

Kirkwood Baptist WEE Center

2021-22 Back to School Plan

Kirkwood Baptist WEE Center has developed a plan for the safe opening of our school in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We will continue to prioritize the health and safety of our students and staff by following the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Academy of Pediatrics, and our local health department. We also recognize that this is a very fluid situation, and we may have to adjust our plans accordingly. Vaccinations are our strongest defense against this virus and all our teachers are fully vaccinated.

Although some procedures will be different, one thing will never change – we will always strive to provide a safe, loving, and fun learning environment for your children each day. The success of our 2020-21 school year was a result of everyone working together to achieve this common goal and I am confident that with our combined efforts, we will have another successful year.

Sanitation and Good Hygiene

Sanitation and good hygiene have always been top priorities for our school.

In preparation for the first day of school, our building will undergo a deep cleaning and sanitation process which will be repeated each evening after school. Bathrooms and high use areas will be sanitized throughout the day. All toys and equipment will be sanitized after use. Cloth and hard to clean toys will be removed from classrooms.

We will be washing hands often throughout the day with soap and water. If soap and water are not readily available, the use of an alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be used with teacher supervision. We recommend that you discuss the importance of properly washing hands at home.

Masks

Although all WEE Center staff is fully vaccinated, we will continue to wear masks in accordance with CDC and the Academy of Pediatrics recommendations. We will require each of our children to wear a mask upon entry and when outside their classroom in shared spaces. Your child's teacher will provide more classroom specific information concerning masks. Masks will not be worn during outside play times and while eating or drinking.

Drop Off and Pick Up

One of the most effective means of limiting the spread of COVID in a school setting is by grouping each class into cohorts – each classroom remains together and separate from other classes throughout the day. The use of cohorts reduces the number of people exposed to COVID and enables the school to remain open if a classroom needs to quarantine.

Each of our classes will have their own entry and exit door that will be used exclusively for drop-off and pick-up. Teachers will greet you and your child there each morning and do a brief health screening and check-in. The class will remain in the entry area until everyone arrives. Please let the teachers know if your child will not be in attendance that day. The children will be dismissed at their door at 2:00 pm.

Screening and Exclusion Procedures

Staff or children who have a symptom of infectious illness should stay home and be referred to their doctor for testing and care. Staying home when sick is essential to prevent the spread of illness to others and to keep our school open. It is also important to quarantine according to CDC guidelines after exposure to someone with COVID-19.

Children and staff with the following signs of illness should stay home:

- Fever (temperature of 100.4F or higher)
- Sore throat
- Cough or congestion/difficulty breathing
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or nausea
- Headache

The symptoms of COVID-19 are very similar to other infectious illnesses, so your child will need to be seen by their doctor for testing and approval to return to school. Anyone testing positive for COVID-19 can return to school 10 days from the onset of the symptoms if they are symptom-free.

Parents should be alert for signs of illness in their child and keep them home if they or anyone else in the family is sick or has been exposed to the virus.

Children who are diagnosed with a contagious non-COVID-19 illness should also remain home until they are 24 hours symptom-free without the use of medications. The school may require a doctor's note upon return.

If a child becomes ill at school, the parent will be notified, and the child will be removed from the room to our designated sick room. Children may return to school after they have had clearance from a doctor, or a negative COVID-19 test. Please call the school if you are keeping your child home.

Lunches and Snacks

We ask that you send a refillable water bottle, a lunch and snack with your child each day.

Store bought treats for the class are allowed.

Classroom Spaces

All toys and items in the classroom will be thoroughly sanitized each day. No fabric toys or items that cannot be properly sanitized will be used. All classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized each evening and throughout the day. We will also be opening windows and using fans for better ventilation.

We ask that you not send in toys from home other than a nap time lovie. The younger classes will be having rest time. Your child's teacher will give you more specific information on those procedures.

Playground and Outside Spaces

Outside recess is a very important part of day and will be even more so this year. Each class will have a scheduled time on the playground. We will also be taking advantage of the beautiful green spaces adjoining our school. Children and teachers will not be wearing masks when outdoors.

On inclement days we will use the Great Hall for recess.

Special Events

At the present time, we will not be having any events which will include large group gatherings.

Conclusion

Regardless of the restrictions and changes, the WEE Center will still be the same fun, safe, and loving environment it has always been. Although you will not be able to come into our building (something that I will miss SO much!), we will do everything we can to make you an important part of your child's school experience. I pray that these are short term changes. The teachers will be sending you lots of picture and daily communication. Never hesitate to contact us with any questions. We are in a partnership to keep our children and staff safe and our school open. It will take all of us working tighter to make this work, but I have faith we can do it!

Jerrie Lape
Director