



September 2019

Dear Parents,

We have had a great first few days of school. During most of September we will continue to work on learning about new friends, discovering what interesting things we will do in the classrooms each day, and following directions in a routine day at school. I am so glad that our hallways are filled once again with happy voices and smiles.

This newsletter is your first of this school year. We will use it as one of our communication tools to let you know of upcoming events as well as information pertaining to the development of young children. Since home to school communication is a priority for us, we will also use email as well as handwritten notes put in your child's school bag zippered pouch as a way to communicate with us. Please make sure that your child's teachers have an accurate e-mail address for you.

Emails will be checked and responded to before or after school each day so that the teachers can give their full attention the children during the school day. If a message is time-sensitive please call the school office at **770-457-2527**. Also, remember that no one is available to answer the school phone from 11:40-12:10 each day since every staff member is needed for carpool and lunch bunch time. If you have a message regarding your child's pick-up during this time, call the church office at **770-457-2525** and the church office manager or phone volunteer will relay the message to us in the hall.

We are very pleased to have each of you at Chamblee Methodist this year! We appreciate your encouraging words, your enthusiasm, and your terrific children. May God bless each of you as we share the joy of nurturing your young children throughout this year. We do appreciate your special efforts in helping us get off to a smooth start!

Our staff feels that each child is an important person at Chamblee Methodist Kindergarten and is a unique creation of God. You may be certain that your child has received a lot of love and will continue to do so as we try to reinforce his/her positive self-image and help each child feel secure.

With Gratitude,

UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

Sunday, September 22	Children's Ministry highlighted at CFUMC (All CMK families are invited to attend)
Thursday, September 26	Chapel in church sanctuary, 9:15
Wednesday, October 9	Chapel in church sanctuary, 9:15
Thurs, Fri, Mon, October 10, 11, 14	School closed for Fall Break and Columbus Day
Thursday, October 17	No school for children; staff meeting for teachers
Saturday, October 19	CFUMC Fall Festival, front lawn of church, 1-4 pm
Wed. and Thurs. October 23, 24	School Pictures
Thursday, October 24	Chapel in the church sanctuary, 9:15
Wednesday, October 30	CFUMC Trunk of Treats and Hot Dog Dinner, 6:00
End of October	Halloween Parties, TBA by classroom teacher
Tuesday, November 5	School closed for election day
Wednesday, November 6	Chapel in the church sanctuary, 9:15
Thursday, November 14	School closes at noon; staff meeting, no lunch bunch
Thursday, November 21	Chapel in the church sanctuary, 9:15
Monday – Friday, Nov. 25-29	School closed for Thanksgiving Day holidays

CHAPEL DATES

Chapel is held twice per month beginning at 9:15 in the church sanctuary. We encourage parents to come and be with us during this special time. We ask parents to sit in the parent section so you can see the children as they walk in with their class and you have an opportunity to meet other parents of CMK children. Younger siblings are also welcome and we request that siblings remain seated with parents during chapel. Be reminded that we are unable to bring coffee or other beverages into the sanctuary.

MAGNETS, SHIRTS AND TOTES FOR SALE!

Our school has car magnets (\$4) and an assortment of colored t-shirts (\$10) with the Chamblee Methodist logo available. Also available are tote bags (\$10) in many colors. Purchasing these items are a great way to support our school!

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

There are still several spots available in these enrichment classes for children in our 3s, 4s and Kindergarten class: Playball on Mondays 12-1, Ballet on Mondays from 12-1, Amazing Athletes on Tuesdays from 12-1, Cooking on Tuesdays from 12-2 and Ballet on Wednesdays from 1-2. Please refer to the information sent home about how to sign up for these classes.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

You received a copy of our handbook for the 2019-2020 school year at Meet the Teachers Day or at Parents' Orientation earlier this month. Please be sure to read through it carefully to make sure you are aware of our policies and procedures, even if you have been at CMK for years and let us know if you still need one! We especially ask that you review the section on carpool safety and procedures, as well as the section on our \$10 late pick-up fees. Please make sure your nanny/babysitter, grandparents and other caregivers are familiar with our procedures too.

STAFF UPDATES and PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT at CHAMBLEE METHODIST KINDERGARTEN

We had a few staff changes this year! We are so happy to welcome Roxanne Locarnini in our 2 ½ year old class, Katie Byrd, assistant in a 3s class and Vanessa Pye, an assistant in a PreK class.

Over the summer the staff participated in several professional development workshops and is busy incorporating strategies and suggestions learned in these classes. We learned about Early Literacy in the Preschool Classroom, Positive Discipline and Sensory Process Integration. We are so pleased that one of the instructors, Jean Sever from EnABLE kids will be continuing to work with our staff as a resource/consultant in incorporating positive strategies for Sensory Process Integration in the preschool classroom. We feel incredibly blessed to be surrounded by wonderful staff members who love and cherish each child in their class. Your children will be equally as blessed by being surrounded by such a wonderful staff.

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

If you are interested in working as a substitute teacher on either an occasional or regular basis, please tell Mellie so that we can send an application form to you. Our substitutes are paid for this work. A background check (paid for by the school) and a TB test (\$25) are required.

CMK PLAYGROUND REMINDERS

The church loves to share the playgrounds with you after school hours and on weekends. Please be sure to dispose of trash and cover the sand box when you leave. Also, no pets are allowed on the playgrounds. Thank you for being attentive to these policies.

CMK SCHOOL REMINDERS

Early Arrival - If you arrive at school early and walk your child in, please wait until 8:45 before coming to the classroom. Prior to that time, teachers are often out of the room gathering supplies, planning or meeting with each other. It is important that our staff has this time before class so that we may give our undivided attention to the children when they arrive. Please be sure spouses and caregivers who may bring your child to school occasionally are aware of this policy.

Clothing - Be sure your child is dressed comfortably and in play clothes. Also, please have your child wear clothing that s/he can manage while in the bathroom. PLEASE BE SURE TO LABEL ALL TOTE BAGS, LUNCH BOXES, SWEATERS, JACKETS, ETC. WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

Cell phone use - Please refrain from using ANY cell phone services (including hands free, Bluetooth technology) in the carpool line. We want this to be a time when safety is your first concern as well as a welcoming time when your child gets in the car. Most times he/she will want to tell you something right away about school so we recommend that you ready to greet your child.

BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR JITTERS

We know that beginning preschool can be an emotional time for everyone in the family. We have included two articles about getting you and your child ready for preschool that have some good discussion points as well as pointers for helping your child with the transition.

We want to assure you that your child is having fun at school. Each teacher takes great care to nurture your child and make him/her feel welcome, safe and loved while at CMK. As we transition into morning and afternoon carpool, please know that we want to work with you to develop independent skills for your child. Most children who cry in morning carpool are fine once they reach their classroom door. Be assured that we will be in touch with you if your child is having trouble transitioning to school.

We do appreciate your special efforts in helping us get off to a smooth start! Your help in cooperating with our procedures makes everything go well for the children and helps keep everyone safe. Thank you!

<https://www.naeyc.org/resources/pubs/yc/sep2015/easing-first-day-jitters><https://www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/ages-stages-how-children-adjust-school/>