

Welcome to Rivergate Adventist Preschool



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Preschool! I am so excited to be able to spend this year with your children, preparing them for the adventures that await them in elementary school and life! My goal this year is to work alongside you to spark an interest in learning in each of your children while fostering their mental, physical, and spiritual growth!

In this handbook, you will find very useful and important information that is unique to our preschool. Please read it, along with Rivergate's School handbook and keep it so you are able to refer to it as needed during the year.

Together, we can make these first exposures to school both positive and memorable for your child.

Sincerely,

Robin Barnhart

Objectives

At Rivergate Preschool, our purpose is to provide quality learning opportunities for our students, to better prepare them for the coming school years ahead. We offer play experiences that contribute to the physical, social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual development of our students. We strive to maintain high and developmentally appropriate standards. Helping to instill a love for Jesus, school, and learning are our highest goals.

A Whole New (Scary?) World

The first day of school marks a big transition.

This new phase can be an emotional time for parent and child. Please be reassured that the staff at Rivergate Preschool will take good care of your child. Most adjust very quickly to school. Your child is welcome to bring an item of comfort (i.e.- a favorite blanket) for the first couple weeks if you feel this would be helpful.

Communication

Please make sure to check your child's backpack each day for our class communication folder. This is a laminated folder that we will use to send home completed work, permission slips, the lunch menu and weekly newsletters. Also, it is a good idea to go through backpacks over the weekend so nobody misses an important event or activity.

I value good communication between home and school. Please feel free to reach me by e-mail, robin@rgsda.org, or by phone @ 503.680.2702.

Lunches

Please send lunches marked with your child's name daily. Hot lunches are also available and can be purchased weekly through our lunch service. Please let us know if your child has any food allergies or dietary restrictions.

In accordance with the USDA regulations, all children in preschool are to be offered milk with lunch. All students who purchase hot lunch will receive milk, juice or water with their lunch. Below are the state guidelines to assist you. Please feel free to ask me any questions you may have.

Implementation Date	Requirement
In Effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Milk served to children two-years-old and older and adults must be low-fat or fat-free; and · Non-dairy beverages that are nutritionally equivalent to cow's milk may be served in place of fluid milk for children or adults with special dietary needs.
Effective October 1, 2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Milk served to one-year-old children must be unflavored, whole milk. · Flavored milk, included flavored non-dairy beverages, cannot be served to children 1 to 5-years-old; · Flavored milk served to children 6-year-old and older and adults must be fat-free; and · Yogurt may be served in place of fluid milk for adults once per day, unless the State agency chooses to implement this flexibility prior to October 1, 2017.

Please see memorandum SP 42-2016, CACFP 14-2016 *Early Implementation of the Child and Adult Care Food Program Meal Patterns* http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/cacfp/SP42_CACFP14_2016os_0.pdf for information on implementing the updated meal pattern requirements prior to October 1, 2017. FNS strongly supports implementing the updated meal patterns, including the fluid milk provisions outlined in this memorandum, as soon as possible because it will greatly benefit participating children and adults.

Toys

Unless it is a specific object from home that is helping a student feel more comfortable, we would prefer toys to stay at home. It is too easy to lose or break them when they are shared with classmates.

Clothing

Please make sure your child is wearing appropriate clothes in accordance with the school policy outlined in the school handbook. When possible, we play outside and may get wet. Please provide a change of clothes for incidents, just in case.

Birthdays

We celebrate each child's birthday in my classroom. For children who have summer birthdays, we will celebrate their half birthday. I will notify you of the day we will celebrate your child's summer birthday. They will receive a birthday crown and we will sing "Happy Birthday" to make them feel celebrated and special. Parents are welcome to bring treats that are store-bought and in unopened containers.

Snacks

We will provide a snack each day for your child. If you would like a list of snacks for the week, please let me know and I'll get you the list. If you would like to donate snack items such as goldfish, cheese sticks, or crackers that would be wonderful. We will not turn down snacks.

Pick Up and Drop Off

Refer to attached packet for pick-up and drop-off procedures. Our class meets between the gate and the first gym door.

Bathroom Procedure

Students are required to be fully independent using the bathroom before starting preschool at Rivergate. A preschool student who needs to use the restroom, may do so at any time. If it is already in use, they may line up outside the door to wait for their turn. If the restroom is occupied and it is an emergency, a teacher will accompany them to the main building's restroom. At times, such as before a long program or after gym time, we will line up and the whole preschool class will be asked to use the restroom. Students are expected to wash their hands before returning to the classroom.

Curriculum

Rivergate Preschool's curriculum is designed to continuously engage the student's interest and help provide them with the building blocks necessary to become kindergarten ready and succeed in the future.

Each week, a new thematic unit is chosen to accomplish these goals. The units are carefully chosen to be of inherent interest to preschool age children. Language arts, math, science, social studies, art and Bible story activities based on the unit will be presented to the students.

Behavior Plan

Classroom Rule:

I only have one rule and that is: We treat the people and environment around us with kindness and respect.

Consequences:

Depending on the situation, a child will initially be encouraged to switch to a new activity, discuss any problems with a classmate, or another natural consequence (i.e. pick up puzzle pieces if they were dumped out). If the behavior is continued, they will be temporarily removed from the situation to contemplate their choices. Then we will discuss what changes could be made with their teacher and apologize if appropriate. For more serious offenses (hitting, biting, etc.) the offending student will be removed from the situation and given time to calm down and reflect. Apologies will be expected. The parents will be notified.