



## MONTCLAIR KIMBERLEY ACADEMY

June 21, 2021

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.

We look forward to welcoming your child to school in the fall. Please save the date for Pre-K **parent orientation**, which will be held on the evening of Tuesday, August 31, 2021. At this time, please hold 6:30-9:30 pm on your calendar. (Parent orientation will be shorter than this but it may be held on a staggered schedule.) We will email more information about parent orientation night in late August, including details about how the event will be held per MKA's Health & Safety guidelines.

We look forward to meeting your children at Pre-K **student orientation**, which will be held during the day on Wednesday, September 8. Pre-K student orientation day is typically an opportunity for your child to visit the classroom with you and to meet their teachers. We will share more details about Pre-K student orientation via email in late August once MKA's Health & Safety committee has determined specific details for this fall's student orientations.

Please bring the following items to school when your child comes to student orientation:

- A complete change of clothing (including underwear and socks) in a 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 to help minimize clothing loss. All found

clothing items that are unlabeled will be placed in the Lost and Found, and children can check there for missing items.

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 Code of Attire except for concerts and on field trip days, when they are required to wear a white short-sleeved polo shirt with navy MKA logo. Students must wear shorts (or in the winter, tights or leggings) under dresses or skirts. Please know that spills and stains are an inevitable part of a school day. **Sneakers** are required for Pre-K students as part of their daily dress code. Sneakers can be tied or Velcro.

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.

**Lunch:** You may opt into the school's dining services program from Culinart or send lunch in with your child. Primary School parents will be able to opt into the lunch program in late August. When sending lunch from home, please refrain from sending in heavily-sugared dessert items or candy. Please note that the Primary School campus is nut-free. If you want to add a cold pack to your child's lunch box, we suggest a mini cold pack.

**Water bottles:** Pre-K students should bring their own reusable water bottles to school. Please label the bottle with your child's name in large letters on the side of the bottle.

You will receive information about your child's class assignment (Pre-K Blue or Pre-K Green) and your child's teachers' names in late August. 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 there is a change in your child's after school or end-of-day transportation plans, an email to both teachers and to [psnotifications@mka.org](mailto:psnotifications@mka.org) is required to inform us of such changes. If you send a hard copy of a note to school, please pin the note to your child's backpack for easy access.

Birthdays are an important part of Pre-K students' experiences. We will share updated information about how we plan to celebrate students' birthdays in the classroom when such

information is available in the fall. All birthday snacks must be reviewed by the nurse ahead of time to ensure the safety of students with allergies or other dietary considerations. Pre-K birthdays are typically celebrated during snack time and 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 be involved with classroom activities throughout the year.

**Thursday, September 9** will be the first day of school for Pre-K students and a full school day. In addition to the administrators who will greet students as they arrive on car line, the Pre-K teachers will help students transition into the school building. At dismissal, faculty will help students safely get to their cars in car line, to Extended Day, or to the appropriate buses under faculty supervision if bus service is available from school.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Breanna Conley and Suzanne Giarrusso (Pre-K Blue)

Caylie Marden and John Odell (Pre-K Green)