



September 2024 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:

Little Room Students: Large box of Kleenex

Big Classroom Students: Large container of baby wipes



WEBSITE: Please use our website, www.meec.us for vital information. There you will find classroom newsletters, forms, the school calendar, and lots of other good stuff. It's also an easy way to find out if MEEC is closed due to bad weather or other emergency - we post it on the home page.

♥ Welcome to
Preschool!

HONEY DEW LIST: MEEC & Bethel Lutheran Church would like to build a directory for families that could offer assistance. We are looking for a few knowledgeable adults to offer services around our property. Skilled craftsmanship in the following areas would be greatly appreciated:



painters, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, roofers, power washing, landscapers, snow removal, and heating. Whether your help would be hands-on service, free consultation, or an "I know a guy" offer, it would be very appreciated.

A few examples of help we are looking for would be installing window air conditioners in our speech room, repairing a broken door on our Little Tikes House, etc. If you can lend a hand please [click here](#).

TUITION: Your monthly payment is due by the 5th of each month. Please submit your payments to the office. We ask that you do not place payments in your child's backpack or leave it 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.



REMIND TEXTING: We use the REMIND app for texting. 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 text directly back to the teachers. This is an easy and quick way to communicate with our staff! You can click the link below to join your child's class. Please feel free to share this with other family members.

[Great Beginnings Remind Link](#)

[Wee 3's PM Remind Link](#)



[Wee 3's AM Remind Link](#)

[Stepping Stones Remind Link](#)

[Pre-K Remind Link](#)

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, and posted on the class bulletin board, and 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 are 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 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 are happy to accommodate.

SNACKS:



Each class will have a snack sign-up. We are really 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 signup genius link provided in your child's class newsletter. Thank you for your support!



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 10 am and the afternoon class will meet at 11:30 am. The cost will be \$10 for children and \$2 for parents. Please complete your form, and enclose cash in an envelope to the shelf in the hall. Money and forms are due no later than Friday, September 27th.

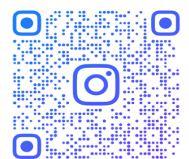
Fall Picture Day: We are excited to have Lifetouch Photography coming to take our school pictures this year. Picture Day will be on Wednesday, October 16th, and Thursday, October 17th. Your child's picture will be taken during class time on the day that they attend school. You will receive a proof with the option to order photos. Online orders will be due October 24th. The pictures are great and our school gets a small profit from the photo sales! A flier will be emailed later with more information.



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. Please check out the [MEEC PTO Facebook](#) to see important information and interesting tidbits for families! 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS:	First Day of School	September 3rd
	Field Trip Red Wagon Farm	October 8th
	Teacher In-Service (No School)	October 14th
	Picture Day	October 16 & 17th
	Trunk or Treating	October 18th
	Conference Days	Nov. 5th & Nov. 8th

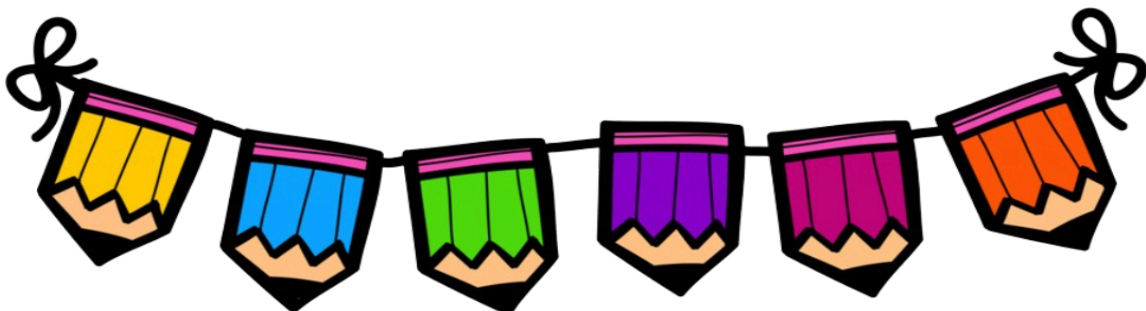


"C" Batteries

6in Uncoated Cheap Small Paper Plates
9in Uncoated Cheap Large Paper Plates

Paperwork: Just a reminder that all paperwork is due by Friday, September 13th. 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.





MEET OUR STAFF

"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 Danae" Corbett, Teacher/Assistant is the mother of five children and three MEEC graduates. Danae has her Associate's Degree from Lorain County Community College. She has also worked closely with schools maneuvering the IEP process. Danae's calmness and problem-solving mind are well-suited for all our students.

"Miss Mamta" Dubey, is very excited to be part of the MEEC family in her first year as an assistant. Mamta holds a childcare professional diploma from Penn Foster Career School and a Bachelor of Education Degree from Banaras University. She enjoys using yoga and the arts to connect with children.

"Miss Tonya" Farran-Zaripheh, Director/Teacher, has earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education from Notre Dame College and is completing her Masters degree at Baldwin Wallace University. She has 16 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, joins us following a stint as a stay-at-home mom. She has been involved in the special needs community for several years, volunteering with Connecting for Kids. She has done countless hours of research and 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 small and big classrooms.

"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 9th year as a teacher in the big room,

"Miss Sarah" Maloney, Teacher, is a third-year team member at MEEC and we are happy to have her in the role of a teacher in the big room this year! 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 Bri" Vargo-Monschein, Teacher, is warmly welcomed to our staff! 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 son. Her family is super excited to meet her daughter, Daisy, due in October! Chelsea has been with MEEC for five years and is excited to be helping in the big classroom.

"Miss Sidney" Rihvalsky, 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 was 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 and is grateful and honored to be a part of such a beloved school!

"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.

