

# St. Mark Preschool Beachball Press



June 17, 2020

Dear St. Mark Parents,  
I am happy to report that the preschool back to school date will be August 3, 2020, instead of the traditional August 24<sup>th</sup> back to school date. This translates into an additional 3 weeks of care included in August tuition.

Pastor Cindy, the Parent Advisory Committee and Tandra Pitchford continue to graciously guide me through preschool information and dynamics.

Tuesday, I met the staff for the first time. We had a productive and thoughtful time together. We discussed the past frustrations, our new direction, and Covid-19 practices. Feedback from the meeting has been appreciative and I sensed relief.

Over the next few weeks, I will be inviting you to Zoom meetings by classroom. Our conversations will address past challenges and hopes and dreams for the future, no limits...Once we're open, I would like to meet privately with each family. My focus is on creating stability, keeping children, teachers, and families safe as we adapt to new ways of doing things.

One of my favorite sayings of Buckminster Fuller is, "There is nothing in a caterpillar that tells you it's going to be a butterfly." We are in the chrysalis stage, where the entire caterpillar turns to mush and reconfigures. We will work together to get to the butterfly state.

I read and listen to new information on Covid-19 daily. I had the pleasure of working with Yukiko Irie and Ashleigh Barkas, Cottage Hospital's preschool directors and their staff, to

watch and identify practices we will be implementing. At Tandra Pitchford's Director Alliance meetings, I'm able to learn about how other SB preschools have reopened and what that entails. It may feel foreign at first and we will get used to it.

## Drop-off and pick up

There will be staggered drop off times for parents who work and parents who need care.

My initial thought is to have:

- 7:45am-8:15am drop-off available for working parents and
- 8:30am-9:00am drop-off for parents who need childcare

I'm building in a little space to see how it goes. We can tighten the times up depending...

We will have 2 drop off methods. One option will be to utilize the "U" shaped driveway for an "in and out" drop off. The other will be a "park and walk your child to class" drop off. Parents will be asked a number of questions and teachers will take children's temperatures and visually assess wellness. Before entering SMP, all humans will use hand sanitizer. Parents will not be able to enter classrooms, "Have a fun day, we love you" will need to be said at the door for now.

The Safety Committee has put together a "living document" (a document that will change as new information comes out). Please see attached.

Each class will have no more than 10 children. The Pre-K class will be divided into two. *The teachers will decide on best classroom dynamics for the children. Please trust them...*

Playground time will be staggered so groups are separated. We are creating other outside play options so more than one group can be outside at a time.

- All preschool classrooms will have a deep cleaning, including carpet prior to opening. We are using the same cleaners Cottage Hospital uses.
- Naptime will be in the same classroom. Cots will be wiped down daily.
- All used surfaces will be wiped down daily.
- I will be hiring extra help to keep up with cleaning.

## HANDS



Hands is an acronym for Home and School. I will use this area to highlight things children may experience at home and school. The more crossover and consistency children have, the more security and happy they will be.

Daily communication with your child's teacher supports your child and their teacher, which in turn results in positive parent-teacher relationships and improved teacher morale. Possible topics could be classroom happenings, successful learning strategies; things children show interest in, ideas, and routines that promote health and well-being.

Revving up! Michele 😊