

Frequently Asked Questions

(From Director/Parent Q&A on 7.22.20)

Q: *When will the school calendar be posted?*

A: Please refer to the calendar tab on the preschool website. Under this tab, click on the “printable important dates” ribbon. This is the most up-to-date so far. The main things that are subject to modification or deletion are events that involve gatherings of people (ie. Halloween parades/social, Harvest Moon, Spring Dance, etc.). All other dates remain unchanged, at this time.

Q: *How is carpool going to work?*

A: To help minimize the amount of people on campus, we will implement carpool for arrival & dismissal for the foreseeable future. This includes before/after care (Stepping Stones) & all age levels. Arrival times are likely to be staggered by a few minutes since the majority of students arrive at 9:00 am. Drop off points for Clare and Elizabeth Halls will likely be in different areas. There will be a temperature/health check post and parents will then likely proceed to the area designated for unloading of their class. Most probably, one teacher for each class will be helping children unload and then walk to their class; the other teacher will be in the classroom to receive children. Covered areas will be used during arrival. For dismissal, children will wait in the outside covered area designated for their class for pick-up.

Q: *Are all age levels excluded from wearing face masks?*

A: Yes. Health guidelines only require children in grades K-12 to wear cloth face masks. The 5-yr old class at preschool is included in the childcare guidelines. If parents choose for their child to wear a cloth mask, the child must be independent in all aspects of its use. Teachers will be required to wear cloth face masks when in hallways, in carpool, and in common areas (ie. teacher workroom). Within the classroom teachers may wear just a face shield to better facilitate interactions with students.

Q: *Since children will not be required to wear face masks will teachers be doing extra cleaning?*

A: Throughout a “typical” day preschool teachers are used to regularly cleaning areas/items in the classroom (ie. tables, mouthed toys). They will extend these practices to include high touch areas (ie. door handles, chairs, playground handrails). The nightly parish cleaning service will then follow with their cleaning measures.

Q: *Who will be included in the health check screening questions?*

A: The required questions ask about the health of family members in relation to contact with the student. If a family has multiple students enrolled and one does not pass the health/temperature check,

then all of the students from that family will be asked to return home. Temperature checks are only required for those entering preschool buildings.

Q: Will there be extra/adapted ventilation for the rooms?

A: Our Director of Facilities and his team ensure that our HVAC systems undergo routine maintenance and are in good working order. The fans that are part of units in both buildings will be able to run throughout the day. The Director of Facilities has also been conducting continual research on other methods to control the potential spread of the COVID virus. He has been carefully monitoring new products and the efficacy of each. Additionally, classrooms will be asked to open windows, at least slightly, during the day. Teachers will be encouraged to take advantage of times when things can be done outside.

Q: How are you practicing social distancing at preschool?

A: The CDC, NCDHHS, and AAP all recognize that social distancing for preschoolers is unrealistic. Maintaining a class “bubble” will ensure that children are limited in exposure to others. Singing, circle time, and play interactions will continue within the context of the class “bubble”. Gatherings of more than one class will not be permitted (ie. 2 classes on the same playground at the same time). Within a classroom, some items will be removed to allow for children to spread out more and the sharing of materials will be minimized, when possible. Playground and bathroom times will be carefully structured so that there is limited opportunities for children to pass in the hallways. Additionally, whenever possible, classes will use an entrance/exit that is dedicated to their class.

Q: Will students have their own pencil boxes/sensory bins?

A: In trying to minimize, to at least some extent, what is shared in the classroom, we will likely be asking parents to provide an easy open pencil box with a few supplies (ie. glue, crayons, scissors). All other items that are shared by the class during the day will be rotated and/or cleaned individually, when possible, and/or disinfected at the end of each day. At this time, the CDC and NCDHHS Childcare Guidelines prohibit the use of sensory bins (ie. filled with sand/pasta) and items such as play-doh; because these items can't be easily cleaned. I am currently researching the possibility and best practices of each child having their own sensory bin or can of play-doh.

Q: When/how will parents be notified when there is a potential or positive case of COVID?

A: We will make use of the preschool Remind system, our website, and/or email when we need to communicate a health situation with parents. The CDC and NCDHHS Childcare Guidelines have specific protocols to implement depending on the situation. The local health department is also prepared to guide any facility through each individual situation. We will be as timely and accurate as possible in our communications. We are asking the cooperation of all families in being diligent about monitoring their children's health and own family situation. To help minimize the risk to all, parents must understand that close adherence to the safety guidelines that we have put into place must be done for the safety of our whole community.

Q: When will I receive the class placement for my child?

A: Once the deadline for withdrawal has been crossed (7/27), work on class placement/lists will begin and be completed as soon as possible. Following this, parents will receive an email confirmation of the class for their child. There are many moving pieces to this process for this year and we appreciate your patience! For specific questions about individual classes, please contact us directly (shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org or Heidi.hobler@stfrancisraleigh.org).

We look forward to welcoming back our precious preschoolers!

THANK YOU!