



A Great Start Preschool December 2023 ~ Newsletter



Important Dates to Remember:

(F) December 1 (6:00-9:00pm) Late Night Date Night (Still a few spots available!)

(Sa) December 9th (9am-11am) Breakfast with Santa at Southminster Church (Door 5)

(M) December 11 Tuition Due (only those who have not yet made 4 payments)

(T) December 12 (6:30pm) Parent Group Meeting (sign up in the hallway if you plan to attend)

(R) December 14 (10am/1:00pm) Winter Program Recital for Tues/Thurs Little Learners & Tues/Thurs Smart Start Classes

Dec 19 & 20 (Tues/Wed) Classroom Winter Parties

Dec 21 – January 3 AGSP CLOSED (Winter Break)

Mark Your Calendar:

January 4 (Thurs) Office hours and classes resume after Winter Break

(M) Jan 15 AGSP Closed

February 22 & 23: Art Show with Raffle and Silent Auction Fundraiser Event (more details to come!)

**Other special events already scheduled for the school year are available on our website <http://www.agreatstartpreschool.com/calendar/>

**Registration for the September 2024-May 2025 will begin in late January. Watch for details to be posted around MLK Day!*

If you need a Tax Statement for tuition paid August-December 2023, please let me know by December 31.

Safety Reminders: Safety is a priority at AGSP! Rules that we have during school hours extend throughout our facility, even after school hours. This includes playground rules, staying with your grown up in the hallway, walking feet indoors, and only grown ups open doors. Please make sure doors in/out of our hallways are closed behind you at all times. Thank you for your efforts in keeping our students, staff, and families safe!

Winter Class Parties: Each classroom needs one volunteer to help with their Winter Party. Volunteers must pass a background check. If you volunteered for Fall Party, please wait to sign up for Winter in case someone else would like a chance to volunteer. There are other opportunities to help in the classroom besides party days! Please speak to your child's teacher if you would like to help sometime! For Winter Party, Sign up online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0A4FADA629ABFE3-45941433-winter>

Save the Dates: We were super disappointed to have to reschedule Preschool Prom due to such a small number of RSVPs,

but are super hopeful that our new date will work better for everyone and we will have another great turn out! Mark your calendar now for Friday, April 26th, from 6:30-8:00pm. We have already confirmed CinnWagon and Cloudy Days Home of the Specialty Cotton Candy as well as DJ Tunes Tony. The Art Show (Raffle and Silent Auction Fundraiser) has been rescheduled for February 22 and 23rd. We are now collecting items to be used for our silent auction and raffle prizes. All donations are tax deductible!

Need to drop your preschooler off a little early for morning classes or pick up a little late from afternoon classes? Ask about our Early Care (8:15-8:45) and After Care (2:45-3:15). We also still have openings in a few of our Extra Curricular Classes: Spanish, Dance, and Creative Development, if you are interested in joining! Registration for Winter Session Soccer will begin soon!

Arrival and Dismissal: Teachers will open doors 5 minutes prior to the scheduled class start time (8:40/12:10- this is also when we start curbside arrival). If you arrive early, please take your child to the restroom. This helps to make your child comfortable with our potties, and also avoids class interruptions for the first few minutes of our day. Classes will be dismissed promptly at 11:15/2:45 (3:15 Kindergarten/After Care). When you arrive for dismissal, please line up along the colored tape designated for your child's class, and stand against the wall. This helps reduce traffic congestion in the hallways. Although there is only one way in (Door 10), there are several exits you can use (Door 9 and Door 8 are at opposite ends of the playground and may be easier for those in the back hallway to exit).

Curbside Services: We will continue to offer optional Curbside drop off/pick up service for those who have difficulty bringing their student in/out of the building (such as handicap or disability, multiple young children in the car, immunocompromised, etc). This service will be at the back of the building, door 6. You will need to park and walk the child to/from the sidewalk where our staff will be waiting. If you know in advance that curbside will be needed, please let us know so we are prepared. Please do not park in the fire lanes.

Communication: We strive to maintain efficient communication with all of our families, from the office and from the classroom. We encourage you to email the office or speak with your child's teacher at dismissal if you have any questions at any time! Each class also has a class Facebook page, so make sure to join that if you haven't

already! I will continue to send emails weekly or bi-weekly to all enrolled families. If others would like to be added to our email distribution list (parents, grandparents, babysitters, etc), please let me know. Also, if you haven't been receiving my emails recently, please let me know so I can update my distribution list. Don't forget to read the Monthly Activity Calendar to see some of the awesome things we have planned for your child's class each month.

Reminders:

* If your child will be absent or significantly late, please let us know by calling 312-1621 or email christina@agreatstartpreschool.com

* To reach your child's teacher by email, please email the office at christina@agreatstartpreschool.com with your teacher's name in the memo.

* Please check the main compartment of your child's backpack daily for notes from the office or teacher, artwork, etc.

*Have something to send into the preschool? You can put it in the drop box to the right of the preschool office, or the drop box outside door 10 above the keypad, or send it in the main compartment of your child's backpack, which our Aides will check daily. There is also a basket for paperwork on my desk.

*We will continue to follow the Covid Protocols put in place last school year, per Montgomery County recommendations. For our policy, visit <http://www.agreatstartpreschool.com/forms> If your child is exposed to covid or tests positive or develops covid symptoms, please contact us to discuss your child's safe return to class. In most cases, the child will miss 5 days of school, but be able to return on day 6 with a mask for 5 more days, so long as there are no symptoms. If someone in your household tests positive for covid, please contact us to determine your child's best course of action. We will continue the Daily cleaning, sanitizing, and disinfecting by our staff, nightly professional cleaning service, monthly Germ Stop treatments, air purifiers in each classroom, and strict adherence to our illness policy. Thank you for keeping your sick students at home, to prevent the spread of germs and illness, Covid or otherwise.

*Key- MW = Mon/Wed F = Fri
MWF = Mon/Wed/Fri TR = Tues/Thurs

If you have any comments, questions, or concerns at any time, please speak directly to me or to your child's teacher.

Happy Holidays!

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