringing a snack to their celebration. You may bring a low or no sugar birthday snack for your child to share with their class. Please save cookies, cupcakes and other sugary snacks for their celebrations at home. I have many ideas for delicious, healthy birthday snacks. If you would like some suggestions,

please ask. Teaching the children about healthy food choices is part of our curriculum. I appreciate your help in this effort.

Medication/Illness

- If your child becomes ill at school, I will call you to come and pick them up. They will rest in the comfortable room adjacent to the front desk until you come for them. For specifics about our illness policy, please refer to your parent handbook.
- If your child needs to take medication at school, you must fill out and sign a medication form. This is available online or you can get a copy of this from the front desk.

Non-Parent Pickup

If someone other than you will pick up your child, their name must be on the approved list of adult drivers on your child's account in our database or the child must have a signed note from a parent or guardian. We will check ID of everyone I don't recognize. I appreciate your patience with this safety precaution.

Teacher Availability

The support system we create for your child will be strongest when we are on the same page. The more we know, the better we can provide for your child's needs and interests. Please never hesitate to contact me. Kindly keep in mind the school's policy prohibits texting between teachers and parents.

School Phone: (231) 929 - 9325 (Extension 137)

Personal Phone: (717) 201 - 8626

Email: megan@traversechildrenshouse.org

How to contact me:

- Call the front desk during school hours (8:00-3:30) and leave a message. I will check messages at the end of each school day.
- Set up an in person meeting after school
- Call my personal phone until 7pm
- Email me and I will respond within a 24 hour time period
- Send a note with your child in the morning

Here we go!

Megan Andrews