



THE LION'S PRIDE

2015 – 2016

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A PRESCHOOL AT MOUNT AIRY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

PARENT HANDBOOK

Preschool Daily Schedule- Morning/Afternoon Schedule

8:30-8:45 /12:30-12:45	Free play
8:45 -9:05/12:45-1:05	Morning Meeting: calendar, weather, daily message
9:05-9:35/1:05-1:35	Table Centers: fine motor, puzzles, playdough, writing
9:35-9:55/1:35-1:55	Circle Time: Theme-based books, songs, poems, and instruction
9:55--10:05/1:55--2:05	Snack
10:05-10:45/2:05-2:45	Center Time: dramatic play, blocks, toys, house corner, art, crafts
10:45-11:05/1:45-2:05	Outdoor Play
11:05-11:30/3:05-3:30	Bible Time and Read Aloud

Drop off and pick up

Students in the morning classes may enter the main lobby doors accompanied by a parent or guardian beginning at 8:20. Doors will open for afternoon classes at 12:20. Classes begin at 8:30 and 12:30. Please bring your child to the classroom door, say your good-byes, and the teacher will welcome the child into the room. Please wait in the lobby to pick up your child at 11:30 from morning classes or 3:30 for afternoon sessions. The teacher will bring the children out to the lobby for parent pick up. Please be mindful that both church and school offices are busy working and answering phone calls.

Optional Services

Early Drop Off

The doors will open for regular morning preschool hours at 8:20. We are offering the option to drop your child off when MACA opens the doors to K-12 students at 7:50. All preschool students must be escorted into the building and to the classroom by a parent, guardian, or carpool driver. Early drop off carries a fee of \$5.00. The fee will be added to your account for each day you drop off between 7:50 and 8:20.

Four-Year-Old Lunch Bunch

All four-year-old preschool students are invited to attend Friday lunch bunch. Students should bring their own lunch to school that day and we will eat after morning dismissal. Lunch bunch will run from 11:30-12:30 and carries an additional fee of \$5.00.

Tote Bags

The children will need to bring a tote bag to school each day. The tote bag should be small enough for your child to carry yet large enough to fit art projects, a folder, and a show and tell item. The tote bag should not have a zipper. We have tote bags for purchase with The Lion's Pride name and logo. You can purchase these in the school office for \$8 if you choose.

Show and Tell

Each child will be given the opportunity to bring a show and tell item twice a month. A schedule will be sent home indicating your child's day to present. The item should be school appropriate and small enough to fit in the tote bag. This activity will be used to help children to develop confidence, speak in front of a group, listen respectfully to peers, and work on oral communication skills.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences will be scheduled for parents of all 3 and 4 year old students in early November. A second conference will be scheduled in the spring for parents of children in the 4 year old class to discuss kindergarten readiness.

Arts and Crafts

The children will have the opportunity to participate in both arts and crafts each school day. It is important to note the difference between the two. Crafts will typically go with our unit of study. Their purpose is often two-fold. First, they reinforce what we've learned about in school. For example if we are learning about what happens in the spring, we may make a butterfly. Secondly, crafts often are designed to teach or practice a skill such as cutting, gluing, tracing, or following instructions. A specific final product is the goal of crafts. Art, on the other hand, is open-ended. Supplies are provided and children are permitted to create. There is no specific outcome required.

School Calendar

A Mount Airy Christian Academy calendar will be included in your parent packet. The Lion's Pride will follow the school's schedule for all holidays and closings.

Snacks

Snack will be provided each day. Each month we will distribute a schedule requesting snack donations from each family. Preferred snack items are listed below:

Cheese sticks or slices

Fruit cups in 100% juice

Applesauce cups

Carrots sticks

Cucumber slices

Apples (We will slice at school.)

Orange slices

Bananas

Goldfish crackers

Graham crackers

Animal crackers

Beverages:

100% Fruit Juice

Whole or 2% Milk

Bottled Water

Inclement Weather

We will follow the decisions of Mount Airy Christian Academy. When MACA is delayed by one hour, morning sessions will begin at 9:30 and end on time at 11:30. If MACA is delayed by two hours, morning sessions will be cancelled.

School Dress

We will play outside on most school days so please dress your child in weather appropriate clothing. Our days will also be filled with paint, glue, and other exciting items so please be aware that clothing may get messy from time to time. It is also important that the children wear clothes and shoes suitable for play. We will spend a lot of time playing and sitting on the floor, moving about the room, and playing games. Please keep this in mind while dressing your child for school. Closed-toed, sneaker type shoes are strongly recommended.

Classroom Management

Preschool is a time for children to practice interacting with peers and authority figures outside of the family unit. Students will be guided to speak and act respectfully and to obey authority. If a student should have any difficulty he may lose classroom privileges or sit out for a period of time. If the struggle persists, he will need to leave the classroom. The classroom teacher or Director will contact the parent directly if this should occur.

Communication

Open lines of parent/teacher communication are important. Feel free to contact me via e-mail at megan.harmon@macamd.org or by phone at 410-489-4321. Drop off and pick up are not ideal times for lengthy conversations. If you need to discuss something that requires more time, please schedule a conference. You are also welcome to drop a note in your child's tote bag. We will be sure to check the contents at the start of each session. A newsletter will be sent home every other week to keep you updated on the class themes and activities.

Tuition

All families will be automatically enrolled in FACTS upon registration. You will be billed monthly and all payments are due by the 15th of each month.

Potty Training

All students must be fully potty trained before entering preschool. Pull-ups are not permitted. Occasional accidents are normal but excessive or consistent incidents are indicative that the child is not fully trained. There are two restrooms in the classroom and children will be reminded to use them regularly. For the occasional accident, all parents are asked to bring a change of clothes in a zip-loc bag to be kept at school. Please clearly label the bag with your child's name.

Illness and Medication

We are blessed to have a full-time nurse on site. Should your child start to feel ill at school, he will be taken to the nurse's office. She will contact the parent should the child need to be sent home for the day. In order to limit the spread of illness, all children must be symptom and fever free for a full 24 hours before returning to school.

If your child has known allergies which require treatment, all medications will be handled through the nurse's office. It is essential that you clearly communicate any known allergies to the nurse and teaching staff.

Library

Parents of children enrolled in The Lion's Pride are welcome to use the Mount Airy Bible Church/Mount Airy Christian Academy library. Hours and procedures will be distributed once school begins.

Birthday Celebrations

You are welcome to send a snack to school to celebrate your child's birthday. Please just send one item which can be easily distributed. Please do not send party invitations to school for distribution unless every child in the class is invited.