

KinderCollege August Family Newsletter, 2021

August marks the beginning of a new school year. Normally this does not affect child care but since we are affiliated with both Boyd County Schools and ACTC, it seems to make a difference. Our teachers' and college students' children are returning. Therefore, we are gaining enrollment in all of our classes.

We have also hired four new staff members, which means we are taking additional children. However, as a result of the employment crisis everywhere, even if one can find good qualified staff who want to work, the process is moving very slowly since everyone seems to be understaffed. I appreciate your patience if we move your child into different classes on different days so that we can keep within the state mandated ratios between staff and children. Miss Merry and our dedicated sub, Miss Chelsea, will be in classes as needed until all of our hired staff is physically in our building working. We appreciate your patience as we get everyone acclimated to KinderCollege and our procedures.

The Delta Variance

The Delta Variance of the Covid-19 Virus is extremely contagious and is not only spreading throughout KY at record levels, but is also doing so in our local community. So, we are going back to many of our previous precautions even if they are not mandated by the governor. The staff has started wearing masks again. We are asking when you enter the center, that you too will wear a mask. We have plenty on the front table in the foyer if you need to grab one upon entering. We will also go back to only one person coming into the building with a child and escorting him/her to the classroom. We ask that on a normal day when we are fully staffed, that you enter in the front door, sign-in your child, take him/her into his/her room, and exit out the outside classroom door. That way there will be no cross contamination. I know this is a little extra trouble but your children are worth it!

We will continue to:

- Keep the front doors locked.
Keep knocking when you do not see anyone in the front office. If no one comes, walk to the outside side-door of your child's room to enter. We do not plan for this to happen often but it is a good alternative if no one is available to come to the front door.
- Sign your child in and out at the front desk in the foyer.

We cannot thank all of our families enough for their responsibility and care as we continue to fight to stay well and safe during the continuation of this pandemic. Your seriousness is a huge part of us staying well. I want to also thank my staff for their effort as well. We are all fully vaccinated and are being careful to stay safe at home too. We are hopeful that all of you who are not at risk, are also vaccinated or considering this option.

Lunches

The Summer Food Program will end Friday, Aug. 13th. Each family will need to **provide a lunch from Aug. 16th to Aug. 25th.** Then starting **Aug. 26th,** families may continue to **pack lunches or purchase a school lunch** from Summit Elementary.

When Boyd County Public Schools are in session, families are able to purchase school lunches from Summit Elementary. This is available for any child who is eating table food. The lunches are **\$1.75 per lunch**, and are delivered to KC daily. There is a **monthly menu** that will be available on the front desk in the foyer. Families may select meals that are to their child's liking or sign up weekly. There will be a signup form on the front desk where families can order lunch on a weekly or daily basis. Lunches are usually ordered around 9:00 AM each morning. If your child arrives after lunch count and families have not signed up in advance, he/she may not have a lunch.

If you choose to pack your child a lunch, there are specific stipulations from the KY State Department of Childcare Licensure. **All lunches must contain a child serving of the basic five food groups:** vegetables, fruit, whole grains, protein, and dairy. Milk must be served at lunch and counts for the dairy requirement. We are not able to heat or refrigerate food. Please do not pack food that needs to be heated or refrigerated. All lunch bags must contain a small ice pack and be labeled with your child's name and left in his/her cubby. Do not send Kool-Aid or sugary drinks. Juices may be sent for snacks but not for lunch. We will provide diluted fruit juice and/or distilled water for snacks. KC will supply a morning and afternoon simple snack including drinks. Sending anything for snack is optional. **Please send a note for us to keep on file, if your child has any food or dairy/milk allergies or sensitivities.**

You have several options in paying for lunches. If you know you want to order lunches every day, it can be set up in Procure and it will be a part of your weekly payment. However, this cannot be changed week-by-week. You may pay cash day-by-day or at the end of the week. You may also write a check but we are not able to take a credit or debit card unless you use the Procure option. If you are paying cash, put your money in an envelope with your child's name,

date, and amount enclosed. Give this directly to Miss Merry. Envelopes will be available on the foyer front desk.

Extra Clothes

Please continue to keep extra clothes and/or shoes in your child's backpack or cubby. Sticking an old towel in the backpack or cubby may also be a good idea. As it keeps getting hotter and hotter, we are more tempted to engage in water play and water play brings about wetness. We are teaching while we are playing in the water so it is definitely an educational experience and it cools everyone down too.

It would probably be a good idea to dress your child in play clothes every day. However, I know what it is like to be late for work and your child is insistent on wearing something special. Put play clothes/shoes in the backpack/ bag to bring to the center. We will change your child as needed. You may also keep clothes at the center and replace as needed.

Vacation Weeks

Even though vacation season is drawing to a close, each family qualifies for vouchers good for two tuition-free weeks between July 1st, 2021 and June 30th, 2022. You must let the director know at least two weeks ahead of time and it must be in increments of a week/five days. This will be reflected in the Procure system as a credit.

Remember:

It is the responsibility of families to keep all personal/emergency information and immunizations up-to-date with the Director. For the safety of your child, this is critical. Often staff do not know when changes occur. Thanks in advance for updating all paperwork as needed.

Also keep us updated (preferably in writing) of changes as your child transitions between formula and variations of milk, to baby food, and then to table food. As you experiment with these forms of nutrition, make sure to keep us informed.

As always, thanks for all you do in support of your children and all of us at KinderCollege.

