



It's all
about
PRE-K

2021-2022



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Attendance Information

Q. What are the hours of the school day?

- A. The school opens daily at 8:00 a.m. and closes at 3:00p.m (Pre-K dismissal is at 2:45pm)
6:30am-8:25am Before Care Provided by YMCA (service available for a fee)
8:30am-2:15pm Classroom Activities (Preschool dismissal begins promptly at 2:45pm)
2:30pm-6:00pm After Care Provided by YMCA (service available for a fee)

Q. Is there a before and after school program?

- A. Yes, if your child needs extended hours, they can be arranged. There is a cost for this service. Children must be pre-registered for this program. The YMCA will handle all before and after care services.

Q. What is the attendance policy for the Vineland Public Charter School?

- A. Children enrolled in a preschool classroom are required to attend on a regular basis, and be on time. Regular attendance ensures that your child will receive all the benefits of the program including achieving academic and social/emotional success. We know that children require, and adjust well, to predictable routines and consistency, which is achieved through regular attendance. If your child is habitually absent, or is continually late, your child may be subject to removal from the preschool program. Preschool children must follow the school's attendance policy.

Q. What should I do if my child is late to school?

- A. Late arrivals make for a difficult transition and children miss important learning activities. If your child does arrive late after 8:25a.m., you must escort your child to the front door, and the office staff will bring your child to their classroom.

Q: What are the procedures for a safe arrival and dismissal?

- A: Parents will pick up and drop off their child at their designated drop off/pick up zone. In this area you will be greeted by a teacher or staff member who will bring your child into the building and classroom. Parents/guardians/and family members will not be permitted into the building to escort students at this time.

Q. What if I must pick my child up before the close of the day?

- A. On the rare occasion that your child will need to be picked up before the close of the day, ONLY ONE person per family may come to the lobby doors to pick up a child for early dismissal. The secretary will ask who you are picking up, and then will escort your child to you outside. If possible, please send in a note or email in the beginning of the day to inform the staff of any pickup changes. The school will only release your child to a person authorized by the custodial parent. Anyone who is authorized to pick up a child will be asked

to provide picture identification. Teachers will not release any child without permission from the office.

Preschool dismissal will begin promptly at 2:45 pm. **If there are any changes that need to be made regarding how your child be getting home, we ask that you call and make changes no later than 2 pm. All transportation changes must be made by calling your child's classroom directly. (856-691-1004 ext.140 or 141) It is imperative that you speak directly to a teacher to ensure their knowledge of these changes.**

Q. How will I know if school is cancelled or delayed due to inclement weather?

- A. The school system will utilize the current telephone registered with the school to send an automated message. In the event you do not receive a phone call from the automated system Please notify the school immediately.

Health and Safety Information

Q. Where can I find the schools safe return plan?

- A. The school has created a detailed restart and recovery plan to open our school. The document can be found on our homepage. <https://www.vinelandpubliccharterschool.org/>

Q. Can my child come to school ill?

- A. Children who are medically ill, with a temperature of 100.4, may not return to school until their temperature has been normal for a minimum of 24 hours. Children who are medically ill, or unable to participate in regular activities (i.e. broken arm, etc.), may not return to school until the child can resume regular school-day activities. Conditions such as lice, or symptoms such as vomiting, severe coughing or diarrhea, will require removal of the child from the school setting. If a child becomes ill while he/she is in our care, parents will be notified to immediately pick up their child. Until parents arrive, these children will be separated from the other children and cared for by the school nurse. An *alternate plan* for your child must be established if you are unable to pick up your child, or if you cannot be reached by telephone during the workday. This plan must be given to the school nurse who will keep it on file.

Please notify us immediately of a change of address or phone number. It is paramount that parent and emergency contacts be kept up to date at all times. In the event of an emergency, we will need to reach a parent, guardian or emergency contact.

Q. Will my child need a doctor's note upon returning to school after an illness?

- A. School policy requires that you send in a note with your child to return to school when he/she is absent for any reason. Absences of three (3), or more, days require a Doctor's note; a form will be sent home reminding you to send in the required note. If Covid-19 is suspected and your child has been sent home from exhibiting two or more symptoms are requires a doctors note for re-admittance to School.

Q. What if my child becomes ill during the school day?

A. Students who are displaying symptoms of illness will be screened by our school nurse. The nurse will do a full screening and will call you to discuss the symptoms your child presents. If a student is found not to be well they will be placed in a designated isolation room where a staff member is assigned to monitor the room at all times. All staff in the isolation room will be provided with the appropriate training on PPE and other important information.

Q. What are the signs and *possible* symptoms of COVID-19?

A.

- A fever of 100.4 or greater
- Cough or shortness of breath unrelated to pre-existing conditions
- OR any of the two following symptoms: sore throat, chills, headache, fatigue, muscle pain, and new loss of taste or smell
- Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea

Q. How often will my child wash and sanitize their hands?

A. Students are required to wash and sanitize their hands each time they enter the classroom, after using the toilet, before and after all meals and snacks, after sneezing, wiping, or blowing noses, when returning indoors after outdoor play, and before and after any messy activities. Children will use hand sanitizer when soap and water are not readily available. We will use a daily handwashing schedule.

Q. How often will my child be expected to wear a mask?

A. Students are required to wear a mask throughout the day; however students will be permitted mask breaks when needed. During this time, they will be socially distanced from other students. Masks will not be worn during meal/snack times or during rest time. We ask that all students bring an extra mask or two in case of any mask accidents. We do have spare masks if one is needed.

Q. Can my child come to school if they are not toilet trained?

A. Students that are not toilet trained are permitted to attend school and will be assisted by teachers frequently throughout the day. Parents are responsible for providing pull-ups and wipes for their children. Teachers will inform parents when any additional toiletries are needed.

Transportation Information

Q. Is transportation provided for pre-kindergarten?

A. Yes, transportation is provided. Bus drivers will not permit a child to get on or off the bus without an adult present. If there is not an adult present then, your child will be returned to the Board of Education. Preschoolers must demonstrate acceptable behavior, both at the bus stop, and on the school bus.

Q. How do I reach the transportation office?

- A. If you have any transportation questions or concerns, please contact your home district's Transportation Department.

Q. What if my child misses the bus?

- A. If your child misses the bus, it is the responsibility of the parents or guardians to arrange transportation to the school.

Educational Program Information

Q. What is the school's educational program?

- A. The preschool's educational program is developmentally appropriate. Vineland Public Charter School in conjunction with the Department of Early Childhood have chosen Creative Curriculum to be implemented during the school day. Our teachers are certified by the New Jersey Department of Education to teach students in grades preschool to grade 3.

The preschool program fosters cognitive, social, physical and emotional development with a strong emphasis on language development.

Q. Is there a supply list?

- A. The school furnishes instructional supplies for preschool children. These items are kept in the classroom. Each preschool teacher will provide a list of any school supplies and materials your child should bring to the classroom. You will be notified of any other needed items. When sending money to school with your child, please put it in an envelope with your child's name, the amount, and what it is to be used for written on the envelope. No supplies will be shared by the students. All students will have their own supplies. Please attached supply list also found on our main School website.

Q. How will my child learn?

- A. Your child's learning will take place in a safe and nurturing environment. Children are active learners and learn best through activity-based learning. The benefits of activity-based experiences address academic goals for reading, writing, math, science, social studies and the arts. The students will learn through a daily structure of thematic activities that include:

- Books, tabletop toys and activities that engage and motivate.
- Songs, finger plays and dramatizations of nursery rhymes and poems that stimulate movement and phonemic awareness.
- Interest labs with problem solving activities that develop language, mathematics, science, and creative abilities.
- Interactive story experiences to enhance language development and higher –level thinking skills.
- Writing experiences that help children make the connection between spoken and written language and encourage the children to begin attempts at letter formation to convey information.

- Outside play to develop gross motor skills.
- Meal and snack time to learn interpersonal skills, manners, and fundamentals of diet and hygiene.

Any parent who has concerns about the development of their child should contact their child's classroom teacher and school principal.

Q. How will my child's day be structured?

A. Morning Meeting- Activities will be split into multiple sessions to ensure that students are 6 ft. apart at this time.

Center Time- Arrangement of furniture and centers will allow social distancing of students while minimizing the use of shared materials. There will be no more than 2 students in a center at any given time. Each student will be placed in their assigned center on a weekly basis. Students will be given their own bin of toys to use at this time. Teachers and assistants will clean and sanitize all materials and furniture consistent with the CDC guidelines after each child's use.

Story Time- Activities will be split into multiple sessions to ensure that students are 6 ft. apart at this time.

Gross Motor- Only one classroom will be permitted on the playground at a time. The outdoor equipment will be disinfected between each classes use. Students will be socially distanced and will wear masks. Masks will be worn and students will take masks breaks if needed.

Small Groups- Activities will be split into multiple sessions to ensure that students are 6 ft. apart at this time.

Rest Time- Students will lay on their own labeled cot with a blanket and crib sheet from home. All blankets and sheets will be stored in your child's book bag when not in use. Children's cots will be placed 6 ft. apart and will be sanitized daily after each use. Each child must have a crib sheet and small blanket to use for nap. **No pillows are permitted.** Blankets will go home every day and will need to be returned every day due to daily sanitizing procedures taking place in the classroom. We are asking that blankets are washed at the end of each week.

Meals/Snacks- Students will wash hands before and after all meals and snacks. Students will be given assigned seats for all meal and snack times. All tables will be cleaned and sanitized between each meal service. Students will remove masks while eating and will be socially distanced.

Q. Does my child have to rest?

A. In a full day program, 3 and 4 year-olds, by law, must have rest time in the daily schedule.

Your child will have a personal cot with his name marked on it.

Cots are plastic, so for optimum comfort, please provide a crib sheet to cover it, a small blanket (e.g. receiving blanket). These items must fit into a small cubby, **so please no bulky items.**

Q. Does my child have to sleep?

A. No, but your child will be required to stay quiet during this period out of respect for those children who do fall asleep.

Q. What are the assessment requirements?

A. We employ a systematic ongoing procedure for obtaining information from observations, interviews, portfolios, and developmentally appropriate assessments that can be used to make judgments about the strengths and needs of individual children and plan appropriate instruction.

Q. Will there be parent conferences for pre-kindergarten?

A. Yes, parent conferences are held twice a year. At this time you will receive information regarding your child's progress. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress or classroom activities please feel free to contact the classroom teacher to set up a meeting.

Food Service Information

Q. Will breakfast and lunch be provided by the school?

A. Breakfast and lunch will be available to purchase for students enrolled in all learning options. If you do not choose to purchase a school lunch, your child will need a packed lunch from home. We ask that lunches being brought from home are packed in containers that your child can open independently. Purchased meals will be delivered to our preschool classrooms by cafeteria staff following all safety protocols.

***All students can apply for free and reduced price meals. Please go to the schools website under the food service tab where the application can be found.*

Q. Will snacks be provided by the school?

Snack time for all children is scheduled in the morning. Snacks must be provided by the parent/guardian. Should your child have any allergies or specific nutritional needs, please advise your child's classroom teacher. **Teachers are not permitted to provide snacks for any student.**

SNACK SUGGESTIONS:

Graham crackers
Sliced apples
Seedless grapes cut in half
Orange slices
Bananas
Crackers with cheese
Bananas
Cheez-It Crackers

Q. How can I pre-order and pay for my child's breakfast and lunch?

A. Parents can refer to the school website under the food service tab to locate menus, free/reduced lunch applications, and the ordering/payment portal.

Miscellaneous

Q. Does my child have to wear a uniform?

A. Yes, we have a mandatory uniform policy. All children must wear the school uniform which is khaki/navy pants/skirts and navy, white, or light blue polo tops. Shorts are permissible during the warmer months. Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. In addition, each student is required to have an extra set of clothing in the classroom at all times. This includes underwear and socks. All student items must be labeled. When cold weather approaches, please send your child with a hat and mittens. We will go outside on a daily basis weather permitting. Please see school uniform policy/guidelines.

Q. What about birthdays?

A. We believe birthdays are special and that a child should be able to celebrate in school with friends because his birthday is important to him/her. We are open to different ways to celebrate your child's birthday. You may send in special treats for birthdays; however they must adhere to nutritional guidelines and school policy. If you are sending in a special treat for the class, each treat must be individually packaged and all snacks must be purchased from a store. The students' snacks will be sent in their book bags with them to enjoy at home. No homemade treats are permitted to be shared with students. Sending in treats is not the only way to celebrate a birthday:

A loved one can send a pre-recorded story time reading to share with the class or we can plan a live zoom meeting for you to read to the class.

Please give your classroom teacher ample notice of your plans so that she may work them into the daily schedule. You will be notified if there are any allergy issues in the classroom. Summer birthdays can be celebrated in June. All birthday celebrations will be held in the afternoon-The last period of the day. No Exceptions.

Beginning School Books

(Available at the Public Library of children's bookstore)

Carlson, Nancy, Look Out Preschool Here I Come!

Hallinan, P.K., My Teacher's My Friend

Hains, Harriet, My New School

Martin, Ann Rachel Parker Preschool Show-Off

Moncure, Jane Belk, What's So Special About This Fall – I'm Going to

School Numeroff, Laura, If You Take a Mouse to School

Penn, Audrey, The Kissing Hand

Poydar, Nancy, First Day, Hooray!

Schwartz, Amy, Annabella Swift, Kindergartner

Senisi, Ellen, Preschool Kids

Slate, Joseph, Miss Bindergarten Gets Ready for Preschool

Wing, Natasha, The Night Before Preschool

Digital Experiences (please see list below)

Sesame Street Family Play: Caring for Each other app

Wow in the world Podcast: tinkercast.com/shows/wow-in-the-world

Funbrain website: funbrain.com

LANGUAGE ARTS LITERACY – Children experience a language-rich environment that promotes positive attitudes regarding reading, listening, speaking, viewing, composing, and researching. The program emphasizes the sharing of children’s literature and allows for all developmental levels of reading and writing behaviors. The environment also fosters the investigation of language patterns, letters, words, and sounds.

MATHEMATICS – Children develop basic mathematical skills and are encouraged to develop a curiosity and confidence working with mathematical concepts.

SCIENCE – Through a multi-sensory approach, children develop an interest about the physical world around them. Exploration, observation, and classification of the physical world will be an integral part of the science program.

MUSIC – Children are introduced to the basic elements of music. Concepts of loud/soft, fast/slow, high/low, same/difference, and the “heartbeat” of music are explored through singing, listening, movement, and playing instruments. Varied styles of music are incorporated into the curriculum to enhance a positive attitude towards learning.

HEALTH AND SAFETY- Children develop an awareness for personal health and safety practices as they apply to daily life. Areas include personal hygiene, nutrition, and safety both at home and in school.

TECHNOLOGY – Children explore the parts of the computer and instructional programs that will support and enrich their learning experiences.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT – Children learn to make new friends, work and play cooperatively with other children, develop independence and self-confidence, and learn self-control and how to follow rules.

ART – Children work with basic shapes, line direction, and color identification. They are encouraged to use symbols to convey ideas while taking part in drawing and painting activities. Proficiency with using pencils, scissors, paste, and paints are encouraged.

DRAMA- Students pretend to be someone or something different from themselves, and dramatize situations and actions to go along with the roles they have chosen to play.