

Welcome to Thistle!



THE CHILDREN'S HOUSE

Dear Families,

Welcome to a new school year at Thistle! The start of fall brings exciting change as children move into new stages—whether joining us for the first time, reaching new milestones, or stepping into their kindergarten year. I'm thrilled to begin this journey together and look forward to partnering with you in supporting your child's growth.

This year, your child will:

- Gain new levels of **independence**
- Strengthen their **concentration and coordination**
- Refine their **senses and problem-solving skills**

It's an honor to witness these developmental milestones and to share this special year with your family.

Classroom Observation

After the first **six weeks of school**, you'll be invited to observe your child's classroom experience through our two-way window. A sign-up link will be shared in **Waypoints** and in **classroom highlights**. I'm happy to discuss your observations after school—just reach out to Renee to ensure no scheduling conflicts.

Lunch

- **Lunch:**
 - Explore the school lunch calendar online—our program is wonderful!
 - If packing lunch:
 - Include an ice pack for perishables.
 - Use a thermos for warm items (we can't heat food in the classroom).
 - Avoid candy, chocolate, and desserts.
 - As a **green school**, please avoid single-use pouches or tubes.

Volunteering & Family Involvement

Our classroom thrives on celebrating each family's traditions, interests, and stories! If you'd like to share your culture, hobbies, or experiences, please reach out to our room parents:

- Jen Superson — jen.superson@gmail.com
 - Christine Veneziani — veneziani123@gmail.com
 - Erin Gysbers — erinmgysbers@gmail.com
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Personal Belongings & Supplies

Please **label all personal items** to minimize lost and found concerns.

Supplies to send to school:

- Indoor sneakers (non-marking soles, no lights or sounds)
- One extra set of labeled, weather-appropriate clothing
- Rain gear (suit, jacket, pants, and boots)
- Two wet bags for soiled clothes

Items to keep at home: Toys, unless your child is sharing something special within these categories:

- Something from nature
 - A photograph
 - A handmade creation
 - An item representing your culture
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Specials

- **P.E.:** Kindergarteners have P.E. daily; younger children have it Wednesdays, 10:45–11:15 a.m.
- **Music:** Our music teacher, **Angela Aleo**, visits weekly, introducing instruments and songs from around the world.
- **Art:** Kindergarteners enjoy monthly lessons with **Alison Hoffman**, exploring different art styles and practicing techniques back in class.

Birthday Celebrations

We love celebrating your child's special day! Families are invited to join us for their child's celebration. This year, we'll collaborate with your child to **bake a treat together in class** to share with peers—making the celebration even more meaningful.

Health & Wellness

- If your child becomes ill at school, you'll be called to pick them up.
 - Please refer to the **Parent Handbook** for illness policies.
 - If medication is required during school hours, a signed form is needed—available online or at the front desk.
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Drop-Off & Pick-Up

- **Carline:** Please remain in your car; an adult will open the door for your child.
- **Late Arrivals** (after 8:40): Check in at the front desk; a staff member will escort your child.
- **Early Pick-Up:** Check in at the front desk; we'll bring your child to you.
- If arriving after **11:30**, please ensure your child has eaten lunch at home.

For safety, anyone picking up your child must be on the **approved driver list** or present a signed note and valid ID.

Staying Connected

I believe strong partnerships with families are key to your child's success. Here's how you can reach me:

- **Email:** taylor@traversechildrenshouse.org
- **Phone:** (231) 929-9325 ext. 153
- **Front Desk:** Leave a message during school hours (urgent matters will be relayed immediately).

- **Office Hours:** Fridays, 1:15–2:45 p.m. (by appointment)
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Looking Ahead

I'm so excited for the year ahead and the many discoveries, challenges, and celebrations we'll share. Thank you for trusting me with this special stage of your child's journey. Together, we'll create a year filled with growth, joy, and community.

With gratitude,

Taylor Vancil

Lead Guide, Thistle Classroom