



MONTCLAIR KIMBERLEY ACADEMY

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Summer 2018

Dear Incoming Pre-Kindergarten Parents,

Everyone at the Primary School welcomes your family to MKA! We are preparing for the upcoming school year and would like to share some important information so that you can plan for the first few days of school in September.

There will be a **parent-only Pre-K orientation on Wednesday, August 29th at 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at MKA's Middle School**, which is located at 201 Valley Road. Our building entry and parking lot are located just off Valley Road, on Brunswick Road.

- There will be an orientation session **for students and parents on Tuesday, September 4th from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.** This orientation, led by the Pre-K faculty, will provide an opportunity for your child to experience a typical Primary School Pre-K activity time, snack and story. We will be sending more details about both orientations in August.

Please bring the following items to one of the orientations:

1. A complete change of clothing (preferably not seasonal, including underwear and socks) in a labeled Ziploc bag.
2. A smock (an old, oversized T-shirt is best) labeled with your child's name.
3. A pair of rubber rain boots, to be kept at school all year, labeled with your child's name. (You might want to buy a half- or full-size larger than your child's current size so that the boots can be used for the full year.)

Clearly **label all items** that come to school with your child's name. It is especially important to **label all outerwear** your child will use at school. This is essential and will minimize clothing loss throughout the year.

Wednesday, September 5th is a full school day. Children should arrive in the morning as close to 8:00 a.m. as possible. A Pre-K teacher will meet and greet your child for the first few weeks of school at the carline drop-off. Children who ride the bus will be met in the morning by a faculty member and escorted to the classroom. Carline forms in the driveway at dismissal (2:20 p.m.) as well, and your child will be escorted to your car in front of the gym area. Children who ride the bus home are placed on the appropriate buses under faculty supervision.

The dress code for Pre-K is simple play clothing in any durable fabric. *(Pre-K children do not follow MKA's Code of Attire except for on concert and field trip days, when they are required to wear a white short-sleeved pique polo shirt with navy MKA logo – ordering information enclosed.)*

Sneakers or rubber-soled shoes that tie, buckle or Velcro are preferred for safety reasons. **Closed-toe sneakers are required for gym.** Girls must wear “shorts” underneath dresses or skirts. Please know that spills and stains are an inevitable part of our school day.

Your child will need a **full-sized backpack** for school (please do not send in backpacks with wheels). Be sure to purchase one that will accommodate a normal size lunchbox as well as papers or projects. *Lunch boxes should be able to fit easily into the backpack.* It is very important that your child can easily open his or her backpack; this helps foster independence. For safety reasons, please do not allow your child to add additional key chains or toys to the zippers of the backpacks.

Healthy snacks and a beverage are provided daily for each child. If you want to add a cold pack to your child's lunch box, we suggest a mini cold pack. We discourage heavily-sugared dessert items and ask that candy not be a part of your child's lunch.

All notes from home should be addressed to both teachers.

A note from both families is needed if your child is having a playdate with another child. We also need a note if there are any changes in transportation plans. Please pin the note to your child's backpack for easy access.

Please know that we will always return your phone calls or answer your emails as soon as possible. If your message is timely and you need a response before the end of the day, it is best to call the school and leave the message.

We invite you to commemorate your child's birthday with a special snack. All birthday snacks must be reviewed by the nurse ahead of time so that any allergies in the class will be considered. Birthdays are celebrated during snack time and you are welcome to attend. Summer birthdays are usually celebrated in May and June.

Class parents will be phoning you with information about PAMKA events and opportunities to sign up to volunteer at classroom events throughout the year.

A classroom assignment will be mailed to your home in mid-August prior to the opening of school. We look forward to seeing you in early September for the Pre-K orientations and wish you a wonderful summer. I would be happy to talk with you if there are any questions regarding the start of school. I can be reached at jodell@mka.org or 973-783-8805.

Sincerely,

John Odell
Pre-Kindergarten Grade Level Chair
Primary School Campus

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, August 29th, Pre-K Parent Orientation, 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, September 4th, Pre-K Student Orientation, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 5th, First Day of School (full day), 8:00 a.m. - 2:20 p.m.