



September 2025 All School Newsletter

Welcome, everyone! We are so happy to be working with your family this year. We are looking forward to a wonderful school year! To be informed about what is happening in our school, we ask that you reference our monthly all-school newsletter.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFO: If your address, phone number, or emergency contacts change during the school year, please keep us updated. If you use your cell phone as an emergency number, please keep it turned on while your child is in school.

A WORD ABOUT FEET: Our students are very active during their days at MEEC. They climb and run on the playground, use balance beams, and move around a lot in the gym. To be safe and able to participate in all activities, we are requesting that children wear tennis shoes. Please save the sandals and Crocs for times when your child is not at MEEC. Please dress them in washable play clothes, because sometimes we get messy!



SCHOOL SUPPLIES: We are asking every student to send in the following school supplies:

Great Beginnings & Wee Three's PM: Large package of baby wipes

Stepping Stones: Package of small, cheap, and uncoated plates & cotton balls

Wee Three's AM Big Room: Gallon-size Ziplock bags and a package of straws

Pre-K: Package of large, cheap, and uncoated plates



WEBSITE: Please use our website, www.meec.us for vital information. There you will find classroom newsletters, forms, the school calendar, curriculum, and lots of other good stuff.

♥ Welcome to
Preschool!

Volunteer Needed: We are looking for a parent, grandparent, or friend who would be able to re-carpet our four balance beams in the gym. Please reach out to the office, and thanks in advance for your help!



HALLWAYS: Please do not arrive too early before your child starts their class. Sometimes, arriving too early can make your child more anxious. Other times, children get bored and begin to run in the halls or use equipment in the hallways that is needed for students. We want children to respect the school rules with a quiet voice and walking feet. When a child is overstimulated in the hallway, it doesn't allow them to enter the classroom ready to learn. We appreciate your help!

TUITION: Your monthly payment is due by the 5th of each month. Please submit your payments to the office. We kindly request that you refrain from placing payments in your child's backpack or leaving them in the bins in the hallway. If you are paying by cash, please place it in an envelope marked with your child's name.



MEEC Spirit Sale: We are excited about our spirit wear sale! The spirit store will accept orders online until September 18th. Throughout the school year, we will have spirit days, so grab your MEEC gear today. **This will be the only sale of the year,** so **[CLICK HERE TO ORDER!](#)**

SICK POLICY: We ask that you please keep in mind that our sick policy is that a child must be free of fever, vomiting, or diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school. **We ask that you do not give your child fever-reducing medicine to mask the symptoms.** Please understand that a fever is a precursor to contagious colds, COVID, and Monkeypox. We appreciate your diligence in avoiding the spread of illness.



CLASS DOJO: This year, we will be using Class Dojo to communicate with families. **All families should have at least one family member join.** Teachers will use this to share reminders about special days, send pictures, or for school cancellations. Parents, you will be able to chat directly with the teachers. This is an easy and quick way to communicate with our staff! Please download the app and click the link to join. Please remember to enter your child's first and last name. Also, there is no reason to make any purchase. Simply click "No, Thank You". Please feel free to share this with other family members.

[Great Beginnings](#)



[Stepping Stones](#)

[Wee Three's AM Big Room](#)

[Wee Three's PM Little Room](#)

[Pre-K](#)

NEWSLETTERS: Each month, your teachers will provide you with details about activities in your child's classroom. These newsletters will be emailed to your family, posted on the class bulletin board, and on our school website. **If you are not receiving an email with our monthly newsletters, please let Ms. Cindy know, and she will resolve the issue.**

DROP OFF & PICK UP: Since we have limited time with our students, we ask that you be on time for your child to start their school day. Please wait in the hallway with your child until the teacher opens the door to greet them. At the end of the day, the teacher will want to share with you about your child's day, so **please arrive 10 minutes before dismissal.** We ask that you please keep all children by your side in the hall. Please avoid them playing on the stairs, in the fellowship hall, or in the gym. **If, for any reason, you need us to bring your child out to the car (perhaps younger siblings are sleeping), please just call the office, and we will be happy to accommodate.**

SNACKS: Each class will have a snack sign-up. We are trying to encourage a variety of healthy snacks for our students. Many parents of young children struggle with trying new foods. The school setting and positive pressure from peers are the perfect combination to make this happen. We strongly encourage parents to send in cut-up fruit, veggies, bananas, yogurt, etc. Just a reminder that we are a nut-free school. Make sure to read the directions on the Sign-Up Genius link provided in your child's class newsletter. Thank you for your support!

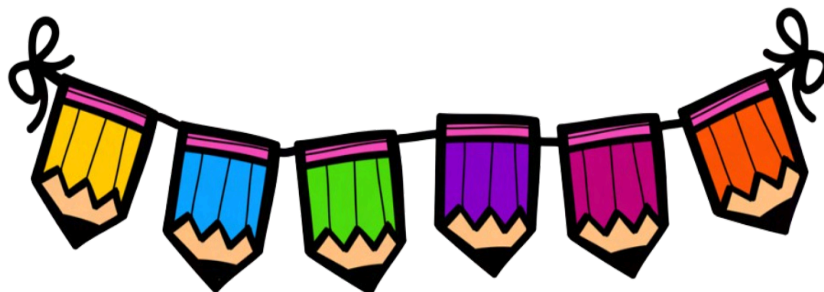


Fall Picture Day: We are excited to have Lifetouch Photography come to take our school pictures this year. Picture Day will be on **Wednesday, October 8th, and Thursday, October 9th.** Your child's picture will be taken during class time on the day that they attend school. You will receive a proof with the option to order photos. **Online orders will be due October 16th.** The pictures are great, and our school gets a small profit from the photo sales!



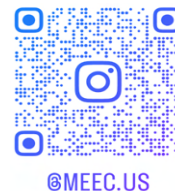
PARENT ROOM: Please take advantage of our parent room located upstairs and next to the gym. We have provided this space for families and little ones to wait while their preschooler is in class. We have also added a Parent Lending Library to this room. Feel free to read and borrow a book of interest. Lastly, please be respectful of the area. Make sure the garbage is disposed of in the trash can, the library is only used for adults, and toys are returned to the proper place. We hope you enjoy this space!

PTO-(Parent Teacher Organization): We are so thrilled to have [Chelsea Repasy & Taylor Wallace](#) as the head of our PTO group at our school. They have a bulletin board in the hallway to the right when you walk into the school for information about upcoming events. The purpose of this organization is to bring parents and teachers together for the success of the children. Information will come out soon about our meetings that will be bi-monthly at the school and through ZOOM. We hope to see you there!





LIKE US ON FACEBOOK! Watch for pictures, artwork, and fun activities from your child's day! If you would like to enjoy pictures from your child's day, we encourage you to follow us on [Facebook](#) & [Instagram](#)!



@MEEC.US

HOW CAN YOU HELP RAISE MONEY FOR OUR SCHOOL?

THRIVENT FINANCIAL FOR LUTHERANS allows its members to designate a recipient for Choice Dollars. Choose MEEC, and we will receive a quarterly donation from Thrivent.

UNITED WAY: MEEC is a United Way Agency. You can designate your donation for United Way to be used for MEEC by using our code (50239).

Are you looking to rent a space for a party gathering? Bethel Lutheran Church has the Fellowship Hall (\$200 per day) and Gathering Place (\$175 per day) available to rent. Reservation forms will need to be filled out before the church council's monthly meetings, every 2nd Tuesday of the month. This opportunity is a great stress reliever where you don't have to worry about cleaning your house or making sure you have enough room for everyone. [Click here to make your reservation!](#) If you have questions, please see Gail Gold in the church office or email: Bethelstaff@sbcglobal.net or call Office Phone: (440) 843-6663.

Nature Center Field Trip: We will be going to the Bay Village Nature Center on Friday, October 17th. The little room and Wee Three's AM class will start their adventure at 10 am. The Stepping Stones and Pre-K class at noon. During your time at the center, families will explore the newly renovated Nature Center with a scavenger hunt, create a bird feeder, and visit the planetarium. We are limiting families to no more than three due to space restraints in the planetarium. Families will drive themselves to the Nature Center (parking is limited, so be prepared to walk and enjoy the view of the leaves). If your child is not able to attend the field trip, there is no school that day. Field Trip forms will be sent home in a few weeks. Money and forms will need to be **returned by Friday, October 3rd.**



Lake Erie Nature &
Science Center

TRUNK OR TREATING: We are very excited for our annual Trunk or Treating in collaboration with Bethel Lutheran Church! Bring your little ghosts and goblins with their treat or treat bags and dressed up in their Halloween costumes to trick or treat at the decorated cars on Friday, October 17th, from 6:00 - 6:30 pm. **If you would like to reserve a parking spot to show off your decorated trunk and pass out candy, we would love to have you!** Please let the office know by October 15th to hold your spot. We ask for all decorated cars to be parked by 5:45. Please be prepared to show your Halloween spirit and have goodies just like trick-or-treat night.



Paperwork: Just a reminder that all paperwork is due by Friday, September 12th. Please understand that we cannot allow your child to attend school past this date if their medical form is not on file, so please don't delay!

Dismissal: Teachers give a general overview of the activities your child participated in ten minutes before the end of the day. This information is key to having a conversation about their day. When you ask a child about their day, they most often will reply, "I played"; however, there is so much more about their day. So please make sure you are there ahead of dismissal time, so your teacher has a chance to fill you in about their day. We pride ourselves on communication with our families, so please be there to take in this information.

UPCOMING EVENTS:	First Day of School	September 2nd
	Picture Day	October 8 & 9th
	Teacher In-Service (No School)	October 13th
	Field Trip to Nature Center	October 17th
	Trunk or Treating	October 17th @ 6pm
	Conference Days	Nov. 4th & 7th



"Miss Laura" Brown holds a Master's Degree in Special Education from Baldwin Wallace College. She was an Intervention Specialist for the Medina City Schools for 19 years. She has been a strong advocate for MEEC since her 3 children graduated from here. In her spare time, she gardens, swims, and enjoys spending time with her grandchildren. We are happy to have her as our Autism Scholarship Coordinator.

"Miss Tonya" Farran-Zaripheh, Director/Teacher, has earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Notre Dame College and is completing her Master's degree at Baldwin Wallace University. She has 17 years of experience as an MEEC preschool teacher, as well as coursework and experience in special education. She is the proud parent of her five children, who are all MEEC alumni!

"Miss Kim" Garvey, Assistant Teacher, has been with us since 2018. She has been involved in the special needs community for several years and has been volunteering with Connecting for Kids. She has done countless hours of research and has experience with her children. Kim's kind and calm personality makes her a great match for MEEC. Ms. Kim will be assisting our little friends in the big classroom.

"Miss Deena" Hernandez, Teacher, has earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Development and Family Studies from Kent State University. She has previous experience working in preschool classrooms with children of all abilities. She also has experience working closely with families to provide support and community resources. Miss Deena's daughter is a recent graduate of MEEC. She is excited to meet our families and help the children learn and grow. Ms. Deena will be teaching our youngest students in the small room.

"Ms. Dawn" Karter, Assistant Teacher, is a graduate of Heidelberg University with a Bachelor's degree in Child/Adolescent Psychology. Dawn has been part of the MEEC family as a parent for four years. She has experience in the preschool setting and is a mother of two children. Her high energy and enthusiasm are a great asset to our students!

"Miss DeAnna" Lindsey, Teacher, has earned a Master's Degree in Social Work and has previous experience with ABA programming. Two of her three daughters are MEEC graduates. We are pleased to have DeAnna starting her 10th year as a teacher in the big room,

"Miss Sarah" Maloney, Teacher, happily joined our MEEC family in 2021. She brings lots of fun and enthusiasm as a teacher in the big room. Sarah graduated from The University of Akron with a B.A. in Elementary Education. She comes to us from The Goddard School with a vast knowledge of working with individuals with autism.

"Miss Talia" LoPiccolo, Assistant Teacher, brings over 10 years of experience in providing personal and companion care, where she developed a natural gift for supporting children and adults of all abilities with patience and warmth. Her passion for helping others grow has inspired her to transition into early childhood education. She is eager to bring her energy and care into the classroom. Outside of work, Talia enjoys spending time with family, the outdoors, and cooking something yummy! She's thrilled to join the team and looks forward to getting to know all of the children and families in the Great Beginnings classroom.

"Miss Bri" Vargo-Monschein, Teacher, joined our school in 2024. Ms. Bri earned a Bachelor's degree from Kent State University and her Master's degree in Communication from Southern New Hampshire University. She has previous work experience in the county board setting, working with individuals with developmental disabilities throughout the lifespan. This work includes: case management services, assisting families with connecting to community resources, and advocacy. She has two children, one is currently attending MEEC. She is most looking forward to meeting all the families and being able to help the children learn, grow, and thrive.

"Miss Jennifer" Morgan, M.A. CCC/SLP, Speech Language Pathologist, has been at MEEC for over 25 years. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Ithaca College and her Master's Degree at Kent State University in Speech-Language Pathology. She has completed over 50 hours of continuing education on a variety of subjects, including Feeding and Swallowing, Stuttering, Augmentative and Alternative Communication, Neuroscience and Self Regulation, and Play Based Treatment Programs. Miss Jennifer loves movement-based therapy! "If the kids are having fun, it makes learning easy!"

"Miss Sharon" Prexta, M.A. CCC/SLP, Speech Language Pathologist, has been at MEEC since 2000. She earned her Bachelor's degree from Baldwin Wallace College and her Master's Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Cleveland State University. She specializes in Sensory Integration, Apraxia, Augmentative Communication, and Autism. "At MEEC we treat the whole child using evidence-based therapy techniques. We build movement and motor planning activities into every speech session."

"Miss Chelsea" Repasy, Assistant, has earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from Slippery Rock University. She has prior training in ABA therapy from the Cleveland Clinic, along with in-home care. She also has a background in dance and loves to add it to the classroom as it brings joy and creativity to the students. Outside of school, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two children. Chelsea has been with MEEC since 2021 and enjoys helping in the big room!

"Miss Sidney" Rihvalsky, Teacher/Assistant, studied at Ohio University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in psychology. Here, she began working in early childhood education and fell in love with it. Once graduated in 2020, Sidney worked as a behavior therapist at a school for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Since then, she has been a caregiver for multiple families with young children and has worked as a teacher in an early preschool classroom. Sidney began her experience at MEEC in 2023. In the morning, she teaches in the mornings in the big classroom, and in the afternoon, assists in the little room. She is grateful and honored to be a part of such a beloved school!

"Miss Nikki" Sphar, Assistant, has been working in early childhood education for 20 years and has her Child Development Associate. She enjoys working with preschoolers to see how they develop throughout the year and enjoys her great conversations with them! She is a huge Cleveland Guardians fan, enjoys being out in nature, listening to music, and spending time with family and friends.

"Miss Cindy" Todorov, Office Administrator, has a background in software support and enjoys keeping things organized and running smoothly in the office. Cindy's big smile and welcoming personality make everyone feel at home at our school.

We are ready to have a great year!

