



# Mrs. O's PRESCHOOL

Where your children take their first step in learning.

## Parent Handbook 2021/2022 School Year

*\*All policies subject to change. Parents will be notified.\**

### MISSION

To provide high-quality preschool education with a focus on developmental, age-appropriate learning in a nurturing, family-oriented environment.

### PHILOSOPHY, VALUES & GOLDEN RULES

Operating within the theory of play-based learning, Mrs. O's Preschool helps 3, 4, and 5 year-olds make sense of the world around them as they are encouraged to develop social and cognitive skills, mature emotionally, and gain the self-confidence required for new experiences and environments.

Built around the Core Values of **Determination, Courage, Respect, Confidence, Playfulness, and Community**, our vision is to model and communicate these values while understanding each child's individual needs.

With over 65 combined years of early elementary teaching experience, our philosophy focuses on active involvement, meaningful experimentation, and reinforcement through repetition. Our passion for nurturing children shapes **Mrs. O's Golden Rules** and are directed by our values and inspire our balance of academics, play, and structured activities.

### Mrs. O's Golden Rules:

#### Golden Rule #1

**I think I can, I think I can. (Determination)**

*"I think I can. I think I can. I think I can. I know I can." The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper*

#### Golden Rule #2

**I can read with my eyes shut. (Courage)**

*"The more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn, the more places you'll go." I Can Read with My Eyes Shut by Dr. Seuss*

#### Golden Rule #3

**Treat others how you wish to be treated. (Respect)**

*"A person's a person, no matter how small." Horton Hears a Who by Dr. Seuss*

#### Golden Rule #4

**Believe in yourself. (Confidence)**

*"The things that make me different are the things that make ME" Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne*

#### Golden Rule #5

**Every day is a new adventure. (Playfulness)**

*"In every job that must be done, there is an element of fun. You find the fun and the job's a game." Mary Poppins  
by P.L. Travers*

#### Golden Rule #6

**It takes a village to raise a child. (Community)**

*Piglet: "How do you spell love?"*

*Pooh: "You don't spell it, you feel it. Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne*

## STAFF

### **Nancy Obidzinski-Lum, Director**

Nancy Obidzinski-Lum is a proud graduate of Western Michigan University and has spent 39 years fulfilling her passion for teaching. Nancy's teaching experience has been at St. Joseph Elementary, Kalamazoo Public Schools and most recently 20 years at Moorsbridge Elementary in Portage. Teaching brings her so much joy. She can't imagine her life without teaching small children. Nancy and her husband, Eric, have three wonderful daughters, Meaghan, Katelyn, and Reilly. She is also "Grams" to her grandson, Sawyer. Nancy is so happy to bring Mrs. O's Preschool to our wonderful city of Portage.

[nancy@mrsospreschool.com](mailto:nancy@mrsospreschool.com)

### **Katelyn Lum-Cortright, Director**

Since Katelyn Obidzinski Lum-Cortright was a young girl, her dream was to become a teacher. Katelyn's dream was fulfilled when she graduated from the School of Education at the University of Michigan and was hired as a 2nd-grade teacher in Portage Public Schools. Katelyn finished her 6th year of teaching in the Spring of 2018. She and her husband, Adam, welcomed their first baby boy, Sawyer Eric David, in May of 2018. Katelyn is loving spending her days with the littles!

[katelyn@mrsospreschool.com](mailto:katelyn@mrsospreschool.com)

### **Meaghan Lum-Dontje, Director**

Meaghan Obidzinski Lum-Dontje received her BFA degree in Digital Cinema from DePaul University in Chicago. From there she continued her education at the University of Michigan where she received her Masters in Education. In 2011, Meaghan began her career at Moorsbridge Elementary teaching kindergarten where she shared a classroom with her mom, Nancy. It was a dream come true! She is thrilled to run this new preschool with her incredible family!

[meaghan@mrsospreschool.com](mailto:meaghan@mrsospreschool.com)

### **Alyssa Piñón, Lead Teacher**

Alyssa Piñón is honored and thrilled to join the amazing team of teachers at Mrs. O's Preschool! Alyssa fostered her love of educating young children at Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame by earning a degree in Elementary Education with a specialty in Early Childhood Education. She comes to Mrs. O's with nine years of teaching experience, having taught all grade levels from Young Fives through sixth grade! Alyssa is most passionate about working with little ones, and is so grateful to have spent seven years of teaching in Portage Public Schools, most recently as a Young Fives teacher. She believes that a child's learning is most evident through their play and

exploration. When she is not at school, Alyssa can often be found spending time with family or friends, cooking and baking, or reading a good book!  
[alyssa@mrsospreschool.com](mailto:alyssa@mrsospreschool.com)

## ENROLLMENT/ADMISSION

Enrollment for the school year is based on a first-come, first-served basis. Students enrolling at Mrs. O's Preschool in the 3-year-old program must be 2 years and 9 months by September 7, 2021, and potty trained. Students enrolling in the 4 and 5-year-old programs must be 3 years and 9 months by September 7, 2021, and potty trained.

To register, please mail the Enrollment Fee & Registration Form with a non-refundable \$200.00 check made payable to Mrs. O's Preschool:

Mrs. O's Preschool  
8025 Moorsbridge Road  
Portage, MI 49024

Your child's registration will be complete when we have received the Enrollment Fee, Registration Form, Child Information and Health Forms, as well as an up to date list of vaccinations.

**Withdrawals:** If you choose to withdraw your child, a one month's written notice is required. If a withdrawal is made anytime after the first of the month, full payment for the month is required. Also, if your child requires more attention than the provided student to teacher ratio, he/she could be withdrawn from the program. A meeting will be scheduled between the parents and teachers. Parents will be asked to withdraw their child if the behaviors are not corrected.

## SCHOOL SCHEDULE

The school year begins on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 and ends on Friday, May 27, 2022. The morning school hours are 9:00 - 11:30. The afternoon school hours are 1:00 - 3:30.

Doors will open for arrival at 8:55 a.m. and 12:55 p.m. Feel free to help your child hang coats/backpacks in his/her cubby and drop them off in his/her designated classroom.\* Our hope is that by October, your child can independently hang his/her coat and backpack. Please send your child to school with a large backpack that will hold papers and projects.

Dismissal - For security purposes, the front doors will always be locked. Feel free to wait outside the front doors and we will bring your child to you.\* The younger class will always be dismissed first. We will only dismiss your child to anyone listed on the emergency form. **Also, if you have any dismissal changes for your child, please send in a hand-written note letting teachers know that your child will be picked up by someone different. Please include the note in the Communication Folder we have provided for each student. We will ask for a picture ID when there is a change in pick up.** Please include all people your child can be released to on the emergency form.

Vacation Days- Mrs. O's preschool follows the Portage Public Schools calendar for major breaks including Thanksgiving, Winter Break, Spring Break, and scheduled half days.

\*\*These procedures are subject to change based on the current status of COVID-19.\*\*

## DAILY ROUTINE

9:00 / 1:00: Arrival Time

9:00 - 9:25 / 1:00 - 1:25: Free Play  
9:25 - 9:45 / 1:25 - 1:45: Circle Time  
9:45 - 10:45 / 1:45 - 2:45: Activity Center Time  
10:45 - 11:00 / 2:45 - 3:00: Clean-up/Snack Time  
11:00 - 11:20 / 3:00 - 3:20: Outside Play, Creative Movement, Show & Tell or Music Time  
11:20 / 3:20: Pack Backpacks  
11:30 / 3:30: Dismissal

## ABSENCES

When your child is unable to attend school, please call and leave a message on our answering machine.

## USING THE BATHROOM

All students need to be fully potty trained and able to use the bathroom independently. We understand that accidents do happen so we are asking parents to keep a Ziploc bag of extra clothes in your child's backpack. Please include socks, underpants, pants, and a shirt.

*IMPORTANT:* If your child requires more attention and care using the bathroom than previously anticipated, the program directors will consult with parents to improve the situation. If improvement is not visible within a month, your child could be withdrawn from the program.

## SNACK POLICIES

Birthdays will be celebrated during class time. We will provide a list of approved snacks that can be sent in.

If your child has a food allergy, please provide us with a list of approved snacks that your child can eat.

Each child will be served a snack during the day provided by the preschool. Our classrooms will be NUT FREE.

The children will have access to water throughout the school day.

## PICKUP POLICY

As of February 6, 2020, Mrs. O's Preschool will be implementing a new policy. If your child is picked up from school more than 10 minutes late (more than three times), a \$15.00 fee will be charged to your Procure Connect account for each additional late pick-up.

## PARENT COMMUNICATION

Parent-teacher conferences will take place in November and March. Feel free to discuss any concerns you may have with your child's teacher before our November conferences.

A Communication Folder will be given to your child at the beginning of the year. Please make sure your child's folder stays in your child's backpack every day. Encourage your child to share his/her communication folder with you every day after school. The teachers will be sure to also check the folders everyday.



A weekly newsletter will be sent via Procure Connect updating parents on the Letter of the Week, Sight Word of the Week, the mentor text we will be focusing on, the Number of the Week and other important and exciting happenings at school!

## Procure Connect

Procure Connect is our online portal in which we will use for parent communication, billing, attendance, important family/student information, etc. Download the app on your devices to create an account. Procure Connect is compatible with both Android and Apple devices.

## TUITION AND FEES

3-year-olds (16 student max)	4 and 5-year-olds (18 student max)	4 and 5-year-olds (18 student max)
\$2,475.00/YEAR \$275.00/MONTH (9 month period)	\$3,312.00/YEAR \$368.00/MONTH (9 month period)	\$4,167.00/YEAR \$463.00/MONTH (9 month period)
\$200.00 ENROLLMENT FEE* *non-refundable fee is in addition to yearly tuition cost	\$200.00 ENROLLMENT FEE* *non-refundable fee is in addition to yearly tuition cost	\$200.00 ENROLLMENT FEE* *non-refundable fee is in addition to yearly tuition cost
T/Th 9:00 am - 11:30 am OR 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm	M/W/F 9:00 am - 11:30 am OR 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm	M/T/W/Th/F 9:00 am - 11:30 am OR 1:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Tuition is due on the 5th of every month. Tuition is not affected by absences due to illness, vacations, snow days, or school breaks. If your tuition payment is not received by the 5th of the month, it will be considered late and a late payment fee of \$30.00 will be assessed. If your account is not brought up to date by the 1st of the next month your child will be withdrawn from the program.

Should you choose to pay your child's tuition in full at the beginning of the year, you will receive a 5% discount. This does not apply to the \$200 enrollment down payment. In the event that your child is withdrawn from the program and you have paid in full, this money is non-refundable.

If you choose to withdraw your child, a one month's written notice is required. If a withdrawal is made anytime after the first of the month, full payment for the month is required.

## HEALTH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES\*

In order to keep everyone healthy at school, we ask that you please keep your children at home when they are not feeling well. Please make sure your children are fever-free for 24 hours before you send them back to school.

Should your child acquire head lice, we will call you to pick up your child. Your child must be free from lice before returning to school. This is a very common and contagious condition.

Other illnesses such as vomiting, diarrhea, and excessive drainage are a means for your child to stay home or be picked up early. Volunteers and staff will be excluded for the same reasons.

The Department of Child Care Licensing requires that each child have a full physical every two years, and that those records be kept on file at Mrs. O's Preschool. Immunizations need to be current according to state law and the medical form signed by a physician. In order for your child to begin school at Mrs. O's Preschool, he/she needs a list of all completed vaccinations signed by a physician. **Waivers will NOT be accepted.**

Each staff member has received medical clearance from a primary care physician. Medical clearance forms are kept on site. All lead staff members are trained in first aid, CPR, AED, and dealing with blood borne pathogens.

**\*\*These procedures are subject to change based on the current status of COVID-19\*\*.**

## **COVID-19 POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Mrs. O's Preschool is working with the Health Department to determine the best plan and practices moving forward. We will provide more detail as soon as we can.

## **SAFETY AND WEATHER RELATED POLICIES**

Mrs. O's Preschool will follow the Portage Public Schools closing recommendations. You can sign up for text/email alerts through [wwmt.com](http://wwmt.com). You will know we are closed if Portage Public School has cancelled school for the day (Mrs. O's Preschool will not be listed). If in the event that weather conditions and/or road conditions worsen during the course of the day, and the decision is made to close the school, you will be notified as soon as possible via email.

### **Emergency Weather Procedures:**

**\*We will practice each drill twice between the months of September and April.**

*Tornado-* In the event of a tornado warning, students will be escorted by their teacher to the child bathrooms located in the classroom. These bathrooms do not contain any windows. Each teacher will conduct a head count and have a cell phone on hand.

*Fire-* In the event of a fire, students will exit through the nearest emergency exit. Each classroom contains an outside door with a walkway. Students will be escorted to the neighboring parking lot (Raymond James). There are two additional doors located on either end of the building.

### **Other Serious Accidents/Injuries and Other Emergencies**

*Man-Made Disaster including a person wishing to do harm to the school -* Your child's safety is our number one priority. We will make decisions based on keeping your child in the safest possible environment. It is possible that we may exit the building and relocate. If this does happen, a teacher will remain with your child at all times and we will contact you as soon as possible to give you information on your child's well-being and new location.

*Child Injury-* Despite our best efforts to keep your child safe, sometimes accidents happen. We are trained to assist your child for minor injuries (scrapes, cuts, small falls). However, if the injury is more severe (bumps on the head, large falls, possible broken bones), we will contact you immediately through phone and call 911 if necessary. In the event we cannot reach you, we will contact the provided Emergency Contacts. Please keep this up to date!

*Power Outage -* In the event of a power outage, all families will be contacted to pick up their children and the facility will close for the remainder of the day.

## PARENT NOTIFICATION POLICY

In the event of illness or major injuries, parents will be contacted via Procure Connect and/or telephone immediately. Accidents and minor injuries will be discussed with parents at dismissal in person and/or Procure Connect.

## VOLUNTEER POLICY

Volunteers will be accompanied by a staff member at all times.

Volunteers will be asked to sign a document stating that he/she has not been convicted of the following:

- Child Abuse/Neglect
- A felony involving harm or threatened harm to an individual

## FIELD TRIPS

We will go on occasional field trips. Transportation is not provided for field trips. A parent or another approved adult is required to stay with your preschooler.

## SHARING

We will be sharing weekly in school. Instructions for sharing will be in our weekly newsletter. No toy guns or weapons, please.

## BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

At Mrs. O's Preschool, we follow, model, and expose each preschooler to our six core values: respect, courage, determination, confidence, playfulness, and community. All discipline actions will be positive in nature. The method of discipline will vary with the age and action of the child. Individual teachers are given discretion in how to handle each situation as it arises. As a matter of policy, the following is a general framework for discipline.

- Separate the child from the behavior
- Redirect the child's behavior
- Give acceptable choices
- Use positive language
- Look for a deeper problem

Our priority is your child's safety. If we feel a child is struggling with following the classroom directions and is putting themselves or others in a dangerous situation, he/she will be moved to the "Take A Break Station".

If the behaviors continue, a meeting will be scheduled between the parents and teachers. Parents will be asked to withdraw their child if the behaviors are not corrected.

## LICENSING NOTEBOOK

There shall be a licensing notebook on the premises which includes all licensing inspections and special investigation reports and related corrective action plans since our opening (September 3, 2019) and a summary sheet outlining the documents contained in the notebook. The notebook shall be made available to parents and prospective parents at all times during the center's normal hours of operation.



## Mrs. O's Preschool Calendar 2021/2022

**\*\*WE WILL FOLLOW THE PORTAGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR\*\***  
**\*\*This calendar will be updated when the 2021/2022 PPS Calendar is released!\***

September 7 - First Day of School

November 24, 25, & 26 - NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Vacation

December 20 - December 31 - No School, Winter Vacation

*January 3 - School Resumes*

March 31 - April 8 - NO SCHOOL, Spring Break

*April 11 - School Resumes*

May 27 - Last Day of School