Ms. Lisa's PreK

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My name is Lisa Nakamura (Ms. Lisa) and I will be your child's teacher this year. Katina Fussell (Ms. Katina) is our amazing teacher assistant! We are looking forward to creating a classroom of joy, filled with love, learning, and a lot of laughter!

Welcome

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Welcome

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Email: lisanakamura@mckeelschools.com
katinafussell@mckeelschools.com
erinedmonds@mckeelschools.com
McKeel Central: 863-499-1287
(Unless the question is teacher-specific, please email both of us in case one of us is absent)
While we do our best to check email during the day, our priority is working with students, so we may not get to email immediately. We will respond to emails within 24 hours, but if the information is time-sensitive, please call the school. The office can relay information to us immediately.

Contact Information

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AM DROP OFF is from 7:45-8:15. You may park in the church parking lot but please use the crosswalk. You must walk your student all the way to the gate and sign in with the PK teacher assistants at the table.
(If you have a K-6 student you may walk them up as well.)
PK students may not be dropped off in carline!

PM DISMISSAL is from 2:50-3:25.
The adult picking up **must have the car tag!**. Please bring the car tag every day, all year in case a staff member who does not know you is outside.
If you have your PK student but are waiting for a sibling, please keep your PK child with you. (out of the parking lot & off the sidewalk safety rails).

If you need to drop off before 7:45 or pick up later than 3:25, you will need to register for before/after school care.

Arrival & Dismissal

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Snacks: We have a class snack calendar (also available on our website). On the MONDAY of your week, please send in 20 healthy, individually pre-packaged snacks. Great options include cheese sticks and fresh fruit, CheezeIts, Goldfish, pretzels, popcorn, veggie chips, peanut butter crackers, etc.)
No sweet treats please! (no cookies, snack cakes, Rice Krispie Treats, gummies, etc.)

Lunch: School lunch is available for purchase ($2.55/meal.) The menu is posted on the MAC website. Chocolate milk is not an option for PK. All PK students receive white milk. If students do not bring a lunchbox, we will order a school lunch for them.

Home Lunch: Please be sure foods are ready-to-eat. We cannot refrigerate or warm up foods for students. Make sure your child's name is on his/her lunchbox!

Snack and Lunch

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We love that our parents want to be a part of our PreK community and appreciate your involvement and support!

Here are a few ways you can support our PreK classroom:

IN PERSON: We have special holiday "event days" for which we need parent volunteers to assist with crafts or games. Prior to the event, I will email to see who is available to help out on that specific day/time. (Due to the size of the classroom & management of activities, we are limited to the number of volunteers for each event but will make sure everyone who wants to come in has an opportunity to do so over the course of the school year!)

<u>You MUST be an approved volunteer to work with students in the classroom.</u>

More info about the volunteer application and its deadline will be forthcoming.

PREPARING ACTIVITIES FROM HOME: We may have some things like cutting pieces for a craft, making play doh, coloring rice, etc., for which we could use an extra hand. We'll email for anyone available and willing to help on these occasions!

SENDING IN ITEMS: Sometimes, we have items we can use for classroom activities (both "around your house" stuff or sometimes small purchases!).

(1) Any small items for the upcoming week will be in the newsletter

(2) If we have items we can use for an event, I will send a sign up genius email.

(3) This will be my first year making an Amazon wish list for our class.

(Please don't feel obligated to buy anything but I've had parents ask me in the past and never had one so I'm trying it out this year!)

Being Involved

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It is so important for parents to be in the loop and know what's going on! There are several ways we will communicate with you:

Agendas: Agendas are for daily communication for home and school. There is a block for each day for short notes. You must initial or sign your child's agenda daily! Please keep the binder clip in the agenda! (It allows Ms. Katina to find the day's page quickly) The activities in the agenda are not homework – just a resource to use as you wish!

Weekly Email/Newsletter: Parents will receive a weekly email with our classroom newsletter outlining the upcoming week's theme and learning goals, announcements, practice ideas, wish list items, etc. Please read the newsletter each week!

***IMPORTANT** We can only share academic and behavior information with parents/legal guardians listed on the MOO with permission to share records.

Friday Folders: On Friday, you will receive a folder with your student's work from the week. Please empty the folder return it on Monday.

Monthly Portfolio: At the end of each month we'll send home items that we will compile into an end of the year portfolio. These are for your review and signature, but must be returned to school.

Website: Our class website contains learning resources along with administrative info like the snack calendar, PK 2023-2024 Calendar, etc.
https://www.mckeelcentral.com/staff-directory/lisanakamura

Communication

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Our goal is to create a classroom community that allows every student to have fun and learn in a safe & loving environment. In order to accomplish this, we teach, model, & practice classroom expectations. This is foundational work in PreK! In as much as our little ones are learning academic skills, they are learning behavior and social expectations, and developing executive functioning skills! As adults, we take for granted the ability to identify and manage emotions, problem-solve, focus, reason, etc., but this is the major work of PreK. Practice is essential, and the classroom presents many situations for working on expectations each day. We will work on these skills all year!

We use the language of "green (go) and red (stop) choices". As we introduce classroom expectations at the beginning of the year, we'll share with parents the expectation(s) introduced and the language we're using in the classroom so you can support the same goals at home!

We also love to celebrate PAWESOME! (dog theme) in the classroom. We celebrate when students show kindness, generosity, and respect to peers and teachers. Students can get spots on their dog, team prizes, tickets in the smarty pants, smellies, Treasure Box, and lots of other mini celebrations!

While we always focus on and encourage good choices and will not send home daily behavior reports, there will be occasions that students mess up.. We use these as learning opportunities by addressing the choice with a warning, discussing alternatives, then praising the student demonstrating the better choice. If the behavior continues, students receive a natural consequence and/or time to calm down. Occasional redirection is expected as a part of learning but if a student engages in a behavior that is concerning, ongoing, or harmful to others, we will contact parent(s) so they are aware of and can discuss the situation with their child at home and we can set behavior goals together..

Classroom Management

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Water Bottles! Students must have a labeled, locking/flip top water bottle (no open spouts) filled with plain water only each day– **no juices or flavored waters.** We do not have a water fountain in the classroom, so please send a filled water bottle daily.

Absences: Students are expected to be in attendance each day but we know there are times your child may be sick. Please email your teachers if students will be absent/late. Remember: students must be fever free without medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

Birthdays: You may not send in cupcakes or cakes for birthdays. However, if you'd like to send in a special class snack on your child's birthday, mini muffins are perfect. (I call them the cousin of the cupcake…and the confetti ones are festive!)
If you invite the entire class to a party, we can send home birthday party invitations from school ..
If you'd like to be included on the classroom parent contact list, we need your written permission. This list will be sent home in agendas so you can arrange playdates and so forth with classmates.

Clothing: Please keep a full change of clothing in the backpack in a gallon ziplock bag with your child's name on it. If we use the spare, we'll let you know so you can send in a new set.

Naps: We take a one hour nap each day. Mats go home each Friday to be washed and need to return with students on Monday.

Daily Schedule: I will post our daily schedule on the website.

What to work on at home: Each week's specific learning objectives and "practice me"s will be listed in the newsletter. Students can always work on fine motor activities, following directions the first time, and doing tasks independently.

Miscellaneous Items!

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