

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:6-7

July 17, 2020

Dear Parents,

As I read this Bible verse, it reminds me of one thing, don't be worried. I just need to bring my anxious thoughts and needs to our Lord and Savior. He alone will give us the peace that passes all understanding and will always guard and protect us. My prayer is that this verse can bring you some comfort as it does with me. God is always there for us and is in complete control. We need to keep looking to Him.

This past week all parents should have received the *Return to Campus Update* from Mr. Pehlke. His letter is filled with important information. It is based on the Michigan Safe Schools Roadmap created by a task force from Governor Whitmer. Our Preschool and Young 5's program is licensed through the state of Michigan and follows the Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) recommendations and guidelines. Please take the time to review Mr. Pehlke's letter. It answers many questions.

Important topics for Preschool and Young 5 children:

- **Face Masks:** In Phase 4, facial coverings are required for all staff; Preschool and Y5 students need to wear them in the hallways and in common areas and on buses. (Students in grades 6-12 are also required to wear them in the classrooms). The students do not have to wear them in the classroom. Please have your child practice wear a mask that they feel comfortable wearing for when we are in the hallway. (Note as of July 15, Michigan is in Phase 4.) In Phase 5, facial coverings are recommended but not required for all staff, and for Preschool-8th grade students in hallways and common areas.
- **Show and Tell:** At this point we will refrain from Show and Tell until the state reaches Phase 5 or Phase 6.
- **Blankets for rest time (full day children):** Blankets will be stored in backpacks in the hall and will be sent home daily for laundering. We ask that no stuffed animals be sent in.

What will our school days look like?

Your child's safety and health is our primary concern. Please be assured that the building and classrooms have undergone a deep and thorough cleaning and disinfecting process. We will maintain our cleaning procedures throughout the school year.

- **Arrival:** You and your child will be warmly greeted with the love of Jesus by our Preschool staff. We are reviewing the possibility of whether or not temperature checks will be needed upon arrival. Currently the guidelines state that parents are to do this at home. Details for drop off procedures will be provided at Parent Orientation.

- **Handwashing:** Children will wash their hands when they enter the classroom, as is our current procedure. There will be additional times for handwashing throughout the day.
- **Soft toys:** We have made the effort to eliminate “soft” toys as these are harder to clean through the disinfecting process in the classroom.
- **Supplies:** Children will be use their own supplies such as crayons, scissors, glue sticks etc. They will keep their personal items in a pencil box in their cubby in the classroom. Our Preschool aides will help them find their items. Please refer to the supply list for items needed.
- **Distancing:** During circle time, the children will be spread apart at circle time to maintain distance. The students will be in learning groups within their session, so that they can be spread out throughout the classroom. We will try our best to keep children spaced apart when feasible. As the children work in their centers, the staff will provide gentle reminders that everyone needs to keep their hands to themselves. We know that this can sometimes be a challenge for children and if it happens they will wash their hands.
- **Recess:** Our plan is to take the children out for fresh air and play time during recess, weather permitting. This will be on the Preschool playground, one class at a time to maintain cohorts.
- **Learning Centers:** Children are very social and need to learn the skills of cooperative play and working together for a common goal. During centers, the students will have this opportunity. For example, the blocks, magna tiles, duplos, dollhouse, housekeeping center provide occasions where children can work in groups. When the children change centers, hands will be washed so each group can start with clean hands in their area.
- **Sensory Table:** We will most likely not use sensory tables at this time due to the difficulty of sanitizing the items.

How will the students learn?

- We will have the joy of learning about Jesus as our Savior through daily Bible lessons.
- Singing will happen! Children are active learners and they will be placed with distance between them as we sing and do letter and sound activity songs.
- Small group instruction will occur during center time.
- We will continue to learn through our play and we look forward to teaching your child academically, socially, emotionally, physically but most important of all, spiritually.

Cleaning Procedures:

- As mentioned earlier, all classrooms and the building have undergone a thorough, deep cleaning process.
- Cleaning will be done throughout the day on doorknobs, handles, light switches, faucets etc.
- Tables: The tables are cleaned with a three step process, soap, water and a non-toxic disinfectant spray.
- Toy cleaning: The toys and equipment will go through a cleaning process daily using the non-toxic spray.
- Cleaning procedures follow the LARA guidelines. If you have any questions regarding any of the products we use please do not hesitate to talk with me.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child this year. We have missed the children and we are so excited to share the love of Jesus with them.

God’s blessings to each of you.

Karen Neumeyer, Preschool Director/Teacher