

# Preschool Pages

## WELCOME BACK ISSUE



August 2021

### What to Wear

Send your child in play clothes. During the day, the children enjoy art, outside play and other activities. We offer protective clothing during art, but it feels awkward to children this age and often they choose not to use it. Also, please have your child wear tennis shoes for comfort and safety on the playground. Most children do not like sand and mulch between their toes and running can be dangerous in sandals or flip flops. We cannot apply sunscreen or bug spray according to state requirements, so apply these before coming to school.

### Separation

It is sometimes hard to separate at first and tears are normal, especially in younger children or children who are experiencing school for the first time. Please know that we will do everything we can to help your child adjust to preschool. We want your child to feel safe, welcomed and loved. When you drop off your child, it helps to be cheerful, tell them you will be back soon, and then go ahead and leave. They will realize, as time goes by, that this is a fun place and that you really do come back. Please don't sneak off because it hurts them when they realize you are not there. Many times your child will stop crying as soon as you leave. If you are concerned, feel free to call the preschool office and we will be happy to check on your child and give you an update. We will not let your child be unhappy for long without your knowing about it.

# Cornerstone UMC Preschool

Dear Parents of 2's :

The **2021-2022 school year at Cornerstone** is near and we are so excited about the upcoming school year! Your child's teacher will be calling you between *August 18 - 22*. She will give you information regarding **Meet the Teacher**, which is Friday, August 27. She can also answer any questions you have regarding the first days of school, nametags, school procedures and other important information. Below is information that may answer many questions. We wanted to give you a few days to read this information before your child's teacher calls.

**Backpack** Your child will need a full-size backpack to carry to class each day. It will need to be large enough to hold their lunch box, coat, diapers and a full change of clothes. If these things do not fit easily inside, then it is too small. Please no drawstring tops or rolling backpacks. The backpack will look huge on their little bodies; nevertheless, they will be able to handle it before you know it. It is important that they have only one thing to carry, keeping their hands free for safety. Please label their backpack where the name can easily be seen. Don't forget the change of seasons when packing the extra set of clothes. Do not keep any bug sprays, medicines, diaper creams or sunscreens in the backpack. We do not suggest backpacks on wheels due to storage concerns. Please leave all toys at home.

Projects will come home periodically, but not daily. We will be saving special pieces to send home at a later date or to display in our room. Some days we will be busy doing projects other than art, but your child will have the opportunity during center time to participate in free art if desired.

### Volunteering

Look for this sign-up sheet at **Meet the Teacher**. We are always looking for helpers for special events, projects and lots of other opportunities. We ask that you sign up in 2 areas, and you will be called if needed, prior to the event.



### Our Contact Information:

**Address:**

18081 West Rd.

**Phone Number:**

281-859-1612

**Fax Number:**

281-859-4567

**Email:**

pssec@cornerstoneumc.org

**FACEBOOK:**

Cornerstone UMC

Preschool

**INSTAGRAM:**

cornerstone-umc-preschool

**YouTube:**

Cornerstone UMC Preschool

**WEBSITE:**

cornerstoneumcpreschool.com

## Allergies

Sometimes we have a student or two who have diagnosed severe food allergies. When this happens, it may be necessary to declare the classroom a “peanut-free room” or whatever the circumstance. If this affects your class, you will be informed after your teachers have visited with all the parents. Snacks and your child’s lunch may be affected so all is peanut free.

Please send at least three labeled diapers in the backpacks daily. We will discuss potty training if and when your child is ready. Pull-ups are not beneficial until your child is almost completely potty trained. Please be sure to dress your child in clothes that are easy to get up and down. Avoid overalls, zippers, snap buttons, etc. but use elastic waist. You will receive a “Potty Training” information sheet at **Meet the Teacher**.

## Diapers

## Lunch

A nutritious lunch should be packed every day. Please see the *Parent Handbook* and the Snack Suggestions Sheet for ideas and guidelines. Cut items such as grapes and hot dogs lengthwise and into bite size pieces. As time goes by, we will be encouraging the children to open their own containers and clean up after themselves. Plastic divided dishes are great (for both the children and teachers) since you can open them and start eating quickly. We also like to send home what the children don’t eat so that you can monitor how they are eating. Please do not send squeeze yogurt, glass containers, or red drinks and keep candy for after school. Don’t forget to send eating utensils, straws, napkins, etc. The children will say a blessing before they begin lunch together.

## Snacks

Each child will take turns sharing a snack with the class. Send a healthy snack that the children can serve themselves, napkins and necessary supplies. Children will enjoy water with snacks, and preschool will provide cups. Birthday snacks can be a special snack to share – send your child’s choice. Your teacher will schedule your child to bring birthday snack close to his/her birthday. Your snack day will be indicated on the calendar with his/her name. Occasionally, teachers will request that a special item be brought for the snack usually to correspond with an activity or theme; this will be noted beside the snack person’s name on the calendar. As we all know, simple and healthy snacks are the best. The children really look forward to bringing snack; however, if you forget snack, we do keep a few items in our pantry. You will receive a note so you can send a replacement snack on your child’s next school day to keep our pantry stocked.

## Afternoon Naps

Your child(ren) will be taking a nap at school. The nap will be approximately 1 -1 1/2 hours each school day. You will need to provide the nap mat for them. Suggested size of mats, pillow and blankets to follow—PLEASE use this guide so that all children in the class have room to nap comfortably. Mat 50”x20” or smaller. Pillow (if needed) 15”x10” or smaller. Blanket (if needed) 42”x42” or smaller. You can bring a nap mat, plus pillow, plus blanket, or a nap mat with pillow and blanket attached. All napping supplies will need to be brought to school and taken home each school day.

Supplies for naps can not be left at the school due to storage concerns and rooms being shared with the church. A small lovey is allowed for use during nap time. All items brought to school should be labeled!!!!

**Label** Please label everything! It is very common for several children to have the same lunch box, backpack or coat. Write your child’s name on everything they bring to school (preferably using a permanent marker). Labeling your child’s things also gives them the opportunity to recognize their name and gives them a sense of belonging. Label the backpack, diapers, extra set of clothes, lunch box, plastic containers, etc. Please write their name on a very visible spot (i.e. on the outside of

the lunch box vs. the inside of the lunch box).

## Home away from home

You will get a poster board house for you and your child at **Meet the Teacher**. Help your child decorate the family house and return it on the first day of school. You may decorate the house any way you like (e.g. photos, paint, markers, stickers, crayons, etc.). Include immediate family members and pets. These houses will be laminated so it is best to avoid 3-D. The children enjoy these in the classroom all year long, and they are invaluable for adjusting to preschool.

## Fundraisers

We have a Fall fundraiser each year as well as monthly activities at local establishments that result in revenue for the preschool. This money is used to purchase playground equipment, classroom toys, manipulatives and materials to support the curriculum for the children, as well as teacher training. You will be given your packet at **Meet the Teacher**. There are prizes for top sellers. If our fundraiser is not for you, please consider a cash donation to help us meet our fundraising goals. We truly appreciate your support.

## Cell Phone Policy



Just as the public schools are a cell phone free area, we are also. We ask that cell phone usage not occur in the school or in the car line. We will not be able to take your child out of the car if a cell phone is in use.

**Nametag:** The nametags are so important, as they help all of the staff at Cornerstone learn your child's name and whose class he/she is in. Have your child wear it every day. You may pin it on the front or back of your child. The teacher will take the nametag off in October and will keep it at school. We will use these nametags when there is a substitute teacher in your child's class.

**Calendar:** A calendar and newsletter will be sent home the beginning of each month in the backpack and via email. This will inform you of the skills and themes that we will focus on that month. The child that is responsible for snack will be included for each class day on the calendar. **Calendar is on one side, newsletter on the other.**

**F**older: You will receive folder at **Meet the Teacher**. Please keep it in your child's backpack and check it after each class. This will be used to hold all important papers, book orders, money, artwork and notes for home. Use this folder to send the teacher any important papers, tuition or notes (teachers unpack this every morning).

## Drop-Off/Pick-Up and Rainy Day Procedures

Masks must be worn by all visitors for Drop Off and Pick Up.

**Morning Drop-Off-** Drop off your child no earlier than 8:55 a.m., either in the car line or at the classroom door. If you do not use the car line, an adult must walk your child to class. To drop off at the classroom—enter through the side preschool building door located near the gym. Say your good-byes at the classroom door and allow your child the opportunity to walk into the room on his or her own. We will spend time the first few weeks of school teaching the children what to do when they arrive and how to begin a fun warm-up activity. Please enter and exit through the side preschool building door in a quick & timely manner.

**Afternoon Pick-Up-** **For the month of September,** pick your child up in the classroom at the end of the day beginning at 1:50. When it is time for classes to begin using the car line, you will be given a car line sign for your window. Your teacher will notify you when the children are ready for the car line. You will need to sign your child out in the office if you pick up your child before 1:45.

Please follow these procedures: Car line pick-up time is 2:00. Display your child's name card on the passenger side window until your child is safely inside the car. **Place your car in park when you arrive at the pick-up station. An adult from the car must place the child safely into the car.** The car line entrance is the entrance closest to CVS, around the perimeter of the lot until you come to the circular drive by the building. There will be stations where teachers will stand.

Let us know who may and may not pick up your child. If your child is going home with a friend or other adult, you will need to send a note in your child's backpack. The teacher needs these directions and information in writing. A Texas Driver's License will be needed for identification from the other adult who is picking up your child.

**Rainy Day Drop off & Pickup** - The first 2 cars will pull up to the sanctuary doors. The next 2 cars will pull up to the education building doors. At **Drop Off** you will bring your child to the closest door to meet a teacher who will walk your child to class. At **Pick Up** you will meet your child at the preschool or sanctuary door. For everyone's safety, please wait to move forward until all 4 cars have loaded or unloaded.

# Final Thoughts...

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**Please** enter the preschool through the education building's double doors. The sanctuary doors will not be unlocked during school hours.

The preschool doors are locked during the school day. Please use the door bell on the left to alert office staff that you are waiting to be admitted. After a visual verification has been made, the lock on the **left door** will be released and you will be able to enter. The door does not buzz after it is unlocked, so be watching for someone in the office to signal that it is ok to enter.

Texas state law requires that all required paperwork be complete and in place when your child begins school. If you are missing paperwork, we will let you know. We appreciate your getting it completed as soon as possible so that your child can begin school.

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If your child has any medical conditions such as an allergy, please let us know in the office.

***All medications must be brought to the office.***

## Cornerstone United Methodist Church Information

Pastor Heather Sims  
Church phone number: 281-859-4141

### **Sunday Services:**

9:15 a.m.— Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. — Worship Services



## **Meet The Teacher**

*Friday, August 27*

*Times will be communicated through email.*

**Masks are required for all adults at**

**Meet The Teacher**

*Our first day of school will be:*

*Monday, August 30 and Tuesday, August 31*