

Kindergarten 2025-2026 FAQ Sheet

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Q: What supplies does my child need?

- Backpack
- Water bottle (labeled with name)
- Lands End Concert Shirt
- A family photo
- A smock (large t-shirt)

CLOTHING

Q: What is the school uniform?

- Plain jumpers (solid navy or khaki)
- Slacks, walking shorts, and skorts (solid navy, khaki, or sand)
- Collared shirts and turtlenecks (any solid color)
- Sweater, any solid color cardigan, crew, or v-neck (optional)
- Tights or leggings (any pattern, print, or color), must accompany a skirt, skort, or jumper
- Closed-toe, rubber-soled shoes, sneakers are preferred

Q: Should my child bring a change of clothes?

- Yes. Please send in a large, Ziploc bag filled with school uniform clothing: pants/skirt, leggings, long sleeve shirt, short sleeve shirt, socks, and underwear. Ideally, two sets of clothing if possible. Please be sure to label all clothing!

Q: Is my child allowed to bring toys, personal items, and/or gaming devices/watches to school?

- No, we ask that items such as these stay at home.

Q: Should my child bring a smock for art class?

- Yes. Please send in a large t-shirt, labeled with your child's name, that can be used as a smock during art class.

Q: Does my child need snow clothes/boots?

- We will send out an email as the winter season approaches to send in snow clothes, which we can stay at school. However, if you do not have an extra pair, we can certainly send snow clothes home.

Q: What is Friday Spirit Day?

- On Fridays, students are allowed to wear "Spirit Attire," which consists of any MKA Cougars apparel. Check out the online bookstore.
- If your child does not have MKA apparel, they can wear solid blue or green clothing.
- During Spirit Day, students are permitted to wear denim, but they must follow the rest of the school dress code.

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Q: What is New Student Orientation Day?

- New Student Orientation Day is for all parents and students new to MKA. Plan to spend about an hour on campus the morning of September 2, 2025. More detailed information will be provided in August.
- It's an opportunity for children and their parents to come into the classroom, take a tour, meet their new teachers, and hopefully begin to feel a bit more comfortable before the first day of school.

Q: How can my child celebrate a birthday at school?

- Each child will have the opportunity to celebrate their birthday in school this year. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on or close to the child's half-birthday. On the date of their celebration, children can bring individually wrapped birthday

snacks. All birthday snacks must be approved by the school nurse to check for allergies in the class. Summer birthdays will be celebrated towards the end of the year.

Q. Whom do I notify if my child has allergies?

- Notify your child's teachers and Primary School nurse, Rachael Masters (rmasters@mka.org), of any allergies prior to the start of the school year.

SNACK AND LUNCH

Q: What do the children eat for snack?

- Our dining services provider, DPG, will provide a daily snack for students in individual single servings. The snack menu is being developed.

Q: What if I have a picky eater or a child with allergies?

- You are welcome to send in a snack with your child.

Q: What are the procedures for lunch in K?

- Students may bring lunch from home or opt into the school's dining program via DPG. (Families will have the option to sign up in late August.) If students opt into the school's dining program, pre-ordered, individually packaged lunches will be delivered to classrooms. Please note that the Primary School campus is nut-free if you choose to send lunch from home. For the initial months of school, Kindergarteners eat lunch in their classrooms. In January, Kindergarteners will transition to eating their lunch in the Cafeteria.

Q: Should my child bring a water bottle to school?

- Students will keep a leak-proof water bottle in school. Please label this water bottle with your child's name. They will have opportunities throughout the day to fill their water bottles at the water station. Water bottles should be leak-proof.

TRIPS AND TRANSPORTATION

Q: Will K go on field trips throughout the year?

- Three or four field trips will be planned during the year.
- Students are required to wear a white, short-sleeved polo shirt with navy MKA logo
- Parent "Sign-up Genius" online forms will be sent out by Class Representatives to request chaperones.

Q: What are the morning drop-off procedures?

- Pre-K and K students and their first through third-grade siblings can arrive in the car line each morning starting at 7:30 am. Faculty and staff members will be positioned at numbered stations to help students from their cars. Students will be supervised in the gym while waiting to walk to their classrooms at 7:50 am. All students are expected to arrive at school by 7:50 am.

Q: If my child is signed up for Extended Play and Enrichment (EPE), where will he/she go?

- Teachers and members of the EPE team will support students in going to designated locations outside on the backfield to play for EPE, or designated locations indoors if it is raining.

Q: If my child participates in carline, where and when do I need to pick up?

- Carline begins at 2:20 each day in the main driveway circling around the Primary School.
- Put on your hazards as you proceed through carline.
- Please place a sign in your front window with your child's last name in large letters to assist us in helping your child get to your car quickly. A sign will be provided to you on Student Orientation Day, 9/2/25.
- Please leave the carline sign in your windshield until you pull away from the Primary School.

Q: If we walk to and from school, where can I drop off and pick up at the end of the day?

- Before the first day of school, we will let you know where to pick up once we have finalized our arrival and dismissal routine.

Q: Who do I email or call if there is a change in my child's dismissal plan?

- If there is a change to after-school plans for your child, please email both psnotifications@mka.org AND your co-teachers by 1:30 pm. This ensures that someone will see your email before the school day ends.

GENERAL KINDERGARTEN LOGISTICS

Q: Will my child study a world language?

- K students will be learning Spanish this year and throughout their time at Primary School. Spanish will take place in a half-group setting.

Q: What is “Cougar of the Week” in kindergarten?

- “Cougar of the Week” provides students with an opportunity to share with fellow classmates as well as teachers more about themselves, their families, and their culture. Each day has a specific theme for which each child will bring an object of importance to them and share it with the class. You may sign your child up to be “Cougar of the Week” on Sign-up Genius early in the school year.

Q: What are and when are the Writing Celebrations (WC)?

- Writing Celebrations are a special time to celebrate the concepts and skills your child has learned during the writing process. The importance of these days highlights the process, not the product.
- Our first Writing Celebration is December 19th, directly following the Winter concert. The second is May 19th. Please join us to celebrate the process of writing and growth throughout the year.

Q: When will recess occur during the day?

- Recess takes place twice a day, typically in the morning and afternoon. Recess will be outside each day, weather permitting, and in the event of snow, students will need snow clothes, snow boots, gloves, and a winter hat in order to participate. **Please mark all items with your child’s first and last name.**

Q: If I want to be a class parent, who should I contact?

- The PAMKA Kindergarten Representative will reach out via email to see if anyone is interested in being a class parent. Class parents help to organize parties, field trips, and send reminder notifications throughout the year.

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Q: How often will I be in communication with the teacher?

- You will be contacted by your classroom teacher at least once a month by phone or email, whichever is easiest and most convenient for you, to discuss your child’s progress and social/emotional well-being. We will also send out occasional highlights of class activities or topics that we are doing in the classroom. During months when we have a scheduled conference day and progress reports, these serve as your monthly contact; however, please do not hesitate to reach out at any time!
- Twice a year, you will receive a written summary of your child’s progress.

Q: How should I contact my child's teacher?

- Please address both teachers in an email. We try to check our email at various times/breaks during the day and will do our best to get back to you within 24 hours.

Q: Whom do I contact if my child will be absent?

- When your child is ill and will be absent, please call Primary School reception at 973-783-8805 or email psnotifications@mka.org between 7:30 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. **Please copy your child's co-teachers on any emails about an absence.**