



MONTCLAIR KIMBERLEY ACADEMY

Dear Pre-K Families,

Welcome 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.

You should have already received an email sent from primaryschool@mka.org with information about Pre-K student and parent orientations. To review, there will be an orientation session **for students and parents** on **Tuesday, September 3 from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.** This orientation, led by the Pre-K faculty and other members of the Primary School team, will provide your child with the opportunity to experience a typical Pre-K activity time, snack, and story.

Please bring the following items to one of the orientations:

- A complete change of clothing (including underwear and socks) in a labeled Ziploc bag
- A smock (an old, oversized T-shirt works best) labeled with your child's name
- 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.)

Please **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 help minimize clothing loss. All found clothing items will be placed in the Lost and Found – please check there for missing items.

Wednesday, September 4 will be the first day of school and a full school day. In addition to the administrators who will be out on carline, a Pre-K teacher will meet and greet all Pre-K students for the first few weeks of school at morning drop-off to help students transition into school. A faculty member will also meet any children arriving by bus. All Pre-K students who depart by car will similarly be escorted to their cars by supervising faculty members. Students who ride the bus home will be placed on the appropriate buses under faculty supervision.

The dress code for Pre-K is simple play clothing in any durable fabric. Pre-K students are not required to follow the Primary School's Code of Attire except for concerts and on field trip days, when they are required to wear a white short-sleeved pique polo shirt with navy MKA logo. Sneakers or rubber-soled shoes that tie, buckle, or Velcro are preferred for safety reasons.

Closed-toe sneakers are required for gym. Students must wear shorts (or in the winter, tights or leggings) underneath dresses or skirts. Please know that spills and stains are an inevitable part of a school day.

Your child will need a **full-sized backpack** for school that will easily accommodate a standard-size lunchbox as well as papers or projects. (Please do not send in backpacks with wheels.) It is very important that your child can easily open his or her backpack; this helps foster independence in our students. For safety reasons, please do not allow your child to add additional key chains or toys to the zippers of the backpacks.

Healthy snacks are provided daily for each student in Pre-K. If you choose to provide lunch for your child and want to add a cold pack to your child's lunch box, we suggest a mini cold-pack. Please refrain from sending in heavily-sugared dessert items or candy as part of your child's lunch.

Please contact your child's teachers with any questions or information by email or phone; 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. All emails and other notes from home should be addressed to both teachers.

If your child is having a playdate with another child, we require notes from both families involved. We also need an email or note if there are any other changes in transportation plans. If you send a hard copy of a note to school, please pin the note to your child's backpack for easy access.

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 to ensure the safety of students with allergies or other dietary restrictions. Pre-K birthdays are typically celebrated during snack time and we welcome families to attend if available. Students with summer birthdays celebrate them in May or June.

Class parents will be in touch about PAMKA (Parents Association of MKA) events including opportunities to volunteer for Pre-K classroom events and field trips throughout the year.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Breanna Jones & Caylie Marden (Pre-K Blue)

John Odell & Erica Tricarico-DeTrollo (Pre-K Green)

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, August 26, Pre-K Parent Orientation: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 3, Pre-K Student Orientation: 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, September 4, First Day of School (full day): 8:00 a.m. to 2:20 p.m.