



September 2023

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. The monthly newsletter is one of our communication tools to let you know of upcoming events. We will also use email, handwritten notes put in your child's school bag zippered pouch and our new APP, Our School Hangout as ways to communicate with you. Be patient with us as we work to get all staff members using the new APP.

All emails to staff will be checked and responded to before or after school (within 24 hours) 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 so 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. Go ahead and create a new contact in your phone and program these numbers if you haven't already.

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

Tuesday, September 19	First Cooking enrichment class
Wednesday, September 20	First Gameday enrichment class
Thursday, September 21 at 9:15am	Chapel in Sanctuary for 3s,4s, K class -parents invited
Sunday, September 24	CMK at church; join us at 10:00 am for worship and fellowship
Saturday, September 30	CFUMC Fall Festival – church front lawn
Monday, October 2	Lunch bunch begins for 2 year olds
Thursday, October 5	NO SCHOOL; CMK teacher workday
Fri. and Mon., October 6, 9	School closed for Fall Break and Columbus Day
Sunday, October 8	CMK at church; join us at 10:00 am for worship and fellowship
Wednesday, October 11; at 9:15am	Chapel for 2s, 3s, 4s and Kindergarten-parents invited
Wednesday, October 25; 5:30 -7:00	CFUMC Trunk of Treats
Thursday, October 26 at 9:15am	Chapel in Sanctuary for 2s,3s,4s, K class -parents invited
Thursday and Friday, Oct 26-27	School pictures; more details TBD
End of October	Halloween Parties, TBA by classroom teacher
Thursday, November 2; at 9:15am	Chapel for 2s, 3s, 4s and Kindergarten-parents invited
Tuesday, November 7	School closed for election day
Thursday, November 9	Staff meeting – NO lunch bunch
Wednesday, November 15; at 9:15am	Chapel for 2s, 3s, 4s and Kindergarten-parents invited
Monday – Friday, Nov. 20- 24	School closed for Thanksgiving Day holidays

CHAPEL DATES

Chapel is held twice per month beginning at 9:15 in the church sanctuary. Chapel in September is for ages 3,4 and Kindergarten students (2 year old classes will begin coming in October.) 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 Thursday, October 26 and Friday, October 27 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, September 30 from 1:00 – 4:00, church grounds - Family Fall Festival – Come celebrate the season at our annual Fall Festival. The event is free and open to everyone.

Wednesday, October 25 from 5:00 – 7:30 - Trunk of Treats returns to Chamblee First on October 25. 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 2023-2024 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

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.

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.

PARENT CORNER

Periodically we will post helpful tips in this section of the newsletter. Many of you aspired for your children to become more independent and better able to handle emotions this year so I thought I would reference this article from raisingfamilies.org

Fostering independence in the early years

Our work and feedback continue to show that parents tend to fall short on the amount of quality time they spend with their kids to put into context what they have seen and done so that they understand their experiences.

For example, by the time a child is four or five, they should have the ability to verbalize and discuss their feelings with you. If you want your child to help you clean the house and they choose not to help, we can get angry or we can become a teacher.

Explain that cleaning the house is part of what you do as a family—we help each other take care of our family space because we all live and use the space together. If they still don't want to help, which is likely, then calmly explain they still need to participate and you'll do it together.

This may result in a tantrum. That's okay. Don't let the boundary go just because they have feelings about it. If a tantrum happens, ride the wave of emotion as calmly as you can and let them know you're there when they're ready.

When they're calm, ask them why they got upset. Why didn't they want to help? What big feelings were they having? Let them know that sometimes you have big feelings too.

Then ask if they like getting help when they ask for it. Let them know that everyone contributes to the house getting dirty, and now that they're old enough, they need to help care for the family spaces.

By this age, while you are still a teacher for your kids, they understand that there are consequences for their actions. The choice is theirs. Allowing our children to make mistakes and learn from them is a hard thing for us to do, but it's the key to them wanting and gaining their independence.