



Stepping Stones 2024

Dear Families,

We would like to welcome you to our Stepping Stones Class at MEEC! We are excited to start this school year with you and your child. Each month you will have access to a monthly newsletter that will introduce the themes and activities that your child will be participating in while at school. The newsletter will also contain important information about upcoming events such as show & tell, parades, parties, etc. Monthly newsletters will be sent via e-mail and will also be available on the [school's website](#). It is our hope that the information will help to prepare your child for class and foster conversation about their day.

Email Check: An electronic copy of this newsletter will be sent to you and all future newsletters will be sent home via email. Please check your email to be sure you have received a copy of this newsletter. **If you have not, notify Ms Cindy to make sure she has an accurate email address for your family.**

Paperwork: Please fill out and return ALL your paperwork that you received in your child's initial folder. Especially your child's Medical Statement filled out and signed by a physician. This important form must be on file in the office and is good for one calendar year. You may place all paperwork in the tray located in the hall, on the shelf, outside the big room. **We would appreciate this paperwork by Friday, September 13th.**

Remind App: We will be utilizing this important texting app to communicate reminders about things at school like, Show-n-Tell, Field Trips, school cancellations, etc. All families should have at least one family member join. Parents will be able to communicate through text with their child's teachers using this app. (questions, absences, etc.) Please feel free to share this with other family members. Sign up with this [Remind Link](#) or you can text the number 81010 and in the text message box type "@meecstep". Please let us know if you need any help.

Backpack - Please have your child bring a backpack each day they attend school. Make sure to have a complete change of clothes in your child's backpack because we can get messy at preschool! If your child is not potty trained please also pack a few diapers/pull-ups.

Letter of the Week: Each week, starting in September we will be introducing a new letter of the alphabet at circle time, starting with "Aa". Activities throughout the week will reinforce the upper and lowercase letter. Visual recognition of these letters is our goal, although we will be presenting the phonetic sound for those children who are developmentally ready. As the year progresses, we will have review and repetition of letters previously introduced.



Gym Activities: Your child will participate in gym activities daily. Motor development is the foundation to all development in young children. If not in the gym, they will be engaging in various gross motor activities (playground time, walks, etc.) to continue to promote these skills. Tennis shoes daily are necessary for gym and outside play. It provides your child with a safe shoe that allows for full participation.



Journal Reading: During circle time the children will be exposed to journal reading. After participation in a story and activities, the teacher will record responses and print words on a chart. These responses will be read together and children who are beginning to read will be called upon to read aloud, as the teacher points to the words. This whole language approach to reading will help to build the symbol to word connection and reinforce the concept of left to right progression, as well as sight word vocabulary.

Snack: We ask families to sign up for snacks two times a year. Please give these supplies to a teacher when you arrive at the classroom door. We request that you send in a large package of baby wipes, 100 - 5 ounce cups, a large package of napkins, and a healthy snack for 21 children for three days.



Keep in mind that due to allergies, no dairy or nuts. If your child is on a special diet and brings his/her own snack please make sure to tell a teacher and put the snack in their backpack. [Click here to sign up](#)

Birthdays: Please let your child's teacher know if it is their birthday, so we may celebrate their special day. You are welcome to send in a special snack or treat for the class on that day, if you choose.



Show-n-Tell: We will have Show-n-Tell about once every month. Generally, children will be asked to bring in a theme-related item. Show-n-Tell encourages social interaction and language expression. Please prepare your child in advance by having them practice saying a few words about what they have chosen to bring in. Please mark your calendar for the dates of Show-n-Tell. This month Show-n-Tell will be on **Tuesday, September 10th**. Children are asked to bring in their "**Favorite Summer Treasure**". This may be a souvenir from a vacation or picture from a favorite summer activity.



Fall Picture Day: Lifetouch Photography will be coming to our school on **Wednesday, October 16th**. Pictures will be taken during your child's class time! A flier with more information will be sent home soon with more information.

Field Trip - Red Wagon Farm: On **Tuesday, October 8th** our school will have an all school field trip to Red Wagon Farm. Families will meet at the farm. The morning class will start their field trip 10am and the afternoon class will meet at 11:30am. The cost will be \$10 for children and \$2 for parents. Please complete your form (to be distributed at a later date), enclose cash in an envelope to the shelf in the hall. Money and forms are due no later than Friday, September 27th.



Mystery Reader: We are excited to invite "Mystery Readers" into the classroom. Our Mystery Reader (parent/grandparent/graduate of MEEC) will prepare a short story to read to the class on their assigned day at 10:45am. We ask that you wait in the hall until we are ready for your surprise visit. The children get very excited to see who the mystery reader is - so it's a secret!



[Mystery Reader Sign Up](#)

Cooking Lesson: On occasions the class will be participating in cooking lessons. These lessons encourage self-help skills and fine motor development as children cut, stir, mix, roll, measure, etc. Children have experience with cause and effect, and they gain practice in sequencing, as students recall the steps. Finally, cooking fosters a sense of accomplishment as children perform a life skill, and enjoy the product they have created.



Celebrating Birthdays This Month:



Aaradhya - September 15th
Happy Belated B-day to August Birthdays
(John, Ayden, Alek, Tabitha)



OUR SCHEDULE!

- **Entry-** Children will enter the classroom for a fine motor activity, craft, and skills
- **Circle Time-** All the children will gather on the carpet for a language-based lesson and music and movement activities. Here, we sing a "Hello" song that greets each child individually. We sing about monthly themes, holidays, etc. All the teachers sit with the children. We review the calendar, weather, the Pledge of Allegiance, Letter of
- **Movement Break** - The students will work outside the classroom on various movement activities. This movement break will allow their bodies to increase their blood and oxygen flow which will then positively affect their cognitive development.
- the Week, concepts, etc.
- **Craft:** The children will transition to their teachers table for a theme related art activity.
- **Gym/Free Play-** The children will then go to the gym for gross motor work and then return to the classroom for free play. Children are allowed to make a plan for their free play by choosing their activity from 2-3 choices. This is a great opportunity to make a plan, carry out and engage their peers.
- **Snack/Dismissal-** Snack time children work on table manners, opening containers, and verbalizing requests. This is a great time to engage in conversations with teachers and peers as well.

Classroom Activities:

September Songs:

"I Am Me"
"Shake a Friend's Hand"
"Way Up High in the Apple Tree"
"One, Two Buckle My Shoe"

September Gym:

Chalk Bodies
Friends in the Dell
Ball Skills with partners
Outside Play

Week of September 3rd

Me
All About Me Book Page
Friendship Tree

Theme: Friends/All About



Week of September 9th

My Family House
Noodle Body
Show-N-Tell: Favorite Summer Treasure (Tuesday
September 10th)
Letter A - Animals

Theme: Family/Letter A



Week of September 16th

Tear Apple Art
Eaten Apple
Letter B - Buttons on Blue

Theme: Apples/Letter B



Week of September 23rd

Apple on Top
Chicka Chicka 123
Letter C - Cookies

Theme: Numbers/Letter C



The entire staff at MEEC looks forward to a fun and productive school year. Please remember if you have a question or comment, feel free to talk to your teacher. Thank you!

Stepping Stones Teachers

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Ms. Sarah- sarahmaloney.meec@gmail.com

Assistants: Ms. Chelsea, Ms. Dawn, and Ms. Mamta

MEEC Website www.meec.us



Like us on Facebook (Middleburg Early Education Center). We love to post pictures of the children's day!

We are ready to have a great year!

