

Parent Handbook 2026-2027

PreOneers PreK Program



On the campus of Poiner Springs
Community school.

TABLE OF CONTENTS



<u>Welcome</u>	3
<u>School Information</u>	4
<u>Curriculum Focus</u>	5
<u>Daily Schedule</u>	6
<u>Enrollment requirements</u>	7
<u>Monthly Fees</u>	8
<u>2026-2027 Calendar</u>	9
<u>Attendance and Absences</u>	10
<u>Arrival and Dismissal</u>	11
<u>Map of Campus</u>	12
<u>Communication</u>	13
<u>Birthdays</u>	14
<u>Behavior</u>	15
<u>Dress code</u>	16
<u>Lunch and Snack</u>	17
<u>Rest time</u>	18
<u>Inclement Weather</u>	19

WELCOME to our class



Welcome to PreOneers! We believe that “from little acorns, do mighty oaks grow.” Our mission is to foster a passion and curiosity for learning and our natural world. We want to prepare kids to be happy, healthy kindergarten students, using the Reggio Emilia method as inspiration. What does this mean? This approach is a student-centered curriculum that uses experiential learning. We value establishing a happy community through exploration, discovery and play.

Your Director:

I am very excited to be leading your child in their first school experience! This is my 10th year in education. I am originally from snowy Buffalo, NY and came to Charlotte because of my husbands job. We love Charlotte and all it have to offer! My family and I love to travel, camp and ski together. Each day, I look forward to spending time with your child and watching them grow!. This is such a wonderful play based program, It is designed to allow the children to learn, play, socialize and cooperate with others.

Your fantastic associate teacher team:

Your associate teachers are Kendal Greene, Mary McKay and Dawn Miller. They are all energetic and caring individuals. They bring so many special talents to the classroom that each day is filled with giggles, glitter, fun and mud!

SCHOOL *information*



SCHOOL ADDRESS

9232 Bob Beatty Road, Charlotte, NC 28269

SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER

704-494-0777

SCHOOL HOURS

9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

DIRECTOR/LEAD TEACHER

Molly McDonald

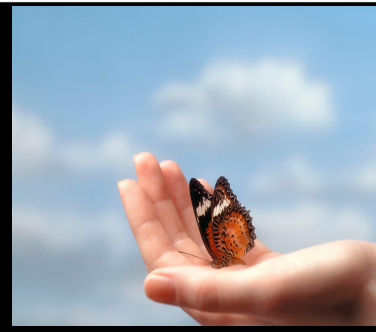
EMAIL ADDRESS

mollym@pioneersprings.org



CURRICULUM FOCUS

this year



MATH

- Counting with 1 to 1 correspondence
- Patterns
- Shapes
- Basic adding and subtracting

ELA

- introduction to letters and sounds
- listening to and retelling stories
- dictating writing to a teacher
- using writing tools
- book and print awareness

NATURE

- native plants
- bugs
- gardening
- animals
- noticing and experimenting

SKILLS

- self-care
- kindness to self and others
- friendship/sharing/playing fair
- physical skills: balance, throwing, kicking
- fine and gross motor skills

OUR DAILY *class schedule*



Our day will include outdoor play, science and nature exploration, group time, stories, early literacy and math skills via games and centers, music, art, and dramatic play. Kids will also have time for a snack, lunch, and free play before the end of our day at 1 p.m.

Since every class is different, we will adjust our daily schedule accordingly based on what works best for our students in this particular school year.

ENROLLment ReQUIRements



Enrollment requirements:

Kids who are ages 3*, 4, and 5 and are fully potty trained are eligible to apply. It is our procedure that staff do not enter the restroom during a potty break and/or a needed clothes change. A change of clothes will be kept at school in the event of an accident or outdoor wet play. ***Student must be at least 3 on or before August 30th, 2026

Upon acceptance into the program:

We are a lottery and waitlisted private program. A registration invoice will be sent along with needed enrollment documents. There is a non refundable registration fee.

\$150 registration fee

PREK MONTHLY Fees



The Pre-Oneer program is tuition-based which can be paid on a monthly basis. Fees are used to compensate staff and cover instructional materials for the year. Please contact the school about financial assistance.

Monthly education Fees include:

3 days/week monthly fee is \$360.00

5 days/week monthly fee is \$600.00

Before and AfterCare coverage: ***This has limited availability and must be approved before the child can begin.

3 Day coverage: (Per Month)

BeforeCare: \$160.00 / AfterCare: \$265.00

5 Day coverage: (Per Month)

BeforeCare: \$ 265.00 / AfterCare: \$440.00

CALENDAR of events



Date		Description
12 - 20 August	No Students	Staff development
21 August	Families welcome	Parent PreK Orientation 10am - 11:30 am
24 August	1st day of school!!!	**Parents may park and walk their child to our building
7 September	Labor Day	No School for students and staff
25 September	Staff Workday	No School for students
22 October	Staff Workday	No School for students
23 October	No School	No School for students and staff
26 October	PreK OPEN	End of quarter for Pioneer Springs - regular day for PreK
11 November	Veterans day	No School for students and staff
26-28 November	Thanksgiving Break	No School for students and staff
21 -December - 1 January	Winter Break	No School for students and staff
15 January	PreK OPEN	End of quarter for Pioneer Springs - regular day for PreK
18 January	MLK Day	No School for students and staff
19 January	Staff Workday	No School for students
12 February	No School	No School for students and staff
15 February	Staff Workday	No School for students
25 March	PreK OPEN	End of quarter for Pioneer Springs - regular day for PreK
26 March	Staff Workday	No School for students
29 March-2 April	Spring Break	No School for students and staff
3 May	Staff Workday	No School for students
31 May	Memorial day	No School for students and staff
9 June	PreK OPEN	End of quarter for Pioneer Springs - regular day for PreK Last Day of school
10-11 June	Staff Workday	Staff development

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE

policies & procedures



ATTENDANCE

- Please keep in contact with us if your child is unwell, showing any symptoms of illness or otherwise unable to attend school.

EMAIL ADDRESS: mollym@pioneersprings.org

WHEN TO KEEP YOUR CHILD HOME:

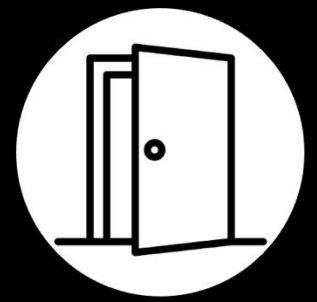
- Children must be kept home from school if they are feverish (99.9+), have diarrhea, are vomiting, have dark mucus nasal discharge, or if they show signs of becoming sick (listlessness/drowsiness, productive cough, extreme sore throat, ear pain, eyes that are pink, burning, itching, or producing discharge).
- We realize that it is difficult for working parents to keep their children home, but exclusion will help prevent contagion and promote the health and safety of your own child and others around them.
- Please notify the school if your child has a highly communicable disease or condition, so that all other parents can be alerted.

IF YOUR CHILD BECOMES ILL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY:

- Every effort will be made to make them comfortable, away from the other children.
- A parent will be called to come and pick them up.
- If contact is unavailable, We will notify the emergency contacts.
- Your child may return to school when they are symptom free and medication free for 24 hours.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

policies & procedures



MORNING CARPOOL

- Drop-off begins at 8:45 and ends at 9:00 at the Red Barn
- A PreOneer staff member will escort the student to the cottage.
- Please stay in your vehicle..
- Students who arrive later than 9:00 must be signed in at the “castle” office first and then parent will need to walk child to PreK Cottage.

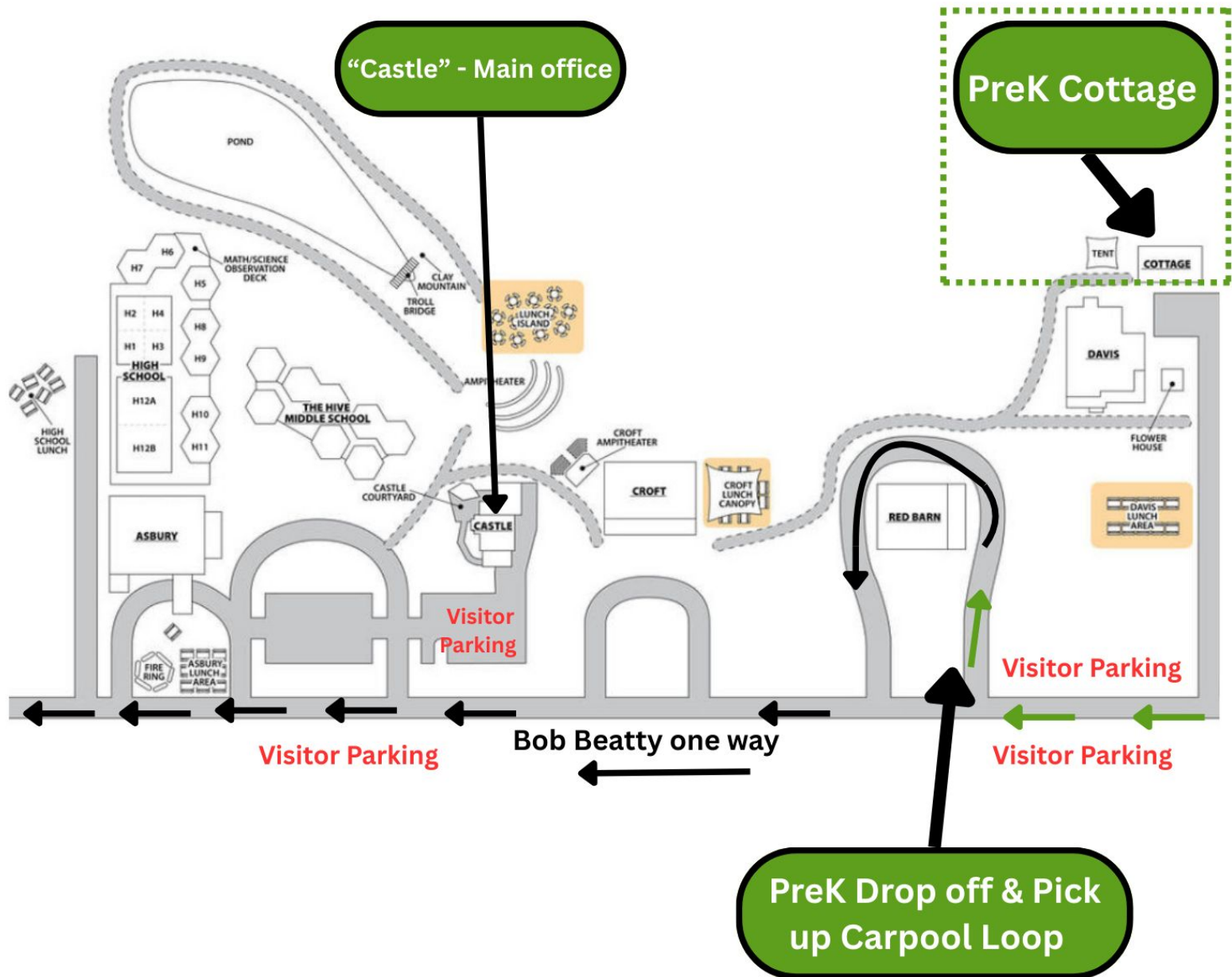
DISMISSAL

- Dismissal begins at 1:00 and ends at 1:15 at the Red Barn (Do not line up before 12:50)
- Please stay in your vehicle in the red barn carpool line with your child's name card displayed. We will bring your child to you.
- After school care: Please contact us to sign your child up with after school care for a separate fee and instructions.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

- PreOneer kids can be picked up between 3:00 and ends at 3:20. You can start lining up on Bob Beatty at 2:50.
- Please note other grades carpool times will differ.
- Have your child's name card in the window, and a staff member will escort your child to your car. *This is also the time for K-2 carpool so there will be lots of other cars waiting for their kids.
- Please be patient. :) *

Pioneer Springs Community School Campus map - PreOneers



For Safety: * If you are arriving on campus other than carpool designated times: Please drive to the “Castle” and obtain a “tardy pass” and/or “visitor pass”. This will allow you to navigate the campus to the PreK cottage.**

COMMUNICATION

policies & procedures



HOW TO CONTACT US

- The best way to contact me is via email:
 - mollym@pioneersprings.org

REGULAR COMMUNICATION YOU CAN EXPECT

- At the end of each week you will receive a newsletter detailing your child's week and giving a preview of the week coming up. Pictures of our fun may be included, so please let us know if you do NOT want your child's photo taken/ included.
- Ample notice of special events will be given so parents can make their best effort to attend.
- Each week, your child will bring home a orange folder with his/her work inside it. Please look through it with your child and talk to them about what they've made, and return the folder, empty, the next day.
- Bi-weekly, afterschool children will bring home his/her bedding to be washed and returned.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

policies & procedures



BIRTHDAY TREATS

- Please join us to celebrate your child's big day!
- We encourage supplying a craft, reading a favorite book, or other activity that the class may participate in to celebrate your child's birthday.
 - Please DO NOT bring food to celebrate your child's birthday.
 - For summer birthdays, your teachers will set aside a day in May per your request to have a summer birthday celebration.

BIRTHDAY INVITATIONS

- If your family is having a birthday party and you would like to invite students from our class, please be sensitive to the feelings of all. If everyone in the class is invited or if all girls or all boys are invited you may send invitations to school for us to distribute. Otherwise, we ask that you make an effort to keep the celebration low-key and ask your child to not talk about it at school if only some children from the class are invited.

BEHAVIOR

policies & procedures



We believe that promoting health social and emotional development, including self-control is one of the fundamental responsibilities of our program. The preschool period is a critical time for children to learn to control their thoughts, feelings, attention, impulses, and behavior. They are learning how to get along with others and how to be a friend. Children are not born with these skills. Partnering with you, the primary teacher, we strive to help your child develop into their best selves. To that end, we use the following:

MODELING- Teacher-modeled appropriate behavior and communication

POSITIVE REDIRECTION- Redirecting behavior to an acceptable alternative

GUIDANCE- A guided discussion with an adult to help children understand their action and its consequences, and how to handle it differently: “Did you see how your foot tripped your friend? Let’s try a safer way to manage our feet.”

CONTROLLED CHOICES- Offering controlled choices encourages independence and promotes problem-solving skills: “You may choose to sit criss cross applesauce in the circle with us, or you may choose to sit at a table. Running during our morning meeting is not one of the choices.”

NATURAL CONSEQUENCES- when a child behaves inappropriately, the child will experience natural consequences as a result of that choice. This helps children learn that their behavior affects other people and things. For example: throwing something across the room carries the consequence of that item being put away for use another day.

If parents or teachers have a concern about a child’s behaviors, we will reach out with that information and/or schedule a conference if necessary.

DRESS CODE

policies & procedures



What to wear for the PreOneers PreK Program:

Dress for mess! We are outside a lot and encourage children to discover in nature whether it be wet, messy, muddy or otherwise. Please make sure your child comes to school with clothes that can get dirty, and closed-toed/closed-back, rubber soled shoes. No “spaghetti straps” please.

Please send in a full set of season-appropriate, labeled and bagged clothing with your child to keep at school in case of accidents or extreme messes. This includes a top, bottoms, socks, and undergarments. If we need to use their spare clothes, we’ll send the soiled items home in the labeled bag to be cleaned and replaced.

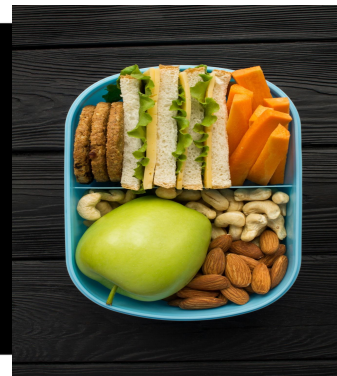
STAFF DOES NOT CHANGE, WIPE, OR DRESS KIDS

- The students are expected to independently change their clothes in our restroom.

Please send a labeled rain coat and set of rain boots to keep at school. These will be returned at the end of the year.

LUNCH & SNACK

policies & procedures



LUNCH

- Lunch is from roughly 11:40-12:00. Students will bring a healthy snack and lunch each day. Lunch is eaten in the classroom or outside. Teachers will not be able to heat or refrigerate meals for kids.
- We encourage you to practice opening and closing containers with your child, and are happy to help work with them on these skills. Daily, reusable water bottles/lunchboxes need to be provided by parents/guardians for their children.
- We encourage a “pack in/ pack out” policy of respecting the environmental footprint of the school as well as waste management. Families are asked to pack food that will aid student success and refrain from sending food with low nutritional content. We encourage kids to eat until they’re full, and do not make them “clean their plate.” Uneaten whole pieces of fruit and vegetables will be returned in lunch boxes.

SNACK

- Snack is from roughly 9:45-10. Your child may choose an item from their lunchbox for their snack. It may help to send a labeled snack separately.
**We do encourage a healthy choice for the 1st snack of the day.

FOOD ALLERGIES

- We are an “allergen aware” school. This means that we promote education and awareness about allergens rather than limiting them completely from all students’ diets. If your child has an allergy, please let us know so we can assist in educating them about making choices that help them avoid the allergen.

REST TIME



Students who stay for after school care will have a rest time beginning at 1:00. Please send a sleep mat similar to the [link](#) you see here. In addition to a mat, please send a sheet to cover the mat. (These are listed in the link along with the mats). If your child needs a small pillow or blanket, you may send those in as well and we'll keep them here for their use and send these items home to be cleaned regularly.

- A small stuffy is allowed during this time.

We are aware that not all kids nap. Kids are not made to sleep or even to keep their eyes closed. However, those who don't nap will use this time to rest their minds and bodies quietly.

INCLEMENT WEATHER *and Cancellations*



Your child's teachers will judge whether or not the environment outside is safe for play and exploration. In conditions such as extreme wind, cold, heat, or rain, we may opt to keep children inside (above 90 degrees and below 40) However, we take multiple opportunities daily, [mild] rain or shine, to explore our natural surroundings, so please dress your child appropriately.

We participate in the mandatory severe weather drills as dictated by our state.

In the event of school cancellation or delay, you will be notified by email and an announcement on our private Facebook page at the earliest possible opportunity.

In the event of an unexpected early dismissal, you will be similarly notified as soon as possible.