



NARBERTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL



2021-2022 School Handbook



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Welcome!

Preschool is an exciting time for you and your child, and we are glad that you are part of our school family! This handbook provides you with basic information about our school, our policies and our procedures.

We ask that you take a few moments to review the handbook and then refer to it throughout the year. If you have any questions that are not addressed in the handbook, please ask your child's teacher or the director. For Covid-19 related questions, please reference our Covid Policies and Protocols document [here](#).

Contact Information

Virginia Davis, Director
School Phone: (610) 664-8890
Cell Phone: (215) 528-9368
Email: preschool@narberthpres.org

Karin Waller, Bookkeeper
Email: kwaller@narberthpres.org

Teaching Staff

Lead Teachers:
Melissa Callan
Libby Collins
Dee Fulginitti
Elizabeth McAnally
Lisa Paninos
Kirsten Sams
Jennifer Toland

Assistant Teachers:
Mary Dafis
Phil Danni
Kishori Fernandes
Leigh Haakenson
Rebecca Hanna
Liliana Mironidis
Seble Zein



Purpose

The mission of NPC Christian Preschool is to provide a loving Christian atmosphere in which children find security, support, friendship, love and a joyful experience in their first school setting. The program is designed to provide children with a nurturing learning environment that is rooted in Jesus Christ.

Goals

I. To develop an awareness of God and His love for us through:

- Self, family, home, friends, neighborhood, town and world.
- Bible stories, drama, puppets, music, crafts, stories, poetry and field trips.

II. To develop positive attitudes and patterns in:

- Social Behavior: Sharing, helping, listening, manners, loving peer relationships, organizational skills, cooperation and language development.
- Emotional Behavior: Independent identity, feelings, actions, self-image, self-discipline and peer attitudes.

III. To develop skills in:

- Gross Motor: Balance, coordination, creative movement, and supervised playtime (gym activities).
- Fine Motor: Easel and table painting, free-hand drawing, crayons, cutting, pasting and/or gluing, pegboards and puzzles.
- Creative Imagination: Thinking, communicating, music, all art mediums, puppets, drama, role-playing, dress-up and games.
- Visual, verbal and auditory readiness: Alphabet, numbers, colors, shapes, children's literature, songs, and games.
- Independent self-care (eating, toileting)

IV. To broaden and develop the child's social world through:

- Field trips, special projects, organizations visiting our school, parents and friends of the school sharing their professions, talents and hobbies.

School Day

The school day runs from 9:00am to 12:00pm. Staggered drop-off will begin at 8:45am and staggered pick-up will begin at 11:45am. Please follow your class schedule for times and locations. We cannot accommodate drop-offs before 8:45am. Early pick-ups must be scheduled with the child's teacher or the director.



Program Schedules

Daily Schedules are different in each class and are set by the lead teacher. A typical day will consist of:

- Free Play/Free Choice and Clean-up
- Circle Time/Calendar
- Gross Motor Skill Development (Gym, Soccer, & Outdoor time)
- Snack Time
- Fine Motor Skill Development (Crafts) Story, Language Activities

Development in Readiness Pattern Areas

- Gross Motor Skills
- Fine Motor Skills
- Self care
- Relationships
- Directions
- Listening
- Creative Thinking
- The Five Senses
- Alphabet
- Numbers
- Colors
- Shapes
- Sequences
- Repetition
- Printing

Throughout the year we will be working on these readiness pattern areas with the utmost consideration of the age-appropriateness of the classroom and the activities within that classroom. Readiness for activities will depend on children's ages, so will vary between classrooms. We will also be working on applied awareness of self, family, home, friends, neighborhood, town and world.

Prayer

We believe that God loves to hear the prayers of His children, and honors their requests. If at any time during the school year, you have a personal concern and would like prayer support, please contact either your child's teacher or the director. All information will be kept confidential as we support you and your loved ones in prayer.



Brightwheel

Our school uses Brightwheel to communicate with our families. You will receive an invitation to sign up, and we invite you to set up your free account as soon as you do. We maintain children's attendance records on Brightwheel, and you will also receive photos, updates on learning activities, and reminders. After you have signed up, please update any of your child's personal information if for any reason it is incorrect or if something changes. You may also message the director or your child's teacher through the messaging tool. In addition, we will collect tuition and fees through Brightwheel. For more information visit mybrightwheel.com or contact the director.

Weather Policy

Always check Brightwheel for updates on weather-related delays.

- If LMSD closes for the day due to weather, NPC Christian Preschool (NPCCPS) will also close.
- If Lower Merion School District has a 2-hour delay:
 - NPCCPS morning classes will be canceled.
 - Children previously signed up for lunch bunch will still be able to attend beginning at 12pm.
 - Kindergarten enrichment will still occur.
- In the event that LMSD is closed for a number of days due to power outages at their schools and if NPCCPS has power and weather is no longer an issue, NPCCPS will have school at the discretion of the Director.
- In addition, NPCCPS will add two "cushion days" to the school year. What that means is in the event that NPCCPS closes for 4 or more snow days over the course of the school year, 1 additional instructional day will be added at the end of the school year. If NPCCPS closes for more than 8 days, a second instructional day will be added.



Tuition

Tuition payments are due the first of each month. A late fee of \$35.00 is charged if the tuition is received after the 5th of the month. Tuition is an annual fee, and payments are divided into ten installments for your convenience. Monthly tuition payments are due even if your child is sick or absent. If tuition is unpaid for two months, your child will be withdrawn from the school until all outstanding debt is satisfied. If this occurs, your child’s space will remain open. No new student will take your child’s space in the school unless you notify us that your child will not be returning. If you are withdrawing from the school, please give at least 30 days’ notice before withdrawing your child. If you remove your child from the school for any reason, you are responsible for completing your payments for the months your child participated in our school. Our budget is based solely on tuition, so timely payment is important.

Tuition may be made by check made out to “Narberth Presbyterian Church Christian Preschool” or paid on Brightwheel. The Preschool Board has approved the following tuition for the 2021-2022 school year:

| Class | Number of Days | Tuition Amount |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Early Years | Two Days | \$2630 |
| Early Years | Three Days | \$3160 |
| Early Years | Five Days | \$4220 |
| Three and Up | Two Days | \$2560 |
| Three and Up | Three Days | \$3120 |
| Three and Up | Five Days | \$4110 |
| Kindergarten Enrichment | Three Days | \$3850 |
| Kindergarten Enrichment | Five Days | \$4600 |

Monthly payments begin August 1st with the last payment due May 1st.



Field Trips & Events

Field trips are designed to be fun and to enhance our school's curriculum. They are for the school child only, so we will not be able to accommodate siblings on these trips. For insurance reasons, parents are responsible for their children's transportation. If you need to carpool, please make arrangements with another school family, and submit your carpool plan to the Director in writing prior to the beginning of the trip (email notification is fine). Field trips and special events will be scheduled throughout the year. A notice and/or permission slip will be sent home prior to the scheduled date with more information for any special events other than walking field trips.

Emergencies & Release of Child

The school requires that parents give us the name and phone number of a relative or friend that can be reached in an emergency if you are not available. Please give names of those who are reachable during school hours and remind them that they must bring their ID in order for the child to be released to them. If your child is being picked up by anyone other than the primary caregiver, please notify us via Brightwheel with the name of the person picking up and the date they will be picking up. Please remember that the proper car seat must be used by anyone who picks up a child at NPCCPS.

Parking

We have obtained permission from the Borough for fifteen-minute parking on the church side of Windsor Ave for easier drop-off, and for your convenience. This year we will be following staggered drop-offs in a car line. Please refer to the Covid-19 plan and your classroom schedule for drop-off and pick-up procedures. Please be aware of the parking spaces marked "handicapped." The police will issue tickets if you are parked between the signs.

Our continual and primary concern is for the safety and well-being of your children. Please watch them carefully outside on the sidewalks, and do not permit them to play near the window wells of the Church. Once the children have been released to you, they are your responsibility.

Please do not park in the church parking lot. It is reserved for church and preschool staff. Thank you.



Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch is an optional extended day program five days a week from 12:00pm to 3:00pm at a cost of \$20.00 per child per day. We offer Lunch Bunch to children in the Early Years class until 1:30pm at the cost of \$15 per child per day. To sign up, please complete [this registration form](#). Prior signup is important for us, as it helps us to plan for appropriate adult coverage during this extended care time. If you need last minute drop-in care or need to cancel your care, please send a message via Brightwheel to the director. Payment will be made by check or on Brightwheel with your child's name on the memo and the Lunch Bunch date(s).

We are a nut-free school, so please do not send peanut butter or other peanut or tree nut-based foods for lunches.

Snacks

Parents are responsible for packing an individually wrapped nut-free snack and water bottle daily. Please label all items sent into school.

Birthdays and "Un" Birthdays

Celebrating your child's birthday gives special significance to your child on their big day. Please contact your child's teacher one week prior to the celebration if you'd like to send in a special snack for your child to share with the class. If your child's birthday does not fall during the school calendar, we can celebrate it on another day of your choice. Due to Covid-19, snacks sent in must be individually wrapped.

Clothing

Clothing should be comfortable and easy for the child to handle independently when using the bathroom. Outer garments will be placed in an area of the classroom as designated by your child's teacher. Please do not send your child in their Sunday best. Clothing does get exposed to paint and markers, even when the child is smocked.

For Early Years children, please send your child in clothing that is conducive to potty training. No cloth diapers, please.

Parents of toddlers, three-year-olds, and young four-year-olds need to bring a complete set of clothes (pants, shirt, underwear and socks) in a labeled Ziploc bag on the first day of school.

All students should come to school with a book bag or backpack to carry items to be sent home.



Personal Care

Every student in our school (other than the Early Years Program) must be self-sufficient in toilet needs. Diapers and pull-ups are not appropriate for this setting.

Health

Please follow our Covid-19 Policies and Protocols document for guidance on what to do when your child is sick. It can be accessed [here](#).

Please keep your child at home if he or she shows any of the following symptoms: fever at night or in the morning; fresh cold with runny nose and/or cough; rash; unusual fatigue; chills, nausea; vomiting; or diarrhea. Your child must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or other medication before returning to school.

Lice is prevalent in schools, and are hard to prevent, even with the best of prevention. If your child is found to have lice, he or she must be nit-free (nits are lice eggs) in order to return to school. The director will check your child's head in order to readmit them. You should notify your child's teacher or the Director if your child has lice. The name of any child with lice will be kept confidential, but a general notice will go out to all parents, letting them know that they should check their children's heads. Please be considerate, as this is for the health and protection of your child, other children and staff.

Child Placement

Classroom placements are made thoughtfully by the Director, with input from the teaching staff. A child's age at the start of school is a primary determiner of placement, but sometimes there are other factors (e.g. sibling placements). The goal of each placement is to maximize children's comfort, success and enjoyment.

Special Needs

As stated in our purpose, our goal is to provide a joyful, loving atmosphere that supports both our children and parents. We reserve the right to remove children with needs that cannot be met by the school, including those who seriously disrupt the normal operation of the school or our ability to meet our obligations to the other children and parents. We take such decisions seriously, and will always consult with parents before taking further steps. We are committed to dealing with every child with a maximum degree of sensitivity and love.



School Organization

Our school is a self-supporting ministry of Narberth Presbyterian Church. The Church appoints a Board of Advisors, which meets five times during the school year to oversee the school operation and review school policies and operations. The Board is made up of a Church Session Representative (Chair of the Board), the Pastor, the Children’s Director, Church Business Administrator, Preschool Director, and congregational and preschool parent representatives.

Narberth Presbyterian Christian Preschool Board of Advisors for 2021-2022:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Chair of the Board | Maria Kaminstein |
| Pastor | Steve Weed |
| Preschool Director | Virginia Davis (non-voting) |
| Director of Children's Ministries | Danielle Kauffman |
| Congregational Representatives | Carol Bellamy and Kristen Edge |
| Preschool Parent Representatives | Lindsay Bognanno, Tiffany Burnett and Danielle Sherlock |
| Business Administrator | Tim Roykouff |



Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy as to Students

SUBJECT: Nondiscrimination in Services
TO: Parents/Guardians and Staff
FROM: Virginia Davis, Director

Admissions, the provisions of services and referrals of clients shall be made without regard to race, color, religious creed, disability, ancestry, national origin (including limited English proficiency), age or sex.

Program Services shall be made accessible to eligible persons with disabilities through the most practical and economically feasible methods available. These methods include, but are not limited to, equipment redesign, the provision of aides and the use of alternative service delivery locations. Structural modifications shall be considered only as a last resort among available methods.

Any individual/client/patient/student (and/or their guardian) who believes they have been discriminated against, may file a complaint of discrimination with:

Christian Preschool
205 Grayling Ave
Narberth, PA 19072

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Human Services Bureau of Equal Opportunity
Room 225, Health & Welfare Building P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office for Civil Rights
Suite 372, Public Ledger Building 150 South Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, PA 19106-9111

PA Human Relations Commission
Harrisburg Regional Office
333 Market Street, 8th Floor Harrisburg, PA 17101
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Office for Civil Rights
Public Ledger Building
150 South Independence Mall West
Philadelphia, Pa 19106-9111 Suite 372