

Things You Need to Know

Teacher Communication

Your child's teacher will be calling you sometime between August 2 and August 12. Depending on their vacation plans, it may not be at the beginning of that time frame. Please be patient! You will be contacted. Teachers will make sure you have received all your printed material and that you understand all the information. They will also tell you anything they specifically would like you to bring parent night. **Please make sure the school office has updated address and phone numbers (including cell phone numbers).**

First Week Details

The week of August 22, we will begin our gradual entry process. Following is an explanation of why we do gradual entry and how it works:

Why do we have gradual entry?

Even though children may be returning for the third or fourth year, our experience has been that a gradual return within a small group of students helps allay anxieties or apprehension; helps students get to know each other faster in the small group settings, and helps the teacher learn names, faces, and personalities much quicker. This system is tried and true.

How it works:

1. On your child's very first class day, the class is divided in half. Half the class will come for 1 hour and the other half comes for 1 hour. Parents do not stay with children during this time.
2. Your child's teacher will call you to work out which part of the morning your child will attend.
3. Missing the first day of gradual entry may mean the difference in a happy start vs. an unhappy start to the school year. **We urge all children to attend gradual entry day.** If you are unable for your child to attend gradual entry, please discuss this with your child's teacher during the phone call prior to school starting.
4. **Your child's second day of class is a regular 3 or 4 hour day of school**

Parent Meeting

The Parent Meetings are August 15 and 16. They begin with a parent fair in the Fellowship Hall from 5:30 – 6:30. You will purchase t-shirts and bags, join NAPP, become a member of Book Buddies club, purchase Stay and Play sessions, etc. The Parent Meeting will begin in the Sanctuary at 6:45 and end in your child's room with the teacher. There is no child care so you will need to make your own child care arrangements. Short of this meeting being a requirement, **we urge you to attend.** This is the only meeting of this type this year. **Please mark your calendar now** to attend.

Book Bags

We expect each child to have a book bag (not a backpack) with dimensions of at least 14" X 15" in order to hold the many big projects your child will take home. Backpacks are reserved for kindergarten only. If you do not already own a bag, book bags with school logo will be available for purchase during Parent Nights at a cost of \$10.00. After Parent Night, book bags will be available in the preschool office.

Parking

Please follow entrance and exit signs into and out of the parking lot and be aware of traffic, pedestrians, and **please drive slowly**. The parking lot is for one-way traffic. It is also a **"no cell phone" zone** during car pool and dismissal. Please observe handicap parking spaces as these are used for daily weekday Church programming. The parking lot is shared by a wide variety of groups. Please help us by parking appropriately and being extra cautious and courteous.

Immunization and Student Health Forms

Paperwork Needed:

It is important that we have your child's up-to-date immunization form and the Student Health Form completed by your child's pediatrician. A current immunization and Student Health Form must be on file in the preschool office before your child can start school. The immunization forms are gained from your child's physician. The Student Health Form is on the preschool website at www.northbrookumc.com.

Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is critical to our program being able to function effectively, and we truly need your help. Please read over the following needs and come prepared to volunteer for at least one opportunity. There are several types of volunteers that we will be recruiting on Parent Night:

1. Teachers may be asking for Room Parents to help coordinate communication and events within the classroom. The room parent also will coordinate special gifts to the teachers for teacher appreciation, birthdays, Christmas, and end of the year.
2. Teachers will also be asking for parents to share their special talents with their class or the school.
3. Teachers will be asking for Mystery Readers, Classroom Party Helpers, Handwashing Helpers (in the 3s classes), Cooking Parents, Playground Helpers, etc.
4. Each classroom will need an Auction representative to help coordinate with other volunteers to ensure the Auction runs smoothly.
5. Each classroom will need a Class Basket Coordinator. This person will collect donations for the class basket. The basket usually has a theme and families donate to the basket, which will be auctioned off.
6. Each classroom will also need a Class Project Coordinator. Each class creates something to be auctioned off. It could be individual art project made by each child, or a large item made by the whole class. Previous items include decorated bookcases, individual clay crosses, child sized table and chair sets, etc.

NAPP coordinates all three of the Auction Volunteers by providing guidance, reminders, and support. There will be an Auction meeting held shortly after school begins. Come prepared on Parent Night with your calendar and a willing spirit.

