



September 2021

Dear Parents,

We had a great first few weeks 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 you. 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.

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

Thursday, September 30	Chapel in outdoor sanctuary (details to follow) 9:15 Kindergarten and K parents only 11:30 PreK and PreK parents only
Thurs, Fri, Mon, October 7, 8, 11	School closed for Fall Break and Columbus Day
Thurs. and Fri. October 14, 15	School Pictures
Thursday, October 21	Chapel in outdoor sanctuary (details to follow) 9:15 Kindergarten and K parents only 11:30 PreK and PreK parents only
Saturday, October 30	CFUMC Trunk of Treats and Family Activities (details TBD)
End of October	Halloween Parties, TBA by classroom teacher
Tuesday, November 2	School closed for election day
Monday – Friday, Nov. 22 - 26	School closed for Thanksgiving Day holidays
Thursday, December 9	School closes at noon for staff luncheon
Saturday, December 11	CFUMC Come see Santa!
Tuesday, December 14	School closes for Christmas holidays

CHAPEL DATES

Chapel is typically held twice per month in the church sanctuary. This year, however, we are changing the format of chapel so that we can be outside and can have parents join us. We will use the outdoor chapel space near the upper playground, across the bridge at the entrance to the meadow. We are hopeful that we may be able to gather back together starting in November inside the church sanctuary, but for now we will be outside. For now, our Kindergarten and PreK classes will have a special time assigned to them for chapel that coincides with drop off or pick up so that parents can join us. Our 2s and 3s classes will get a special chapel lesson by Mrs. O'Keefe in the classroom.

CHAMBLEE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FAMILY EVENTS

Save the Date for Trunk of Treats!

Trunk of Treats returns to Chamblee First on October 30 from 1-3 pm. Registration will be required, and details will be announced in the coming weeks. If you are interested in providing a trunk full of treats be on the lookout for a separate request for car trunks to participate in this family fun event!

LUNCH BUNCH

We have enjoyed having your child who is in a 3s or PreK class stay for lunch bunch but we are finding that it is a long day for some children. We are going to postpone starting lunch bunch for our 2 and 2 ½ year olds until Wednesday, December 1 or Thursday, December 2 in order to give these youngest children more time to acclimate to the school day. Many of these children are able to focus for the 3 hours they are in school but are very tired physically and mentally when they get home from school. Feel free to reach out to Mellie or your child's teacher if you have questions.

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

You received a copy of our handbook for the 2021-2022 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. 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

We had a few staff changes this year! We are so happy to welcome Ann Council in our 2 ½ year old class (you may recognize her as our former office manager), Emily Pitts as an assistant in a 3 year old class and Mary K. Moore as a Kindergarten teacher. We also welcome Michelle Watts as our new office manager.

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.

SCHOOL PICTURES

This year we are pleased to announce that on Thursday, October 14 or Friday, October 15 your child will have his/her picture taken by a professional photographer. Kristin Boyer has been taking school photos for CMK for many years and does a great job capturing the joy and smiles of each child. She will take individual pictures of children outside so be on the lookout for more information about this day.

CMK SCHOOL REMINDERS

Clothing - Be sure your child is dressed comfortably and in play clothes. Also, please have your child wear clothing that she/he can manage while in the bathroom. Please be sure to label all clothing, jackets, shoes, lunch boxes with your child's name.

Shoes - Closed toe, athletic type shoes are best for school. If you battle with your child about what shoes to wear to school consider having two athletic type pairs of shoes and give your child a choice between 2 appropriate type shoes for school. Ideally, we want children to wear their school shoes beginning when they get in the car but you could put a pair of appropriate shoes in your child's bag for him/her to put on at school if she/he insists on another type of shoe.

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 she/he will want to tell you something right away about school so we recommend that you are 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 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/>