

# PARENT HANDBOOK



## FALLSTON COUNTRY PRE-K

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# Welcome to Fallston Country Pre-K!

## Program Overview, Purpose Philosophy, and Objectives

The purpose of the program is to provide a nurturing environment for the young child in our community – a place where he can grow and develop as a whole child. Our common aim is to help children learn and to do it in such a way that the child is exposed to an environment that is wholesome, satisfying and constructive.

Our philosophy is that young children need sound programs for their fullest development. The programs should stimulate their minds and help them to develop good self-concepts, independence and self-control. To accomplish this, we provide experiences in literature, music, creative art, language, science, social studies, physical activities, number experiences, and field trips. Through this exposure, we encourage an additional stimulation for curiosity and problem solving. The child's school experience also promotes a sense of trust in adults and a sense of joy in playing and associating with peers.

The OBJECTIVES of the Program are:

- A. To provide a pleasant experience for the child away from his parents.
- B. To stimulate the mind of the child through positive, satisfying and meaningful experiences.
- C. To build confidence in himself and others.
- D. To learn to cooperate and play with peers.
- E. To provide experiences that will help the child develop as fully as possible by working with the individual child at his level.
- F. To expose the child to his community.
- G. To encourage the child to be aware of the needs of others.
- H. To ready the child for the next level of education.

## State Requirements for Nonpublic Schools

Fallston Country Pre-K holds a Child Care License from the Maryland State Board of Education. Under their requirements Fallston Country Pre-K provides the following information.

**Teacher Credentials** - Teachers employed at Fallston Country Pre-K must have a Bachelor's Degree in Education or state approved preschool 90-hour pre-service training and 9 hours of communication training. A list of staff qualifications is posted on the Parent Information board.

**Ratio of Students to Teachers or Average Class Size** - The average class size for all four-year-old classes are 16 students per teacher. The average class size for three-year-old classes are 14 students per teacher.

An assistant is assigned to each individual class of 10 students or more.

**Schedule of a typical School Day** - Fallston Country Pre-K's general school day schedule is as follows:

- Arrival time
- Opening group and instruction time
- Center time and individual tasks
- Clean up
- Second instructional group time OR Special instruction (Gym, Library, Music)
- Story time
- Gross motor exercises
- Dismissal

Classroom teachers will individualize the schedule to meet class needs.

**Calendar of the School Year** - A listing of our school closings can be found on page 13.

**Admissions Policy** - The Maryland State Department of Education regulations state that a child who is "age appropriate" for preschool:

- Turns 2 by September 1<sup>st</sup> upon entering a 2 year old class.
- Turns 3 by September 1<sup>st</sup> upon entering a 3 year old class.
- Turns 4 by September 1<sup>st</sup> upon entering a 4 year old class.

## Policy for Admissions

The children are placed in specific classes according to the number of days the parent elects to send his/her child to school.

The classes are established as:

▪ 5 day program	Monday thru Friday morning	4 year-olds
▪ 4 day program	Monday thru Thursday afternoon	4 year-olds
▪ 3 day program	Tuesday Wednesday Thursday morning	4 year-olds
▪ 3 day program	Tuesday Wednesday Thursday afternoon	4 year-olds
▪ Enrichment program	Monday morning or afternoon	4 year-olds
▪ 2 day program	Monday Tuesday morning	3 year-olds
▪ 2 day program	Thursday Friday morning	3 year-olds
▪ 2 day program	Monday Tuesday afternoon	3 year-olds
▪ 3 day program	Wednesday Thursday Friday afternoon	3 year-olds
▪ Parent Tot	Wednesday morning	2 year-olds

The school admits children regardless of race, color, sex, religion or national origin.

The school also admits children who are being held back from kindergarten for reasons of developmental skills, immaturity, etc. The teacher suggests this extra year of Preschool in some cases, but the parent makes the final decision.

The first tuition payment is due when child is registered. The second payment is due in September. Payments are due on the first of each month. A late fee is charged for tuition not received by the first of the month.

### Late Entrance of Student to School

When a student enrolls after the beginning of school, tuition is prorated for the time attending and the registration payment can be divided into thirds and added to the 1<sup>st</sup> three monthly payments. For example, a student enrolls October 1<sup>st</sup>, the tuition is reduced by one monthly payment and the registration payment is divided into third and added to the October, November and December payments. (This is an optional method.) If a student January 1<sup>st</sup>, the registration payment is dropped.

A student can enter the program at any time during the year, (if a vacancy exists) up until Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Registration Time Line

1. **OCTOBER** of year before student to attend, office begins taking names on a waiting list for various programs via our website.  
4-year-olds      3-year-olds      Parent Tot
2. **OCTOBER** Information distributed to all currently enrolled families.
3. **NOVEMBER** Survey the teachers for possible returning students (maturity waivers) so spots can be held (usually held open in the 5-day class)
4. **NOVEMBER** In November, Registration is held for all families currently enrolled in school. Date to be determined.
5. **DECEMBER** Office contacts all currently enrolled families who did not register at the November registration date to make sure they do not want a spot in the program for next year.
6. Call names on waiting list with any vacancies (starting in December until classes are full.)
7. **JANUARY** Open House may be held.

## Registration Requirements

The following documents will be distributed in the spring and as children register to be completed and returned to school by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

- State Health and lead information (to be completed by your child's physician)
- Minimum Vaccine Requirements (to be completed by your child's physician)
- Parent Information form about enrolling child.
- Late Policies
- Medication / Allergy Forms if needed

Throughout the school year, if there are any changes in the status of your child's health or in your family situation, please advise us at once in writing. Please notify us if your child has had an updated vaccination.

## Maturity Waiver Procedure

A student who is age appropriate (turns 5 before September 1<sup>st</sup>) to attend kindergarten but chooses to attend preschool for another year instead is considered a maturity waiver. Placing a child on a maturity waiver is a parent's decision with input from their child's preschool teacher through observation, parent/teacher conferences and progress reports. It is the parent's responsibility to obtain the necessary paperwork from their "home school" to request a maturity waiver for their child to opt out of kindergarten for a year.

## The following is Fallston Country PreK's maturity waiver process

In October/November a parent/teacher conference is scheduled. At that time the parent can request that their child be placed on a 4-year-old class list at our school for the following school year. It is important that parents place their child on a class list PRIOR to in-house registration to insure a potential spot in a class. We do not reserve maturity waiver spots in classes unless a parent has requested we do so. There is no financial or contractual commitment at this time.

At the beginning of February, a second parent/teacher conference is scheduled with a progress report. If the parent still wants a class spot held for their child, then they must register their child for the desired class and make the first payment (cost will depend on the 4-year-old class that you have requested) by February 15<sup>th</sup> to continue holding that spot.

If the parent decides to withdraw their child from our school prior to March 15<sup>th</sup>, the child will be withdrawn from the registered class and a refund will be given. However, after March 15<sup>th</sup> if the parent withdraws the child from our program a refund will not be given.

## Fallston Country PreK Bathroom Policy

Children in a PreK 3 or PreK 4 class at Fallston Country PreK MUST be toilet trained and be able to use the bathroom independently. Pull ups are NOT allowed to be worn in school. If a child has an accident (wet only) we will help the child, talk them through the process of changing clothes and send home the wet clothes. We ask that you wash the clothes we have put on them and send them back their next school day. You may keep the underwear. If a child has a bowel accident a parent will be called to come in and change their child. If a child has 3 accidents in a 30-day time period they will be asked to stay home from school for 1 week following the third accident to reinforce toilet training skills and ensure future success.

## **SNACK POLICY**

A snack and 100% juice (water may be requested) is served each regular day at school.

A snack schedule has been created and followed daily with the following exceptions;

\*A teacher serves an alternative snack to support a class lesson for the day (ex. Green grapes for Green Day)

\*A classroom celebration, provided by parents (ex. Christmas party)

\*A child's special day snack (provided by parents)

Any deviation from the snack schedule is documented.

If a student has food allergies, the teacher and assistant will have a discussion with the parents to review what the allergies are and what the "plan of action" will be in the classroom when serving a snack to their child on a regular school day.

### **REGULAR SCHOOL DAY SNACK TIME**

A student with food allergies will have the following "plan of action" alternatives for the parents to choose from when serving snack on a regular school day;

\*A student with food allergies will be served snack only after the classroom teacher and/or assistant has read the ingredients and allergy information on the back of the food packaging to determine if it is safe for the student to consume.

\*a student with food allergies will only be served a snack that has been provided from the parents that is placed in their child's book bag daily.

If the snack served to the class is not a "safe snack" for the student with food allergies, the following "plan of action" is used;

\*The student with food allergies eats a snack provided from the classroom teacher or assistant from the school snack shelf that is safe for the child to consume based on the food package ingredients and allergy label.

\*The student with food allergies is provided with a safe snack that has been placed in the student's book bag daily from the student's parents to be consumed when a snack offered is not considered "safe".

### **CELEBRATION/SPECIAL DAY SNACK TIME**

A student with food allergies will be served snacks on celebration days (parties and special days) that are considered safe after the teacher and/or assistant has read the allergy information on the back of the packaging.

Snacks provided by parents without package ingredients/allergy information will not be served to a student with food allergies.

Exceptions are fresh fruit (only if the parents who have a child with food allergies have approved this exception).

If snacks on a celebration day are not safe for a child with food allergies, parents can choose one of the following "plans of action";

\*a student with food allergies will be served a safe snack provided from the school snack shelf (based on the ingredients/allergy information on the back of the packaging)

\*parents of students with food allergies will send in a safe snack in their child's book bag to be served to their child on that day.

Parents with children who have food allergies may provide staff with brand name suggestions for a safe snack but it cannot be expected that a safe snack will be served.

### **Screen Time Policy**

Under the MDSA regulations, the staff of Fallston Country Preschool will use active and creative screen time activities that encourage social engagement and are educational and age appropriate. This includes any apps, noncommercial television programs, videos, streaming videos and media eBooks. These activities may support but not replace creative play, physical activity, hands on exploration, outdoor experiences, social interactions and other developmentally appropriate learning activities for children ages 2 years and older. Viewing time will not exceed 30 minutes per week. (Passive or interactive viewing)

Exceptions include;

\*Viewing for a special event or project

\*Exceptions will be documented and retained for file and will include;

The nature and duration of what was viewed and the reason for the exception

**Children under the age of 2 may not view any passive technology. Viewing will not take place during a meal or snack. Programs may not promote unhealthy or sugary foods and beverages.**

## General Classroom Operations

### Things You Need to Know About First School Days

#### Drop-off

\*Have your car sign showing in your windshield.

\*Drive slowly and carefully into the parking lot and get into the drop off line. (Begins at the school entrance along the curb). **Do not line up any earlier than 5 minutes prior to the start of your preschooler's school day.**

\*Wait until a staff member opens the door of the school. Do not get your child out of the vehicle.

\*Students will be removed from the vehicles by a staff member in the order they are lined up in. Students will be removed from the car in front or close to the school entrance door. Please pull forward as cars leave the car line.

\*A staff member will remove your child from the vehicle.

**Please make sure your child is:**

**Unbuckled**

**Has already given kisses and hugs**

**Has their book bag in hand**

**Has their coat, hat, etc. already on**

**Has finished eating and drinking (if doing so in the car)**

**Has said good bye to and has put down stuffed animal, lovey, toys, etc.**

\*Once the student is out of the car the staff member will shut the door and you may slowly leave the area.

**If your child is distraught or upset about getting out, please let the staff member try to remove them from the vehicle.**

**If necessary, the staff member may ask you to pull forward and wait, pull into a parking spot, or go to the end of the line if your child cannot be safely removed from the vehicle.**

#### Pick-up

\*Have your car sign showing in your windshield.

\*Drive slowly and carefully into the parking lot and get into the pick-up which begins at the school entrance and continues along the sidewalk curb.

**Do not line up any earlier than 5 minutes prior to your child's school dismissal time.**

\*Wait until a staff member opens the school door. Do not get out of your vehicle.

\*Your preschooler will be placed in the vehicle, one at a time, in the order that they are lined up in. **We will only put preschoolers in the vehicle on the side that is facing the curb. We do not walk preschoolers in front or behind vehicles to get in on the opposite side.**

**PLEASE BE PREPARED TO SHOW YOUR LICENSE BEFORE WE PUT A PRESCHOOLER IN THE VEHICLE.** This is for your child's safety and wellbeing.

\*A staff member will put your child in the vehicle.

\*Slowly pull forward and around the corner along the side grass yard and buckle your child into their car seat.

**DO NOT BLOCK THE DRIVEWAY TO THE BACK PARKING LOT.**

**For everyone's safety, please DO NOT pull around vehicles while in line unless a staff member directs you to do so.**

**Please remember that drop off and pick up is not an appropriate time to have conversations with staff members. If you have questions or concerns or need to speak with a teacher or administrator, please contact them by phone or email. They will be happy to speak with you at that time.**

**Please share this procedure with anyone who may be dropping off or picking up your preschooler.**

Thank you for your compliance with this procedure. This will insure a quick and safe drop off and pick up for your preschooler.

### **1. Book Bags**

Each child will receive a book bag with his/her name on it the first day of school. Please use this for carrying things to and from school. Our goal is to provide opportunities for the children to be successful and feel good about doing things themselves. We have found they can be successful at opening these particular bags and putting things in them. Feel free to decorate these bags anyway you wish - just don't cover up their names.

### **2. Emergency Cards**

These will be given out before the school year begins. These cards are required by the state for your child to attend school. We keep these on file in the office in case of an emergency. If we don't reach you, we will call your spouse, then the other names on the card. Please make sure that your child knows the other people on your emergency card and that you have contacted them before putting their names on the card.

### **3. Calendars**

You will receive a monthly calendar during the last week of the preceding month. Calendars will be emailed home September through May. Permission slips for our field trips will be sent home in your child's book bag during the school year. Please fill out the permission slips in a timely manner and send back in their book bags. They will be on a different colored paper.

### **4. Clothing**

Please dress your children in comfortable clothes and shoes. If your child cannot snap, zip, or button, then please consider elastic waist bottoms so they can use the bathroom independently. Please keep in mind that we do paint, color, cut and use other materials on a regular basis that may damage your child's clothing. Also remember, we do have smooth floors, and we do use the playground, take walks, etc. so rubber sole shoes with a closed toe are recommended. Please label all clothing that may be removed during class (sweaters, jackets, hats, etc.) For our 3- and 4-year-old classes, the children must be potty trained to come to school.

**Children may not wear pull-ups to school.**

### **5. Sickness, Medications and Allergies**

- Please call the school if your child is going to be absent so we do not wait for them to begin our day.
- Keep your child home when sick until fever free for 24 hours without Tylenol/Ibuprofen/fever reducing medication.
- We practice hand washing and covering our nose when we sneeze and mouth when we cough, but children are children.
- If your child has a food allergy or another allergy or condition that requires medication, please see the director. You will need to provide us with a medical release form that has to be filled out by the doctor and kept on file in the office along with the medication.
- In the case of food allergies, a list of safe food must be given to us. You will also need to meet with the teacher and assistant to go over these. It may be necessary for you to provide "safe snacks" for your child.
- Any medication related to a short-term illness or over the counter medication will not be administered by any staff member during the school day.

### **6. Custody Arrangements**

We need to have a copy of any custody papers in the case of divorce or separation. They will be kept in your child's confidential file and only shared with your child's teachers. Please discuss any special concerns or custody issues that may affect your child with the Director.

### **7. School Forms**

All forms given out after your child is registered for our school, should be returned by July 1st. You may email your forms to [fallstoncountryprek@gmail.com](mailto:fallstoncountryprek@gmail.com) or return the forms to the school in the white lock box next to the front entrance of the school. Please make sure they are at school before the first day of school.

**We must have the health form and immunization form on file in order for your child to attend.**

### **8. Tuition**

Tuition is due by the first of the month. If paying in three installments and your child's class does not meet on the 1<sup>st</sup>, tuition can be sent in earlier or postmarked by the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. After that date, it is considered late and may be subject to a late fee of \$15. Tuition can be mailed, dropped off in the office or dropped off in the white security mailbox located at the front entrance. Monthly automatic debit withdraw is available upon request and will be debited on the first of each month.



### 3-Year-Old Themes

All about me – Name, age, family

Making new friends

School procedures, manners and jobs

Calendar- months and days of the week

Flag – Pledge of Allegiance

Counting – English and Spanish

Fall/Autumn – seasonal changes, leaves, squirrels, scarecrows, pumpkins, acorns

Farm - the barn, animals and their babies, what do farm animals give us

Halloween Fun – Dress up, Bats, Spiders, Jack-O-Lanterns, Halloween safety

Thanksgiving –Sharing, Pilgrims, Indians, The Mayflower, feast, cornucopia

Healthy Foods- Grocery store trip

Christmas – Jesus birthday, nativity, Santa, symbols, sounds, shapes and scents of Christmas, giving to others, cookie baking, Program for parents

Community Helpers - Career Bears, Firefighters/Fire Safety, Police, Doctors, and more.

Hibernation/pajama day

Winter – Snowmen, weather/temperature, Snow /ice, Mittens

Winter animals- Penguins, Owls, Polar bears

Left and right hands

Sign Language songs

Letter recognition – ABC book, putting letters together to make words

Name Recognition/writing by year end

Number recognition and counting 1-5, 1-10

Colors – color days throughout year

2 and 3 Step Patterning

Valentine’s Day –hearts and cupid

Healthy Heart and Exercise- field trip

Presidents’ Day- Washington and Lincoln

Shapes-circle, square, triangle, rectangle, diamond, oval

Counting to 5 and beyond, counting backwards from 5, adding and taking away

Opposites

Birds-Nests and eggs, Migration

Wind and kites

Growing plants from seeds, seed sequence

St. Patrick’s Day

Easter - Bunnies, eggs, rebirth, etc.

Father’s Nights

Bike safety – Pedal for a cause

Signs of Spring

Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales

Butterflies - metamorphosis

Frogs, toads, tadpoles, fish

“Mad” Science Fun

Mother’s Treat and program

Last Day Luau/summertime safety

My Address – summer practice

Home Projects-Career Bears, Christmas Tree

Performances-Christmas and Mother’s Day

Each month we work on recognition skills in relation to the various themes (of colors, numbers, names, shapes, letters, vocabulary) as well as learn and practice: counting, simple poems and songs and literature. The children are given opportunities to explore and develop their large motor skills, their fine motor skills, their cognitive skills and their social skills.

## Four-Year-Old Class Themes and Related Subjects

All about school (rules, routines, room layout)

All about me (the preschooler)

All about my family

How to be a friend

Woodland Animals (prepare for wild animal presentation)

Season: Fall

Holiday: Halloween

Pumpkins/Jack O'Lanterns

Apples (prepare for Orchard trip)

Harvest

Father's Night

Native Americans (prepare for Native American presentation)

Pilgrims

Pow Wow

Holiday: Thanksgiving

Winter Holidays around the world

Season: Winter

Snow

Temperature (cold vs. hot)

Healthy bodies (prepare for Wellness clinic)

Caring for wildlife in winter

Holiday: Groundhog Day

Holiday: Valentine's Day

All about feelings

Our five senses

Holiday: St. Patrick's Day

Season: Spring

Holiday: Easter

Healthy Eating and exercise (prepare for Harford Gymnastics trip)

Earth Day

Mother's Day celebrations

What is Kindergarten? (Prepare for Kindergarten trip)

Graduation

In addition to these theme and related subjects, age-appropriate skills are introduced and reinforced such as letter and sound identification and number recognition.

\*Not all themes are covered by all classes due to time constraints.

## **Fallston Country PreK**

### **Complaint Resolution Policy and Grievance Procedures Policy**

Fallston Country PreK strives to ensure that all employees, students, and families are treated fairly. Differences of opinion and potential conflicts are inevitable. The purpose of this procedure is to attempt to achieve equitable solutions to the problems that may arise from time to time affecting employees or the people served.

It is expected that staff members and families be informed about policies and procedures affecting them. Likewise, parties should have opportunities to discuss complaints, and seek information on matters affecting their jobs or services provided. No staff member, student, or family member shall be subjected to adverse treatment for participating in any part of this problem resolution process.

### **Complaint Resolution**

A grievance may be a complaint or dispute regarding any situation. In most cases the problem can, and should be, resolved at the lowest level. However, if a matter is deemed important, the following steps may be taken.

Before initiating a grievance process, aggrieved parties are strongly encouraged to seek resolution of disputes through direct communication with the individual(s) involved or with the immediate supervisor in an attempt to resolve the matter informally at that level.

- **Step One:** To encourage informal resolution, within one week after the occurrence of the event, the aggrieved party shall orally discuss the dispute with the individual(s) involved or with the immediate supervisor. If the issue involves the immediate supervisor, the aggrieved party should first discuss the issue directly with the immediate supervisor. They will discuss it and agree upon a plan to resolve it.
- **Step Two:** If discussion with the individual(s) directly involved and/or the immediate supervisor fails to resolve the matter, or if the aggrieved party is not comfortable addressing the issue with the immediate supervisor, the aggrieved party may seek the assistance of the Director or other current director on the board, who may act as a mediator. He/she will meet with the aggrieved party involved in the dispute and they will agree upon a plan to resolve it. This is intended to provide the employee, student, or family member with the opportunity to consider the advice and information gathered, and determine whether or not to continue. This step should be initiated no more than two weeks after the occurrence of the event.
- **Step Three:** If the aggrieved party is still not satisfied or if the supervisor is the director, the aggrieved party may appeal the decision in writing to the PreK Board for consideration at their next regularly scheduled meeting. The written request must be submitted through the director or to an acting board member and must be received at least one week prior to the meeting. A hearing before the board may be granted. Within two weeks of the meeting, the PreK Board shall communicate its decision in writing to the aggrieved parties involved, including the director.

### **Written Grievance**

All aggrieved parties may communicate a grievance to the Board at any time in written form. Such letters must be signed and must include:

- Any written communication between the parties involved.
- Any written communication with the Director giving notice of the concern.
- Dates of occurrence(s)
- The Director's written response to the concern.

Grievance letters will be addressed to the PreK Board and may be given to any current board member. A copy of any letter of grievance must be sent to the Director. The Board will reply within thirty days.

## Grievance hearings

If the written response is not acceptable to the aggrieved party, he/she may submit a written grievance appeal to the PreK Board. A meeting shall be held with the PreK Board within 30 workdays following receipt of the appeal. The aggrieved party shall have the right to present his/her arguments in order to support the grievance. All meetings held under this procedure will be conducted privately and will include only such parties directly involved or those with a legitimate need to know.

Before a grievance hearing will be granted by the Board, the aggrieved party must produce evidence that the he/she has attempted to resolve the matter within the school's established organizational structure. All such attempts will be documented in writing and will include:

- Any written communication between the aggrieved party and his/her supervisor concerning the matter.
- The aggrieved party's written communication with the Director giving notice of the concern.
- The Director's written response to the concern.

The aggrieved party's written request for a hearing before the Board must:

- Clearly state the issue that will be discussed with the Board.
- Establish that no reasonable and satisfactory solution has been reached.
- Suggest a reasonable solution for the Board to consider.

If a grievance hearing is granted, the employee will appear before the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting. If the aggrieved party intends to provide witnesses, the names of such witnesses will be communicated to the president no later than three calendar days prior the meeting.

All meetings will be focused on factual information. Every attempt will be made to conclude the meetings as expeditiously as possible, with the PreK Board issuing a majority-ruled decision including appropriate recommendations. Only current directors may vote on the decision. If the grievance involves a current director, the director may not vote on the decision. Additionally, the board of directors may prohibit involved directors from voting if the grievance directly involves said directors.

Grievance hearings will be limited to a maximum of thirty minutes unless further allowance of time is requested in writing three calendar days prior to the meeting. The president may curtail the hearing at any time.

After the hearing, the president of the Board or other current board member will provide a written response to the aggrieved party within thirty days. Any decision or response by the Board is final.

### Time Limits

Failure by the administration at any step of this procedure to communicate the decision on a grievance within the specified time limits shall permit the aggrieved to proceed to the next step. Failure by the aggrieved at any step of the procedure to appeal a grievance to the next step within the specified time limits shall be considered as acceptance of the decision rendered at that step without the right to appeal.

Workdays exclude Saturdays, Sundays, holidays, sick leave and scheduled vacation. Only mutual agreement between the aggrieved and the Pre-K Board may extend the time limits specified.

## Confidentiality

All parties are bound by confidentiality and will not share information about grievances except with those persons who in the discretion of the Director or PreK Board have a legitimate need to know. All documents, communications, and records dealing with the processing of a grievance shall be filed in a separate grievance file and shall not be kept in personnel or student files of any of the participants.

## Discipline Policy

Good discipline is one of the keys to effective instruction. Classroom teachers take responsibility for discipline and management within the classroom setting. Our goal for all students is that they conduct themselves as responsible and respectful individuals at all times. Teachers clearly set and discuss classroom rules and expectations with their students and parents at the beginning of each year. Generally speaking, teachers and others in authority assist students who do not meet their responsibilities. Occasionally, students may need to be corrected and teachers may provide choices, use redirection, reflection, and problem solving, use warnings, time outs, and parent contact to help encourage positive behavior. In the case of frequent misbehaviors, parents will be contacted by the Director to discuss a plan of action that insures a positive environment for all students.

## Parent/Teacher Conferences for Student Progress

In October or November, the four-year-old parents are given the opportunity to meet with the teacher and discuss how their child is adjusting to school. No formal written evaluation is given at this time.

An informal brief evaluation of social adjustment is sent home to the three-year-old parents in October or November. Personal conferences are held at the parent's request.

A student's progress and written performance evaluations are discussed again with the parents of each student during the month of February or March. Following the evaluation, a copy of the performance sheet is given to the parent for review and returned to the school. The teacher keeps a copy for the school. A second evaluation of the child is recorded on the same performance sheet and is sent home in May of the school year. The second evaluation is recorded on the teacher's original performance sheet and this remains in the school folder of the child.

If a concern develops with a pupil that the parent should be aware of, the teacher does not wait until this first or second evaluation is due, but rather contacts the parent immediately.

## Child Find Information

"Child Find" is the name given to the Harford County Public Schools campaign to locate children who are in need of a special program. This special project is designed to identify all children up to the age of twenty who have special needs and provide them with education and related services. Children's limitations are discovered through a variety of screening programs operated by public and private schools and agencies. However, some children and youth with limitations are not identified and therefore are not receiving the services they need.

These educational disabilities include: autism, deafness, developmental delay, emotional disturbance, hearing impairment, mental retardation, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury, visual impairment.

What is the child find process?

- Referral form is sent to parent/guardian after parent/guardian has called Child Find
- Referral form, summarizing child's history is completed by parent/guardian.
- Prescreening meeting with child and parent/guardian is arranged to determine the need for testing.
- If needed, testing is completed.
- IEP Meeting is convened to determine the child's eligibility
- If a child is eligible, an IEP ("Individualized Education program") will be developed identifying goals and services to be provided.

Children between the ages of three and five years, who are not enrolled in a Harford County Public School kindergarten, may be referred directly by the parent/guardian to the Office of Child Find by calling 410-638-4386/87. Children enrolled in private kindergarten and/or private school may be referred for screening by home school teams or the parent/guardian by calling the Office of Child Find at 410-638-4386/87 for further information. What if my child is under the age of three? A parent or guardian may call Harford County Infants and Toddlers Program at 410-638-3823 to inquire about services for children under the age of three who may be eligible for early intervention services.

## Fallston Country Pre-K Snow Policy

The Pre-School Snow Policy is as follows. A certain number of days are built into the calendar for each class.

Generally, when the **Harford County School system is closed** for the day due to bad weather, the **Preschool will also be closed**. Every effort will be made to schedule make up for any additional missed days that are not originally built in.

If the Harford County School system has a **delayed opening** -

**TWO HOURS LATE**, we will follow this schedule in order for **ALL** classes to meet:

5 Day am meets	10:55 – 12:55	M/T am meets	11:00 – 12:30
4 Day pm meets	1:25 – 2:55	Th/F meets	11:00 – 12:30
3 Day am meets	10:45 – 12:15	W/Th/F meets	1:15– 2:45
3 Day pm meets	1:00 – 3:00	M/T pm meets	1:15 – 2:45

\* In the case where the Governor of Maryland declares a State of Emergency, the days missed will not be counted in the snow days.

Please listen to the radio for early schools closing when the weather looks threatening. We will also close early, and you will need to come to school to pick up your child.

Harford County will now be announcing closings with a Code for Harford County Employees. The codes do not apply to students or our school.

### TENTATIVE CALENDAR FOR 2024 - 2025

#### CLOSINGS

#### SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED ON THE FOLLOWING DAYS:

Wednesday, November 27 through Friday, November 29

Monday, December 23 through Friday, January 3

Monday, January 20

Monday, February 17

Monday, April 14 through Monday, April 21

Tentative last school day –

Wednesday, May 7                      Parent Tot

Tuesday, May 13                      Day am, 3 Day pm, M/T am, M/T pm

Thursday, May 15                      Th/F, W/Th/F, 4 Day, 5 Day

## Special Days

Each child is designated a day during the school year which is titled their “special day”. It is not a birthday celebration, so therefore it may or may not be around the child’s actual birthday. They are asked to bring a simple snack and napkins. Drinks will be provided. Please note that each teacher may have different requirements for these special days.

We ask that parents in **all classes**, please refrain from bringing in party supplies (hats, blowers, goody bags, etc.) for the school party. The celebration is intended to be a small part of the school day.

## Classroom Specials

Fallston Country Pre-K is very fortunate to employ and enlist qualified individuals in our community to develop our students’ awareness and abilities in the areas of Library, Music and Physical Education.

Library – Our librarian visits the 3’s and 4’s classes approximately once a month to read quality, age-appropriate literature. Through finger plays and interactive activities, she teaches the children about the changing seasons, the holidays, and other interesting topics.

Music – Our music teacher visits the 3’s and 4’s classes approximately once a month. She engages the children in singing familiar songs and introducing them to music terms through puppets, song, and hands on activities.

Gym – Our gym teacher visits the 3’s and 4’s classes approximately once a month. She motivates the children to exercise using their large and small muscles. The children enjoy obstacle courses and games that encourage them to jump, roll, climb, balance, and skip/gallop. They also learn the importance of warming up prior to exercise and cooling down afterwards.

## Field Trips for All Classes

During the school year, each class may take several field trips. The number of trips and the types of trips offered depend on the age group and curriculum as we plan trips to relate to themes being taught at that time. All student costs for field trips are included in tuition. Students must return a permission slip in order to attend the field trips. If a permission slip is not returned, the child will stay in the school office, and the parents will be contacted. The school evaluates the curriculum and field trip experiences yearly to determine appropriateness.

3-year-old field trips: 3-year-old field trips require a parent to drive to and sometimes attend the trip with their child or a parent to transport the child to the site of the trip and several parents stay for the trip. In the past, the 3-year-old classes have visited a farm, a grocery store and a Gymnastics Center.

4-year-old field trips: Some, but not all, trips require a parent attend the trip with their child. **Due to scheduling conflicts, not all trips can be scheduled on your normal class day and or class time.** In the past, 4-year-old classes visited a Gymnastics center, an Apple Orchard, and Eden Mill.

*Permission slips are sent home in the student’s school bags. They are on colored paper with a return date.*

Field Trip Helpers – There are some field trips that only require a few parents to serve as chaperones. If you are a field trip helper, you need to be on time and prepared to monitor a group of children. This supervision requires you to keep your group of children together, make sure they are safe and following directions and acting appropriately. Chaperones need to be with their group of children at all times, not with other field trip helpers.

## **Late Pick-Up Policy**

We expect your child to be picked up on time each day they attend regardless of weather. Regular dismissal times are as follows:

**11:55** p.m. for the 5-day am 4-year-old class

**11:30** a.m. for the M/T a.m. and Th/F a.m. classes

**11:15** a.m. for the 3-day 4-year-old class

**2:45** p.m. for M/T p.m. class and Wed. Thurs. Fri. p.m.

**2:55** p.m. for 5-day pm 4-year-old class

**3:00** p.m. for 3-day pm 4-year-old class

If you are not in line at class dismissal time, a late pick-up fee may be charged at the rate of \$1.00 per minute over that time. The classroom clock will determine this time. In order for your child to return to school the next scheduled session, the amount due must be paid immediately to the staff person who stayed with your child. In the event of an emergency, a nominal fine may be charged at the discretion of the Director. Habitual lateness will lead to increasing fines or possible dismissal from school. All children have the right to be picked up on time. They become worried and scared if there is no one there to pick him or her up at the close of school.

## **Fundraisers**

Fallston Country Pre-K depends on several fundraisers each year to supplement tuition and provide extra or special supplies, equipment, and teaching materials to benefit our students. Participation is strictly **voluntary** but always appreciated. Fundraisers in the past have included candy sales, Claire's Gourmet, Trike-A-Thon, and Individual picture purchases.

## **Mission Projects**

As a part of the program, we encourage sharing what we have with others less fortunate than ourselves. We invite our school community to join us as we collect food, books, school supplies and other items for those in need.

## **Water Testing**

The water system in Grandview Christian Church is tested for bacteria and nitrates.

It is our school policy to use bottled water located in two locations in the hallway for drinking and in food preparation.

## **Documents**

The following are available in the office upon request: Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Conflict of Interest Policy, Form 1023, and Form 990.

Further, a copy of the "Parents' Guide to Regulated Child Care" is located on the parent board and on our website.

## **Non-Discrimination Policy**

"The Fallston Country Pre-K does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin ancestry, and ethnic background in admission to and participation in education program and activities, or employment practices." Approved 15 February 2013



## **INCLUSION POLICY**

Fallston Country PreK has a specific action plan for students with special needs, specific modifications, behavioral modifications, or may have a necessity for individual instructional assistance. If a child has specific instructional or behavioral needs, Fallston Country PreK will do its best to make accommodations for that student or investigate other options in order to try to provide an appropriate educational environment.

## **ACTION PLAN**

Our action plan for students with an existing IEP and those not yet identified who plan to or are attending Fallston Country PreK will be determined on a case-by-case basis. If parties determine that an action plan is necessary, one will be created and include any or all of the following components based on appropriately meeting the needs of the child. Any action plan implemented will be confidential, documented and approved by staff and parents.

## **ACTION PLAN COMPONENTS**

- Parent is contacted with concern
- School may make modifications in the classroom and any/all modifications would be documented.
- Discussion and/or conference with all parties involved (parents, preschool staff, and may include special educators, case workers, future preschool teacher) to determine possible solutions with an appropriate timeline. Suggestions may include:
  - Additional modifications and/or plan of action
  - Referral for evaluation
  - A time sensitive evaluation to determine success of implemented modifications
- Conference to discuss progress with the possibility of recommendations for additional options which may include
  - Working with county organizations
  - Working with private organizations
  - Modified school day
  - Enlisting a one-on-one assistant for the child
  - Other school determined appropriate options

**Fallston Country PreK will not exclude any child unless their presence would pose a direct threat to the health and safety of others OR requires a fundamental alteration of our program.**

# Fallston Country PreK

## Progress Report /Skill Checklist 3's

<b><u>Social and Emotional Skills</u></b>	<b>Mid year</b>	<b>Year end</b>
I can separate from my parents easily		
I use manners and greetings		
I respect and show concern for people and things		
I play, share and take turns with my peers		
I accept & respond respectfully to teacher's authority		
I have control over my feelings		
I feel comfortable at school		
I engage in pretend play regularly		
<b><u>Work Habits</u></b>		
I follow routines with minimal support		
I can choose an activity and attend for 5 minutes		
I respond well to my teacher's suggestions		
I make appropriate choices during free time		
I can play with peers without conflict		
I seek only my share of the teacher's time		
I use materials properly (glue sticks, markers, etc.)		
I can work and play independently		
I finish the activities I start		
I follow two step directions		
<b><u>Fine Motor Skills</u></b>		
I use a 3 finger grasp with crayons and markers		
I hold scissors properly		
I can cut a straight line w/o help		
I can paint at the easel		
I can put a 6 piece puzzle together		
I can stack blocks appropriately (8-9 blocks)		
I can trace my first name		
I can write my first name		
I can draw a circle		
I can copy an "X"		
<b><u>Gross Motor Skills</u></b>		
I alternate feet when walking up & down steps		
Catch a large ball		
Throw a ball with some direction		
I can balance on one foot for several seconds (r/l)		
Hop on one foot for 5 times		
I can kick a ball		
Use climbing equipment properly and safely		
I can jump in place		
<b><u>Practical Skills</u></b>		
I use the bathroom independently		

I wash and dry my hands independently		
I help clean up when asked		
I can follow a leader when walking in line		
I follow rules without being reminded		
I can put on my coat independently		
I can zipper independently		
I ask for help when needed in the bathroom		
I transition easily from one activity to another		
<b><u>Listening Skills</u></b>		
I listen while others are talking		
I listen quietly during circle time		
I can answer questions about stories I hear		
I pay attention (eyes focused on visuals) to lessons		
I sit still during circle time		
My attention span is lengthening		
<b><u>Math Readiness Skills</u></b>		
I can count to 5/10		
I can name number symbols 0-5		
I can name colors		
I can touch and count to 5 or more objects		
I can name basic shapes: circle, square, triangle, rectangle		
<b><u>Reading Readiness Skills</u></b>		
I can recognize my name		
I can produce some letter sounds		
I can produce a 2 step pattern with support		
Identify opposites.		
Identify letters of my name		
<b><u>Speaking Skills</u></b>		
My speech is clear, understandable and loud enough		
I communicate in 3-5 word sentences		
I am expanding my vocabulary		
I wait my turn when speaking in a group		
I use words to communicate my needs and wants		
I can say my first and last name		
I can say my age		
I contribute effectively to discussions		
I participate in singing, finger plays, and rhymes		
I can name sibling/friend's names		
I ask questions		
Comfortable standing and speaking in front of class		

# Fallston Country PreK

## Progress Report 4's

Name:

Teacher:

C-Consistently Evident / D-Developing / N-Not yet evident / X-Not yet Taught

<b>Social and Emotional Skills</b>	<b>mid year</b>	<b>end of year</b>
I accept and respond to teacher authority.		
I respect and show concern for people.		
I respect and show concern for things.		
I play and share with my peers.		
I am able to adapt easily to change.		
I have proper control over my feelings.		
I have proper control over my actions.		
I am able to separate from my parents.		

### **Work Habits**

I follow routines independently.		
I follow directions independently.		
My attention span is lengthening.		
I work well in small groups.		
I'm learning not to disturb working classmates.		
I make good use of free time.		
I seek only my share of the teacher's time.		
I take care of and clean up my work materials.		
I stay focused on a task without support.		
I complete my work in a timely manner.		
I take pride in my work.		
I have a positive attitude about school.		
I display confidence in my skills.		

### **Listening Skills**

I listen attentively while others are talking.		
I listen quietly to stories.		
I can answer questions about stories I hear.		
I can follow a sequence of 3 simple directions to complete a task.		

### **Speaking Skills**

I speak loud and clear to be understood.		
I communicate in complete sentences.		
I am expanding my vocabulary.		
I contribute effectively to group discussions.		
I wait my turn when speaking in a group.		
I can repeat a simple poem or song.		

### **Practical Skills**

I can say my first and last name.		
I use the bathroom independently.		
I wash and dry my hands independently.		

I use good manners.		
I can say the "Pledge of Allegiance".		
I participate in musical activities.		
I participate in art activities.		
I participate in gym activities.		

Name:

**Fine Motor Skills**

I can hold and use writing tools.		
I can write my first name independently.		
I am starting to use left to right progression.		
I can hold and use scissors properly and appropriately.		
I can cut on a straight line.		
I can cut on a curved line.		
I use art materials properly.		
I can put a simple puzzle together.		
I can manipulate zippers.		

**Gross Motor Skills**

I can catch a large ball.		
I can throw a ball with some direction.		
I can walk on a rope or balance beam.		
I can hop on one foot.		
I can skip.		
I can gallop.		
I use climbing equipment properly.		
I participate in games.		

**Math Readiness Skills**

I can count to 20.		
I can recognize number symbols 0-10.		
I can do one to one correspondence to 20.		
I can sort and classify objects.		
I can sequence different sizes.		
I can produce a 3-step pattern.		

**Reading Readiness Skills**

I can identify letters of the alphabet.		
I can identify letter sounds.		
I can associate beginning sounds of words and objects		
I can identify rhyming words.		
I can produce rhyming words.		