



MONTCLAIR KIMBERLEY ACADEMY

2019-2020 Kindergarten FAQ Sheet

CLOTHING

Q: What is the school uniform?

- Plain jumpers (solid navy or khaki)
- Slacks, walking shorts and skorts (solid navy, khaki or sand)
- Collared shirts and turtlenecks (any solid color)
- Sweater, any solid color cardigan, crew or v-neck (optional)
- Socks or tights can be any solid color
- Closed-toe shoes, sneakers are preferred

Q: What is Friday Spirit Day?

- On Fridays, students are allowed to wear “Spirit Attire,” which consists of any MKA Cougars apparel.
- During Spirit Day, students are permitted to wear denim, but they must follow the rest of the school dress code.

Q: Should my child bring a change of clothes?

- Yes. Please send in a large Ziploc bag filled with school uniform clothing: pants/skirt, leggings, long sleeve shirt, short sleeve shirt, socks, and underwear.

Q: What is concert attire and field trip attire?

- White, short-sleeved, pique polo shirt with navy MKA logo, required for Primary School concerts and field trips (*See Lands’ End Attire Order Form available at <https://www.mka.org/parents/back2school/>*)
- Khaki pants/skirt/skort

Q: Does my child need snow clothes/boots?

- For rainy/muddy days, we do like the children to have a pair of boots left in the classroom for the duration of the school year. These boots can be used all year long during the cold weather months when the children still get outside and on muddy days for exploring and jumping in puddles. We will send out an email as the winter season approaches to send in snow clothes, which we prefer to stay at school. However, if you do not have an extra pair, we can certainly send snow clothes home.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Q: How can my child celebrate a birthday at school?

- Your child can offer the class a snack (approved by the nurse) and can bring in extra snacks to pass out to teachers during a birthday walk around the school
- Summer birthdays will be celebrated in May.

Q: Whom do I notify if my child has allergies?

- Notify your child's teachers and Primary School nurse Candice Carlson (ccarlson@mka.org) of any allergies prior to the start of the school year.

SNACK AND LUNCH

Q: What do the children eat for snack?

- Snack is provided daily by ButterBeans, MKA's food service program. All children have access to a nut-free and allergen-free snack and fruit.

Q: What are the procedures for lunch in K?

- School lunch: Lunch is provided through ButterBeans and offers an array of healthy options from which your child can choose. The lunch teacher encourages children to try multiple options before requesting second helpings.
- Home lunch: Children who bring lunch from home will store their lunch box in their cubby.
- You can contact Butterbeans Kitchen Food Service Director Susie Cover at scover@mka.org with questions regarding lunch options.

Q: Should my child bring a water bottle to school?

- Children will keep a water bottle (provided by you) in their cubbies. They have opportunities throughout the day to fill their water bottles at the water station. Water bottles can be sent home on Fridays for cleaning.

TRIPS AND TRANSPORTATION

Q: Will K go on field trips throughout the year?

- Three or four field trips will be planned during the year.
- Parent "Sign-up Genius" online forms will be sent out by Class Representatives to request chaperones.

Q: What are the morning drop-off procedures?

- You are welcome to walk your child into the classroom on the first day of school. After the first day, students can be dropped off in front by car or bus and may come into the cafetorium starting at 7:30am. Students line up to head to their classrooms at 7:50am to begin morning responsibilities and table time activities.
- We understand that some students may have some trouble adjusting in the first weeks of school; however, we encourage you to begin using the car drop-off line in the morning sooner rather than later to help ease this transition. Familiar staff and administrators will be out front every morning to receive all students and help them transition into school.

Q: If my child takes the bus, where does he/she go at the end of the day?

- Children will gather in a specified location within the school building to await their assigned bus. Teachers will escort children from the building out to buses.

Q: If my child is signed up for Extended Day, where will he/she go?

- At 2:20, your child will be brought to the Extended Day teachers either outside on the back field or to a designated room in the building, depending on the weather.
- At 3:45 pm, children attending Extended Day will be transported via a supervised MKA bus to the Middle School for the remainder of their Extended Day time.

Q: If my child participates in carline, where and when do I need to pick up?

- Please plan to arrive no earlier than 2:30 p.m. Parents arriving before this time will not be allowed on campus (as we need the buses in place before parent cars can be allowed in carline) and will be asked by security to leave the line and return after 2:30.
- A visible sign with your last name must be placed on your front dash so that your child can be called and ready for pick-up.
- The first spot in car line is awarded to the auction winner.
- Due to the limited carline space, we will not be able to offer a separate carpool line. We certainly encourage parents to consider carpooling using the carline.
- Please respect our neighbors and do not block driveways or intersections when waiting in carline.

Q: If we walk to and from school, where can I drop off and pick up at the end of the day?

- Before the first day of school, and once we have finalized our arrival/dismissal routine in the new building, we will let all families know where to pick up walkers.

Q: Whom I do email or call if there is a change in my child's dismissal plan?

- If there is a change to after-school plans for your child, please email both psnotifications@mka.org **AND** your child's two teachers by 1:30 pm. This ensures that someone will see your email before the school day ends.

GENERAL KINDERGARTEN LOGISTICS

Q: What is the six-day cycle and what does it look like?

- We will share the K six-day schedule at Back-to-School Night in September.

Q: Will my child study a world language?

- K students will take Spanish this year. Half the students will go down to the Spanish room while the other half stay in the room for Reading Workshop and then switch. Spanish will take place four days out of the six-day cycle.

Q: What is “Cougar of the Week” in kindergarten?

- “Cougar of the Week” provides students with an opportunity to share with fellow classmates as well as teachers more about themselves, families, and culture.
- Each day has a specific theme for which each child will bring an object of importance to them and share it with the class.
- You will be notified when it is your child’s turn to be “Cougar of the Week” by a Sign-up Genius at the beginning of the year.

Q: What are “Mystery Readers” in K?

- “Mystery Readers” are when parents come read a special book from their child’s home library to the class. Students love being surprised by their parents and enjoying this very special moment. Typically, mystery readers occur Wednesdays every week at 8:15 a.m. Class parents will coordinate Mystery Readers using a Sign-up Genius list.

Q: When are the Writing Celebrations (WC)?

- Our first WC follows the Winter Concert, the second follows the Spring Concert
 - a. Please join us in the classroom after the winter concert and spring concert to celebrate the process of writing and growth throughout the year.

Q: When will recess occur during the day?

- Recess takes place twice a day, 10:15 to 10:45 am and 1:30 to 2:00 pm.
- Recess will be outside each day, weather permitting, and in the event of snow, students will need snow clothes, snow boots, gloves, and a winter hat in order to participate. **Please mark all items with your child’s first and last name.**
- If the temperature goes below 25° F, recess will be held indoors.

Q: If I want to be a class parent, who do I reach out to?

- The K Grade Representative will reach out via email to see if anyone is interested in being a class parent. Class parents help to organize parties, field trips, and send reminder notifications throughout the year.

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Q: How often will I be in communication with the teachers?

- You will be contacted by one of your classroom teachers at least once a month by phone or email, whichever is easiest and most convenient for you, to discuss your child's progress and social/emotional well-being. On months where progress reports go home or we have conference day, progress reports and/or conferences count as your monthly contact; however, please do not hesitate to reach out at any time!

Q: How should I contact my child's teachers?

- Please address all emails to both classroom teachers, and one will certainly get back to you. We try and check our email at various times/breaks during the day and will do our best to get back to you within 24 hours.

Q: What does the K Orientation Day look like for students and parents?

- It's an opportunity for children and families to come into the classroom, engage in an activity together, and hopefully begin to feel a bit more comfortable before the first day of school.

Q: Whom do I contact if my child will be absent?

- When your child is ill and will be absent, please call Primary School reception at 973-783-8805 or email psnotifications@mka.org between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. **Please copy your child's teachers on any emails about absence.**