



A Great Start Preschool October 2023 ~ Newsletter



Important Dates to Remember:

- *Fall Picture Days **Oct 4-6th**
- ***Monday, October 9th: AGSP CLOSED**
- ***Tuesday, October 10th:** Tuition Due
- ***Wednesday, October 11th 5:15pm**
Windmill Farms Outing (RSVP by Oct 4)
- ***Saturday, October 14:** Southminster's
Pumpkin Festival
- ***Friday, October 20th:** Scholastic Book
Orders Due
- ***Tuesday, October 24th: 6:30pm** Parent
Group Meeting at Rancheros Cross Point
(Sign up in the hallway if you plan to
attend)
- ***Thursday, October 26th and Friday,
October 27th:** Fall Harvest Parties (more
details to come!)

Mark Your Calendar:

- ***Friday, November 10th (6:30pm)** Preschool
Prom FUNdraiser (RSVP by November 1st)
- November 20-24** AGSP CLOSED for
Thanksgiving Break
- **Other special events already scheduled for the
school year are available on our website
<http://www.agreatstartpreschool.com/calendar/>

Extra Curricular Classes begin this month!

Spiritual Nurture will begin on October 12 (and still has openings!) and Music Jamboree/Kids Beats with Dorie will begin on October 27th and still has openings. All other classes begin the week of October 2nd. Ninja, Gymnastics and Soccer on Mondays are full, but all other classes have openings at the time of this email. ***We are looking to add another class on Tuesdays, if you know anyone who might be interested, please send them my way!*

Fall Picture Days: No. 9 Images will be here on October 4-6 for fall pictures. We will attempt to take individual photos of each child (pending their cooperation- some kids do not like to be photographed but we do our best!) as well as a class picture. The background will be neutral/browns and I will try to upload a picture to our school Facebook page once I see it! About 3 weeks after picture day, you will receive a secure link to view proofs and place an online order that will be shipped to your house if you choose. We are unable to take sibling photos, but you are welcome to come one of those days at 9:00 or 12:30 for extra photographs between groups (they are not equipped for infants, so if you have an infant bring whatever prop you would need). Sorry, there is not a make up day, but we will have a Spring Picture Day in late March or April.
Wednesday, October 4: Erika, Beth, Tracey, Mandy, Sharon
Thursday, October 5: All Tues/Thurs Classes
Friday, October 6: Erika, Keri, PJ, Room 124

Fall Skills Overview: Later this month, a Fall Skills Overview (our version of a "fall progress report") will come home with each preschooler (not kindergarten). This is a brief overview of some of the skills our teachers have observed so far this school year. The list is not all inclusive, but focuses on a few skills in each area of development. On this form, there is also an opportunity for the teacher or family to request a conference. An email will be sent to let you know when these are sent home in backpacks.

Family Volunteer Program: Are you interested in volunteering in your child's classroom this school year? All classroom volunteers must have a background check prior to helping. These are good for 3 or 5 years, and if you have already had a background check for volunteering at another school, you can provide a copy of those results or "verified" volunteer ID card. Please visit [AGSPI.volunteerportal.net](https://www.asqonline.com/family/13865b) and enter password: AGSPVolunteer! (notice capitalization and punctuation required). Refer to the Family Volunteer Program policy (in our handbook) for rules and additional information. Some volunteer opportunities may be listed on the class activity calendar, or on the board in the hallway. If you would like to help, please speak to me or your child's teacher.

Easter Seals Free Developmental Screenings

Easter Seals will be here the week October 16th to conduct in-person screenings for students whose scores on the Parent or Teacher ASQ qualify them for further screening. If you haven't already, please complete the online parent questionnaire and return the Permission to Screen form, especially if your child is new to our school, if you have any concerns about your child's development in any area, if you aren't concerned but just want peace of mind, or if the teacher has expressed any concerns.
<https://www.asqonline.com/family/13865b>. Not all students will be screened in-person. If you have any questions about our partnership with Easter Seals, please let me know.

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).

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).

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.

Facebook: Throughout the school year, I will communicate fun school happenings and post pictures of our school in action on A Great Start Preschool's Facebook page. Make sure to "Like" and Follow our page! <http://www.facebook.com/pages/A-Great-Start-Preschool-Inc/97685210068> Each class will also have a class Facebook Group that we hope you can join. This is one way to help our teachers stay connected with you, and to connect with other families in your child's class throughout the year.

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.

Welcome Fall!

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