



September/ October 2022

Dear Parents,

The first weeks of school have been great! 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 to 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 a church staff member will relay the message to us.

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 reinforce his/her positive self-image and help each child feel secure.

With Gratitude,

Mellie

UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENT

Monday, September 12	Lunch Bunch and Enrichment classes begin for 3s,4s and Kindergarten
Thursday, September 15	Staff meeting from 1-2; we will have lunch bunch
Wednesday, September 21 at 9:15am	Chapel in Sanctuary for 3s, 4s and Kindergarten-parents invited
Saturday, October 1; 2:00pm – 5:00pm	CFUMC Fall Festival – church front lawn
Monday, October 3	Lunch bunch begins for 2 year olds
Thursday, October 6 at 9:15am	Chapel for 2s, 3s, 4s and Kindergarten-parents invited
Fri. and Mon., October 7, 10	School closed for Fall Break and Columbus Day
Friday, October 7; 6:00-8:00 pm	Community Police Officer Dinner
Wednesday, Thursday October 12, 13	School Pictures
Wednesday, October 19; at 9:15am	Chapel for 2s, 3s, 4s and Kindergarten-parents invited
Thursday, October 20	Staff meeting – NO lunch bunch
Wednesday, October 26; 5:30 -7:00	CFUMC Trunk of Treats
End of October	Halloween Parties, TBA by classroom teacher
Thursday, November 3; at 9:15am	Chapel for 2s, 3s, 4s and Kindergarten-parents invited
Tuesday, November 8	School closed for election day
Thursday, November 10	Staff meeting – NO lunch bunch
Wednesday, November 16; at 9:15am	Chapel for 2s, 3s, 4s and Kindergarten-parents invited
Monday – Friday, Nov. 21- 25	School closed for Thanksgiving Day holidays

CHAPEL DATES

Chapel is held twice per month beginning at 9:15 in the church sanctuary. Our two year old classes will begin coming in October so our first chapel on Sept. 21 will be for ages 3,4 and Kindergarten students. We encourage parents to come and be with us during this special time. Please sit in the parent section so you can see the children as they walk in with their class and so that 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.

SCHOOL PICTURES

This year we are pleased to announce that on Wednesday, October 12 or Thursday, October 13 your child will have his/her picture taken by a professional photographer during the school day. There will also be an opportunity for you to bring your children early on one of those days to schedule a sibling picture. More information will be coming home as it gets closer to these dates.

CHAMBLEE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FAMILY EVENTS – SAVE THESE DATES!

Saturday, October 1 from 2:00 – 5:00 - Family Fall Festival – Come celebrate the season at our annual Fall Festival. Enjoy inflatables, hot dogs, boiled peanuts, crafts for kids, games for all ages, a cake walk and information about local businesses. The event is free and open to everyone, but we ask that you donate a nonperishable food item to help kick off our Thanksgiving Food Drive.

Friday, October 7; 6:00 – 8:00 Community Faith and Blue Dinner - honoring Chamblee Police Officers. The community is invited to come get to know the Chamblee police officers, enjoy a hot dog dinner and see the inside of a police car.

Wednesday, October 26 from 5:00 – 7:30 - Trunk of Treats returns to Chamblee First on October 26. 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!

STUDENT HANDBOOKS

You received a copy of our handbook for the 2022-2023 school year electronically, at Meet the Teachers or at New Parents' Orientation earlier this month. Read through it carefully to make sure you know of our policies and procedures, even if you have been at CMK for years. We especially ask you to review carpool safety and procedures (pg. 9-11), as well as the section on late pick-up fees. Make sure your nanny/babysitter, grandparents, caregivers are familiar with our procedures too.

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

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. Be sure to label all clothing, jackets, shoes, and lunch boxes with your child's name. We will accept gently used clothing AND shoes for our school to use when a child may need a change of clothing.

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/out of 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.

PARENTING CORNER

IMPROVING EYE SIGHT – Get outside and enjoy natural sunlight

A recent study found that school-aged children who spent seven hours or more a week using computers or mobile video games tripled their risk for myopia, also known as nearsightedness. There are several noted environmental and behavioral causes for this such as more screen time including computers, laptops, phones and screens in the car, more indoor sedentary time and less outside time. After learning about this trend our staff has been working to increase the amount of natural light a child experiences, increase the amount of time spent outside and increase the amount of time looking into the distance.

<https://mymyopia.com/heres-why-more-time-outside-is-important-for-your-childs-eyesight/>

<https://mymyopia.com/creative-ways-to-get-your-child-to-spend-more-time-outside/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/05/03/well/live/nearsightedness-myopia-children.html>

Also, we learned that having children look off into the distance is important for good eye development so we are suggesting that while on car rides whether long or short think about having your child look out the window to see things in the distance. You can also use this time to play language games like "I spy", the alphabet game (name something that starts with A), a guessing game (I am thinking of an animal who is brown, can you guess it?) or story telling. Being in the car is one of the best times to connect with your children! Enjoy the ride!