Dear Pre-K Families,
Welcome to Pre-K! The Kindergarten Readiness Newsletter provides your family with MNPS pre-K information, activities and tips to support your family and your child prepare for kindergarten. Your child’s Pre-K teacher will provide the newsletter monthly.

We also encourage you to connect with your child’s Pre-K teacher and school to find out about other ways to support your child during the school year, and how to be involved in your child’s school.

Warm Wishes, MNPS Pre-K Team

Family Activity Corner

Starting Pre-K is a big step for you and your child. It’s very exciting and it’s also a time of transition. A fun book to read about transition and starting routines is Llama Llama Misses Mama by Anna Dewdney.

After reading the book, encourage your child to talk about an exciting experience that happened to them at school. Ask them how they feel about school and encourage them to express their feelings.

Activity Idea: “Fun with Words” Select vocabulary words from the book that might be unfamiliar to your child, such as shy, strange or cuddled. Write the words down and describe their meanings. Ask your child to try to act them out.

Contact Information
Metro Nashville Public Schools
Pre-K Department
(615) 298-6766

MNPS District Important Dates
Teacher PD Day
Students Do Not Report for School
Friday, August 30

Get Ready for Kindergarten Tip

When a child misses school more than 2 days a month, they miss important learning opportunities that are preparing them for kindergarten.

Here are a few tips to support your child’s Pre-K attendance:

• Set a regular bedtime & morning routine.
• Layout clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
• Develop a back-up plan for getting your child to & from school if something comes up.
• Check the “Attendance Sign” outside your child’s classroom to see their classes’ progress.

For More Activities & Information Visit:
www.mnps.org/countdowntokindergarten

August 2019

This product was provided to you by a Preschool Development Grant (PDG-E), an activity supported by Metro-Nashville Public Schools and funded with federal funds.
Parent Spotlight

Pre-K is not only new for your child, it can be new for the entire family. Starting a new school year provides a good opportunity to get your family into healthy routines and habits to support your child’s development.

Meal times provide a great opportunity to set healthy habits. During those times leave electronic devices in another room and focus on conversing with the family. By conversing, you are supporting your Pre-K student to develop their language and communications skills.

When your family ends their day, practice a consistent bedtime routine with your child. The routine could include reading a bedtime story, brushing their teeth and changing into pajamas. This will signal to your child that it’s time for bed, so they can get rest for a new day!

Family Style Dining

The MNPS Pre-K program implements Family Style Dining in all Pre-K classrooms to encourage and promote conversations and discussions that help to build a child’s vocabulary and oral language skills. It also decreases the amount of transitions occurring within a day. During Family Style Dining, your child will eat within their classrooms and will experience meal time similar to dining with their family.

Classroom Family Style Dining supports the following developmental areas:

- During family style dining lunch is placed on the table for Pre-K students to serve themselves. This helps develop a Pre-K student’s fine motor skills, builds confidence, supports independence and motivates students to try new foods.
- Teachers intentionally want children to converse during lunch with other students and their teachers about the day’s events and other topics that interest them to develop their students’ language and conversation skills.
- The family style lunch also provides an opportunity for children to develop their literacy, math and social skills by using opportunities to count, describe, retell stories while practicing table manners.

There are learning opportunities at home to support Classroom Family Style Dining, such as:

- Giving your child the responsibility of placing plates, cups or napkins on the table during meal times.
- Placing food on the tables with serving spoons to encourage your children to serve themselves.
- Promoting a healthy conversation during meal times.
- Leaving electronic devices in another room to focus on mealtime conversations.

The MNPS breakfast and lunch program are free to qualifying families. For more information on breakfast and lunch charges, please contact your child’s school.