



PRESCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK 2023 - 2024

PRESCHOOL OFFICE AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Community School Office: 600 Harristown Road, Glen Rock, NJ 07452, 201-389-5011

ACADEMICS, DEVELOPMENT & CLASS TIME

Assessments

The assessments are conducted in various ways and parents will receive documentation. Conferences will be scheduled in December and March.

Curriculum

The preschool curriculum provides opportunities to enrich student development, learning, growing and independence. Each year is a foundation for the next. The curriculum builds a foundation through the years with the goals of kindergarten readiness and students who embrace learning. Each room is designed with interest centers and children choose from a variety of developmentally appropriate activities. Each program includes a balance of child and teacher activities designed to actively engage children in learning throughout the day and promote their creative expression.

Electronics

Preschool students are prohibited from bringing electronic devices that have games or act as texting devices, or other electronics. If a student has an electronic device, the teacher will take the device and return it to the parent or authorized pick up at the end of the day.

Parental Involvement

Parents are invited to sign up for events based on the classroom. Each classroom has their unique events, a few examples are: mystery reader, guest reader, library visits, singalongs and more. The Community School believes in giving back to the community and will hold drives to benefit various organizations. The collections involve both parent and student.

Recess

During recess students are supervised by their teachers and teacher's aide(s). Playground equipment is available to students. Students will be taken out for recess if the weather permits. During the winter, students should bring coats, hats, gloves and scarves. Sweaters, sweatshirts and fleece are recommended in the winter or when the weather is cool outside.

Rest Time

Rest time is in place for students attending a program five or more hours per day. Parents will provide rest/yoga mats for his/her child. Mats are wiped down before and after use. We ask that students do not bring pillows, stuffed animals or sheets for the mats. Rest time is approximately 15 – 25 minutes per day and students may nap, rest or read a book on their mat.

Safety Drills

Students will take part in drills, such as fire drills, lockdown drills, and shelter-in place drills.

School Calendar

The preschool follows the Glen Rock Public Schools calendar with a few exceptions depending on the school year. At the beginning of the year, a preschool calendar is placed on grconline.com and sent to parents.

Spare Clothes

Please provide spare clothes for children in their backpacks. Please label all clothing.

Supplies

Teachers will notify families of any supplies that are needed to bring to the classroom. A backpack and snack bag is recommended.

Toys

Preschool students are prohibited from bringing toys, games or trading cards. These items are a distraction.

ATTENDANCE

Students will be marked Present, Absent or Tardy each day.

Tardy Policy

We understand that families may have children in multiple programs at the same time, and may arrive a few minutes late. We ask that families try to arrive as timely as possible, as repeated tardiness causes interruptions for the class and the student beginning their day. Repeated tardiness that causes disruption will result in a call from the Community School office. If a child is fifteen minutes late, they will be marked tardy. Excessive tardiness will result in the Director contacting the parents.

Absent Policy

When a student will be absent, parents must send an email before the start of the school day. The email should state the child's name and reason for absence; for example, family obligation, vacation, sickness, injury, etc. If your child is sick, please state the symptoms. If a child's teacher is not notified by a parent within the first hour of class, the Community School office will be notified, and the school office or teacher will contact the parent.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Students must be dropped off and picked up at the back entrance to the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

Early Pick Up

If a child must be picked up early and the teacher is not aware of this change, please call the Preschool office at (201) 389-5011 and the office will deliver the message to the classroom teacher.

Pick Up Authorization

Each child must be released to the parent(s) or person(s) authorized by the parent(s) to pick up the child from preschool and assume the responsibility for the child in an emergency if the parent(s) cannot be reached. If an additional person will be added to the authorized pick up list, a parent must submit in writing this notification to the Director of the Community School.

Parents shall indemnify and hold the Glen Rock Board of Education harmless from any and all claims for injuries, damages and costs that may be incurred in connection with the release of their child to someone who has been authorized by the parents to pick up their child from the Preschool Program.

If a non-custodial parent has been denied access, or granted limited access, to a child by a court order, the Preschool/Community School shall secure documentation to that effect, maintain a copy on file, and comply with the terms of the court order.

If a child is not picked up at dismissal, the child will be supervised at all times. Staff members will attempt to contact the parent(s) and emergency contact(s) who are authorized by the parent(s). After one hour of dismissal, if staff members are unable to contact parent(s) or emergency contact(s) and arrangements have not been made for pick up, the staff member shall contact the 24 Hour state Central Registry Hotline, 877-652-2873 to seek assistance in caring for the child until an authorized person is able to pick up the child. If the child is picked up after dismissal time (according to the school clock) the parent agrees to pay a fee of \$3 per minute for each minute late according to the school clock and teacher. GRCS will bill you, do not pay cash or check to the teacher or teacher's aide.

If the parent(s) or person(s) authorized to pick up a child appear physically and/or emotionally impaired to the extent that, in the judgment of the staff member, the child would be placed at risk of harm if released to such an individual, the Preschool shall ensure that:

The child may not be released to an impaired individual. Staff members will attempt to contact the child's other parent or emergency contact(s). If the Preschool is unable to make alternative arrangements, a staff member shall contact the 24 Hour state Central Registry Hotline, 877-652-2873 to seek assistance in caring for the child.

CLOSINGS, EARLY DISMISSAL & DELAYED OPENING

Delayed Openings, Early Closings and School Closures

Preschool will have a delayed opening, early closing or school closure due to weather or emergency when Glen Rock Public Schools does. Announcements related to these situations will come from the Preschool Director via text and email.

Please note the following for Delayed Openings:

2 ½ Year Old Class canceled for the day; 3 Year Old & Pre-K Class in session with delayed opening at 10:33 am

Please note the following for Early Closings:

2 ½ Year Old Class dismissed at 11:00 am; 3 Year Old & Pre-K Classes dismissed at 11:30 am

STUDENT HEALTH

If a child appears ill, the parent(s) will be contacted to pick up the child from school within 30 minutes of the phone call. If the parents are not available, the emergency contact(s) will be contacted. If the child has been injured or is ill beyond being taken home, the staff will have the child treated by medical personnel. Examples of illness:

Pink Eye/ Conjunctivitis - A child may not return to school until they have been on eye drops for 24 hours and even after 24 hours they may not return until they are free of discharge.

Fever/Stomach Virus - A child may not return to school until they have been fever free for 24 hours without any fever reducing medication or any stomach episode

COVID - A child may not return to school until the child tests negative.

Immunizations

As a matter of state law, children in the program must:

Be fully immunized, or be in the process of becoming fully immunized according to the approved schedule, or

A note from the parent stating that the child is not immunized due to religious beliefs

Medications

With the exception of EpiPens/Auvi-Q in case of emergency, medication cannot be administered at school.

BEHAVIOR/EXPULSION

Discipline

Preschool teachers and aides make every effort to work with children and their needs. Such strategies used to discipline in the program are, but are not limited to: providing clear limits, keeping students engaged, modeling appropriate behaviors, redirect inappropriate behaviors, having students choose between two alternatives, encouraging the use of words to solve problems, removing a child from a situation to calm down, teaching conflict resolution. When there is an ongoing behavior concern:

1. Parents are given incident report(s) and must sign that they were received.
2. If the behaviors do not improve, the teacher will contact the child's parents. Communication may be through phone or email to discuss the behaviors. These reports will be on file with the Director of the Preschool. All documents are kept confidential.
3. If behaviors continue, the parent will be asked to come into school and meet with the teacher to discuss a plan that both parties can agree upon. A time frame will be established. The Director of the Preschool will have a copy of the plan and time frame. All documents are kept confidential.
4. If the plan for change has not been successfully met or advancements shown toward progression in the time frame stated, the teacher, Director and parents will have an in-person meeting to discuss options including, but not limited to: a revised plan, a 1 – 3 weeks break in school (parents are responsible for tuition during this time), or in rare cases expulsion or consideration of withdrawal.

Examples of grounds for expulsion are the following, but not limited to:

If the child is at risk of causing serious injury to staff, another child or himself/herself

Failure to pay tuition or habitual lateness

Verbal abuse to staff

Incident reports that have behaviors that are not resolved over time

Uncontrollable tantrums/angry outbursts

Discipline plans that cannot be met

The preschool's goals include working together with families to promote a positive experience for children. However, we do realize that there may be circumstances that keep a child from being capable of fully participating in the program, and understand the program may not be equipped to deal with all circumstances underlying certain behavioral issues.

Accident/Incident Report

An accident/incident report will be created by teachers in the event of an accident or incident. An incident is described as such behaviors as the following, but not limited to: biting, injuring another student, etc. The parents and teacher will sign the report and the report will be sent to the Director of the Preschool.

BIRTHDAYS

We ask that food not be brought in for birthdays. However, non-food treats may be given out, such as pencils, erasers, stickers, etc. to celebrate a child's birthday. Each classroom celebrates birthdays in their own unique way.

FOOD

Preschool does not provide drinks, snacks or lunch. Each child should bring their own food and drink. Our schools are 100% nut free. Students do not have access to refrigeration.

If food were brought into the classroom for an event, parents would be notified ahead of time. Cooking and events involving food are dependent each year on the makeup of allergies in the class. Cooking events in the class would involve basic items and would depend on student allergies. Parents bringing food into the class for an event would be required to bring only store bought, commercially prepared items in their original packaging.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All student records and matters are kept confidential.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Staff and parents are asked to observe confidentiality and not discuss children or preschool matters on social media platforms, including post photos without parental consent.

Specific Contacts

If your question/concern is about:	Contact in this order of priority:
Academic , Emotional or Developmental Progress	Child's Teacher Preschool Director
Curriculum	Child's Teacher
Non-academic school issues	Preschool Director
Change in family contact information	Preschool Registrar
Tuition	Preschool Office