



Mrs. O's PRESCHOOL

Where your children take their first step in learning.

Welcome to Mrs. O's Preschool! 2019 - 2020

Dear Preschool Families,

We are so excited for you to join Mrs. O's Preschool family this year! It is our goal for each of the students to enjoy school, thrive as a learner, and eventually enter kindergarten with confidence.

At Mrs. O's Preschool we recognize that our families are coming from a variety of perspectives. Some of you are preparing to drop off your little ones for the first time, while others have had previous school experience. The anticipation of the first day of school can fill children and families with both excitement and nervousness. Starting school is something that your children have likely been thinking about all summer. Soon they will walk into a new room with new children and new grownups. Mom or Dad may be a little teary-eyed that their "baby" is growing up so fast. It's no wonder that some kids may cling to parents and get emotional.

We know that you are entrusting the four of us with a very precious gift, and we feel honored to be your child's first teachers.

We are so excited to introduce your child to the love of school and to provide a strong foundation for their learning. Feel free to contact us with comments, concerns, or questions. We are happy to assist in any way possible.

MEET THE STAFF

Nancy Obidzinski-Lum is a proud graduate of Western Michigan University and has spent 39 years fulfilling her passion of 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 excited to bring Mrs. O's Preschool to our wonderful city of Portage!

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 cannot wait to begin this exciting journey with her mom and sister. She looks forward to sharing her passion with you!

Meaghan Obidzinski Lum is thrilled to begin this new adventure with her mom, Nancy, and sister, Katelyn! In 2009, Meaghan 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! Currently, she is completing her eighth year at Moorsbridge teaching Kindergarten and will now venture out to open this new preschool with her incredible family!

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!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Here is a list of important supplies your child will need for preschool:

-One full change of clothing (shirt, pants, socks, underwear) labeled with your child's name in a large ziploc bag. This will be kept in your child's backpack for the school year in case of bathroom accidents, water play, or other messy activities.

-A LARGE BACKPACK - not "mini." It should be large enough to carry the Ziploc bag with the full change of clothing, winter clothes, and your child's artwork.

MEET AND GREET

Please join us at Mrs. O's MEET AND GREET on Tuesday, September 3rd. The teachers will be available to greet you and your child from 9:00-11:00 a.m. (Parents must attend). This is an informal event to touch base with all of our families before the first official school day! We can discuss preschool routines and procedures and also give the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. You and your child may take a moment to get acquainted with the classroom and most importantly, say hello to his/her new teachers. This may help with transitioning to our first official day of school on Wednesday, September 4th. Our Tuesday/Thursday session will officially begin on Thursday, September 5th.

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

The preschool doors will open at 8:50/12:50 for student drop off. When you bring your child in the building, please look for the iPads located on the sign-in desk. Mrs. O's will utilize an online portal called KINDERLIME. The KINDERLIME portal will give you a four digit passcode which you will use to sign in every school day.

When you have signed in your child, you may walk him/her to their appropriate cubbie room. We will make sure we let you know if your child is in the jungle classroom (yellow cubbie room) or the barnyard classroom (red cubbie room).

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

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 picture ID when there is a change in pick up. Please include all people your child can be released to on the emergency form.

KINDERLIME

Kinderlime 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. Kinderlime is compatible with both Android and Apple devices. You should have received an email from Kinderlime. If you have not, please be sure to contact us!

We can't wait to walk with you as your child takes his/her first step in learning. We welcome you to the Mrs. O's Preschool Family!

Sincerely,

Nancy, Meaghan, Katelyn, and Alyssa