



MONTCLAIR KIMBERLEY ACADEMY

July 2023

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 29, 2023** from **5:30-6:30 pm**. We will email more information about parent orientation night in August.

We look forward to meeting your children at **Pre-K student orientation**, which will be held during the day on **Wednesday, August 30th**. 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 August.

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 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.

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 August. Please contact your child's teachers with any questions or information by email. 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 is required to inform us of such changes.

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, August 31st will be the first day of school for Pre-K students and a full school

day. The administrators, specialists, staff members, and school counselor will greet students as they arrive at car line. At dismissal, faculty will help students safely get to car line and to Extended Day.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

The PreK Teachers