

ASCENSION

Episcopal Kindergarten: Preschool and MDO



June 2022 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

We had an awesome 2021-2022 school year and are already getting set up for 2022-2023! Enclosed you will find the registration forms needed for your child to attend AEK in the fall. A detailed letter about orientation days and first days of school will be coming out next month, but I wanted to give everyone an update on all of the exciting things happening this summer to prepare for the new school year.

AEK MAKEOVER

Thanks to our wonderful teachers and volunteers, the classrooms and hallway have been getting a makeover! Some age groups have moved to new classrooms, we are busy painting the hallways and bathrooms downstairs, and we have a new music room with new paint and flooring! These upgrades add a fresh and updated look to match our wonderful program at AEK, and I can't wait for you to see how great it looks!

STAFFING FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

I am happy to report that all but one of our teachers have decided to return for another year at AEK. We are sad to say goodbye to our wonderful music teacher, Macey Rowland, but we wish her all the best as she continues to pursue a masters in voice at Indiana University, Jacobs School of Music. We know she is off to do wonderful things!

We are also adding some new faces to our staff this year, as well as some role changes among our current staff. We welcome you to learn more about our wonderfully qualified teachers on the staff page of our school website.

MDO: All of our MDO teachers are returning for another year, and we couldn't be more thrilled! We will be adding two new faces to our MDO team: Melissa Shaw and Paige Rowland. Melissa Shaw has been a consistent substitute in the MDO room and we are excited that she has officially joined our team of MDO teachers for Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. As a mom of four children and someone with loads of previous preschool experience, she is a perfect fit for our sweet babies in MDO. Paige Rowland (yes, she is Macey's sister!) will be working in our MDO room on Tuesdays. Paige has just graduated from the University

of Alabama and has many years of experience as a nanny. She will be a welcomed addition to our MDO team.

2K: Our 2K classroom is moving to the downstairs hallway in the previous 4K classroom. The larger room will give our 2-year-olds space to move and will also allow room for a second teacher to be with our younger preschoolers. Becca Meece will continue as a 2K teacher on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Morgan Spray was a 4K teacher last year, but is excited to move to the 2K classroom on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mary Elaine Mims, mother of Caroline, Beau, and Shep, has decided to re-enter the teaching world as a 2K teacher on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Rebecca Whittle joins us as a 2K teacher on Wednesdays and Thursdays. She has years of experience in 2K and is excited to join our AEK family!

3K: Ms April and Ms Angela will continue as our wonderful 3K teachers. Their classrooms are getting fresh coats of paint and they are excited to greet their new students this year!

4K: Our 4K classrooms are moving across the hall in the downstairs hallway. Ms. Lauren will be in the old 5K classroom and is excited to be back as one of our 4K teachers this year. Ashley Smith joins our team as the other 4K teacher and will be in the old music room (which has also received a new coat of paint). Ashley has taught in the public school system for over 15 years and is excited to join our AEK family in 4K.

5K: Ms. Katie is returning as our 5K teacher. The 5K classroom is moving upstairs to the previous 2K classroom and is all set for our wonderful kindergarten class.

Music: In addition to teaching 2K, Ms. Becca will be moving into the music position and will be teaching music on Wednesdays and Thursdays. With a certification in music education, she was the perfect choice to take on this role! The new music room is at the end of the downstairs hallway and has a fresh coat of paint and new flooring.

PE/Art: Laura Helveston, mother of Hunter Helveston (4K), will be joining our team as our PE teacher. She will also be teaching an art class to our 4K and 5K, as well as our M-F 3K students. I am so excited to add this exciting opportunity for our students!

Kelly Gould will continue as assistant director and will be expanding her role outside of the MDO classroom. She will still be our liaison between MDO and the preschool, but she will also serve as the curriculum coordinator for our 4K and 5K to assist the teachers with curriculum planning.

CALENDAR

Included in your packet is an updated calendar for the 2022–2023 school year. Please note there have been some changes to dates from the calendar that was sent home in January. The calendar posted on the AEK website is also kept up to date so feel free to check it often. Reminders will also be sent home for upcoming dates via email and/or Brightwheel.

BRIGHTWHEEL

Brightwheel is an easy to use platform that is accessible through either an app on your phone or tablet, or through the Brightwheel website. It allows for easy communication between school and home, a place for the teachers to easily access student information, and an online payment system for tuition and fees.

New families will receive an invitation to sign up on Brightwheel via email in the next few days. We ask that you download the app and sign up as soon as possible. Please take some time to complete your child's profile. The invitation went out to one email address per family. Feel free to add the other parent to your child's profile so that everyone can receive messages, updates, and pictures! If you have more than one child enrolled in the program, you will receive a separate email for each child.

Brightwheel provides a convenient way to pay tuition and fees online. The materials fee for the 2022–2023 school year is due July 1, 2022 and has already been posted to your Brightwheel account. You may pay that fee on the Brightwheel app or you may drop off a check made out to "AEK" at the church office. Please note: there is a small processing fee for paying online: \$0.60 per transaction for bank draft or 2.9% for credit cards.

FORMS NEEDED:

The necessary registration forms are included in this packet and are due by the first day of school. You are also welcome to drop them by the church office at your convenience during the summer. The church office will be open Mondays–Thursdays from 8:30–2:30 and on Fridays from 8:30–11:30. Ms. Karyn, our parish administrator, will leave any forms that are dropped off in our AEK mailbox.

- Student Informational Sheet
- Authorization to Transport Form
- Information/Photo Release Form
- Hospital and Dental Release
- Medication Permission Form

- Notarized Affidavit for Parent/Guardian
 - I am a notary, so feel free to bring this form with you to orientation and I will be happy to notarize the forms there.
- Financial Agreement
- Certificate of Immunization
 - Needed for all new students
 - Returning students: please see the attached note about when your child's form expires.

AFTER CARE

Please see the letter included in your packet regarding after care. The sign up sheet for aftercare is on the backside of the informational letter.

SCHOOLBAGS: This year we ask that all students supply their own backpack for school. We have found the AEK canvas bags to be difficult for the children to carry and keep clean/organized. Backpacks should be large enough to hold a standard 9x11 inch folder.

CALLING THE POTTY PATROL: All children who will be entering the 3 year old classes in the fall are expected to be potty trained. We do understand that 3-year-olds will occasionally have accidents, but we ask that you work on independence in using the bathroom this summer.

SUMMER CAMPS AT AEK: We still have some openings in our July summer camp. If you have a child aged 3-6, please see the included camp registration form in your packet. Information is also available on the school website.

CHANGE OF PLANS:

Please notify us ASAP if your child will be unable to attend AEK in the fall. We still have openings in our 2K, 3K, and 5K classes so if you know of anyone looking for an excellent preschool program please send them our way!

Have a safe and happy remainder of the summer! We're looking forward to seeing you soon! Please feel free to contact Rebecca Posey at aekvestavia@gmail.com or by calling the school at 205-979-8711. We can't wait to welcome you to AEK in August!