

Cornerstone Classical Academy Preschool/VPK:

Overview

Cornerstone Classical Academy Preschool (CCAP) is an expansion program of Cornerstone Classical Academy (CCA), which was founded in 2020. CCAP will provide an opportunity that matches the rigorous and successful results of the K-12th grade operations. CCAP will build a strong classical foundation for our 4-year-old students, which will allow for educational advancement upon entering Kindergarten. Students will be taught to be independent, make their own choices, explore creatively, use critical thinking skills, and become confident individuals who have a true love of learning with instruction in moral character, civic virtue, and knowledge of truth. CCAP follows CCA's calendar. The operation of CCAP will be governed by the CCA Board of Directors.

Academic Standards

Cornerstone Classical Academy Preschool prides itself on the academic foundation we provide for our students. We ask that all students arrive in class on time so we can start to build academic success. We have built our curriculum based upon Classical Pedagogy, which is in line with VPK Standards. Our four-year-old program will prepare your children to enter CCA's Kindergarten ready to continue their journey of academic success.

Drop off and pick up

You will drop off your child through the school car line and the teacher will be there to greet them and direct them to their classroom. The teachers are there to focus on your child, so if you have any requests or needs, please communicate them to the teacher during off school hours. *See below for Parent Communication.*

If you are picking up your CCAP student with your CCA student, the CCAP student will be walking to the area where pick up is. If you are picking up your CCAP student at the end of their program, they will be walked to the front of the school where you will drive up to receive them. Parents must notify their child's teacher or the Director in advance if anyone other than who is on your approved pickup list will be picking up your student. We will be checking the identification of this person before allowing them to enter the CCAP. We will not release a student to any individual without proper identification.

Parent Communication

CCAP values the conversation that takes place between parents and teachers about the education of a student. Nonetheless, this conversation should follow certain guidelines to be fruitful and to allow teachers to devote themselves to their classes during the day. Parents may use any of the following ways to contact or communicate with the CCAP Director:

- Email faculty and staff members via ProCare

- Leave a message with the school receptionist.
- Hold a face-to-face meeting (which must be scheduled, in advance, using one of the means above).

During the school day and both immediately before and after school, teachers are focused on teaching, upcoming meetings, and extracurricular activities. Parents should schedule, in advance, a phone call or meeting with a teacher rather than trying to communicate through an impromptu chat. Parents who are in the building for another reason should not use their access to faculty to circumvent the normal means of contacting a teacher unless that teacher clearly invites such a conversation. This policy applies to parents who are CCA teachers or other employees.

CCAP teachers and administrators will respond to parents as quickly as possible. Parents should expect to hear from a teacher or the Director within forty-eight (48) hours of contacting the school, barring weekends, holidays, and summer. While a teacher's schedule may not permit an actual meeting within the forty-eight (48) hours, the teacher will attempt to make contact in some way.

Expectations for Parents

We believe parents have the ultimate responsibility for their children's education and that the school's role should be viewed as a supportive one. CCA expects parents to:

- Model good character and insist that their children cultivate good habits and virtues.
- Read to their children on a regular basis, ideally daily.
- Support the Academy's goals through familiarity with this handbook and parts of the website devoted to the mission and philosophy of the school, homework review, getting children to school on time, and holding high expectations and aspirations that contribute positively to the student's success.
- Carline rules and procedures must always be followed. Violation of the procedures will be considered a major violation of the safety of others.
- Any parent that violates the safety of others while on campus will be issued a No Trespass Warrant by the Duval County Sheriff's Office or via certified mail from the administration.

Inclement Weather Conditions/Evacuation

If Duval County schools close because of inclement weather, we will also be closed. All other school weather closings are at the discretion of the administration. Please be sure your email and phone numbers are kept current with your student's teacher or the Director so we can keep in contact with you in the event of evacuation. **In case of immediate evacuation, all students will be directed to the school cafeteria.**

Emergency Preparedness Plan

In the event of an emergency, the Lead Teachers and teacher assistants will guide the children into the bathroom located in the classroom. The students will be seated close together. The

Administration or Lead Teacher will ensure all windows and doors are secure. Parents will be informed via text of imminent danger and instructed to please wait for the danger to clear. Administration will join teachers and students and periodically check for continued safety. All families may pick up their children after danger has passed.

Custody/Legal Disputes

Occasionally situations arise when we may deem it unsafe to release your child. Please do not arrive intoxicated or under the influence of drugs that may hinder your judgment and put the safety of your child at risk. Parental and Custody Disputes should be resolved between the parties involved and legal decisions submitted in writing to the Director. Legally, the only orders CCAP can follow are those listed in legal documents and/or Orders of Protection. Both parents have equal rights under the law unless these rights have been specifically removed by a judge. Parent requests that are not in line with the judge's orders will not be granted and the local police will be called before the child can be released from CCAP.

Lunch

If your child is staying for lunch, please follow these guidelines: It is your responsibility to send your child a healthy lunch, two snacks and a reusable water bottle filled with plain water each day. Be sure to include an icepack in your child's lunch if it requires refrigeration. CCAP does not provide refrigeration and does not heat food. If you would like your child to have warm food, please warm it at home and send it in a thermos container. **We do not provide food services for VPK.** Please let us know of any allergies your child may have, as we do food related activities, parties, and crafts throughout the year. Please do not send candy in your child's lunch. Please follow the USDA Food Recommendations when packing your child's lunch. **Per DCF policy all lunch boxes, bowls, spoons, water bottles, and food containers must be labeled with your child's first and last name. Please do not send glass containers.** Please keep in mind, all food needs to be cut up and ready to serve your child. We want to proactively keep your child safe from choking hazards. An example would be whole grapes or hot dogs. Unless they are cut up, they will be returned home.

Parties/Celebrations

We love to celebrate special occasions with your child! If you would like to send in a special treat to share with the class, please talk to your child's teacher about any allergies present in their room and let the teacher know what day you are sending in treats. We do have parties for many occasions/holidays throughout the year. Your child's teacher will post a list of needed items on her classroom board or via email or text. If you are willing and able to donate, we welcome you to do so.

Labeling

All your child's belongings must be labeled with their first and last name per DCF code. Label all lunch bags, food containers, water cups, utensils, extra clothing including shoes, coats, mittens,

hats, backpacks, and everything else you can fit a label on. You may consider ordering labels online, or masking tape and a sharpie marker work as well.

Dress Code

We will be following the dress code of our Elementary School. Please see uniform dress code on our website and where to order your uniforms.

Children are required to wear socks and fully enclosed tennis shoes each day. Crocs, flip-flops, boots, and sandals are not permitted. On formal day, your student may wear dress shoes or tennis shoes for VPK.

We all have Accidents. Occasionally a child may have an "Accident." Please send in a seasonally appropriate complete changes of clothing including a shirt, underwear, pants/shorts, and socks. See your child's teacher for individual needs. All clothing and shoes must be labelled with your child's first and last name.

Medications

All medications require a completed and signed authorization form. These forms are available in your child's classroom and from the Director. You may consider taking a few forms home with you to fill out for future use to save time at drop off.

1. All medications must be administered from the original container with the label intact and legible.
2. All prescription medication must be identified with the child's name on the original label.
3. No medication will be given after the expiration date on the bottle.
4. Label restrictions and guidelines cannot be altered without a doctor's statement.
5. Prescription medication can only be given to the child whose name is on the bottle unless a doctor's note dictates differently.
6. Do not add medication to your child's cup or bottle.
7. All medication must be age appropriate and administered according to the directions on the label.
8. Diaper creams and Insect Repellent ARE considered medications by DCF and require Medication Authorization Forms to be filled out and signed by the parent.

Fees and Tuition for Extended Day

The Enrollment Fee of \$100.00 **per family** is due upon registration. Payments are due on the first day of the month. If tuition is not paid in full on the first day of the week, a \$25.00 late fee will be assessed on the second day of the month. If tuition and any late fees are not paid by the third day of the week, your child may not return to school until payment has been made in full. There will be NO prorating of days due to late payment. Payments may be made by check, money order or online. Please make sure to write your child's name on the memo line of your check or money order to ensure credit is given to the correct account. We do not accept cash. Please do not attempt to give payment to any teachers, as they cannot accept money.

Child Abuse and Neglect

ALL teachers and childcare workers are mandated by the state of Florida to report ALL suspicions of child abuse and/or neglect to The Department of Children and Family Services. We take this responsibility very seriously.

The Department of Children and Families Abuse Hotline - Reports are accepted 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You may remain anonymous. Phone: 1-800-962-2873, Fax: 1-800-914-0004.

Incident/Accident Reports

Incident reports are written when your student injures another student, gets injured by another student, or has ongoing behavioral issues not conducive of our classroom environment.

Accident reports are written when your student has an accident independent of other students and it results in self-injury. Parents must review and sign the Incident/Accident reports when picking up their child daily. A copy will be given to the parents on the next business day. If a student receives more than two incident reports in a day for the same issue (i.e., biting, spitting, hitting others, hurting others, etc.) or if a student poses an ongoing distraction, behaviorally or physically, the parent will be called to remove their student from the CCAP for the remainder of the day. Ongoing issues that are unable to be resolved will lead to the child being dismissed from CCAP.

Aggression and Tantrums

Aggression toward others and tantrums are more common when children are unable to communicate their needs effectively whether verbally challenged with an impairment, or just too young to speak. We will work closely with parents to help see that the student's communication needs are improved upon, and that aggression and subsequent tantrums are resolved. When aggressive behavior and tantrums are unable to be resolved or become harmful to other student/staff and distracting to the overall classroom environment, the student's enrollment at CCAP will be in jeopardy and potentially dismissed as deemed necessary.

Health and Illness Policy

Our top concern for students is their wellbeing. For this reason, CCAP will be performing visual health checks upon each student's arrival at the school each day. If the student is running a fever or has other symptoms indicating they are sick, a parent will be called to pick up their student.

If your student is exhibiting the following symptoms, please keep them at home:

- Fever or vomited within the last 48 hours. Fever must be gone for 48 hours without a fever aid before child may return to the CCAP.
- Diarrhea, (two or more loose stools a day)
- Pinkeye or Conjunctivitis (indicated by redness, burning and a thick discharge around eyes). The student may not return to the center until symptom-free.
- Croupy cough or cough accompanied by rapid or difficult breathing or wheezing
- Clear, runny nose

- Rashes that the parent cannot identify or have not been diagnosed by a physician.
- If the student is exhibiting symptoms of a contagious disease such as measles, chicken pox, mumps, rosella, etc.
- If a doctor diagnoses an infection and places the child on an antibiotic, the student should remain home until on the medication for 24 hours.

Communicable Disease Control

If your child is exhibiting any symptoms of a communicable and/or airborne disease or has been exposed to a communicable/airborne disease, they will not be allowed to enter CCAP. If they start showing signs while attending, they will be isolated immediately, and the parents will be called to get their student.

The following are signs and/or symptoms of suspected communicable diseases:

- Severe coughing
- Difficult or rapid breathing
- Diarrhea, (two or more loose stools a day)
- Pinkeye or Conjunctivitis (indicated by redness, burning and a thick discharge around eyes).
- Yellowish skin or eyes
- Exposed, open skin lesions

The child will not be able to return to school until they have been symptom free for 48 hours.

Bloodborne Pathogens

Every classroom and the front office at CCAP have a first aid kit. These first aid kits contain the following:

- Emergency phone numbers
- Pediatric first aid chart
- Adhesive bandages
- Individually packaged sterile dressings
- Gauze bandage
- 1" wide adhesive tape
- Antibiotic ointment or spray
- Disposable paper tissues
- Disposable instant cold pack
- Antibacterial cleaning pads
- Tweezers

- Blanket
- Blunt tipped scissors
- Safety pins
- Hydrocortisone cream
- Thermometer
- Alcohol wipes
- Cotton swabs
- Disposable gloves
- Plastic bags
- Liquid soap

A child that has open wounds, skin lesions, or open cuts will not be permitted in CCAP. All open wounds must be always covered to reduce infections and eliminate the ability to transmit blood borne pathogens.

Immunizations and Statute Requirements

- Section 65C-22.001(7)(m) requires that parent(s) receive a copy of the Child Care Facility Brochure, “Know Your Child Care Facility” (CF/PI 175-24)
- Section 65C-22.001(7)(n) requires that parent(s) receive a copy of the Child Care Facility Brochure, “Influenza Virus, Guide to Parents” (CF1PI 175-70)
- Section 65C-22.001 (7)(o) requires an up to date “Florida Certificate of Immunization” (Form DH680)
- If Religious Exemption applies, Section 65c-22.001 (7)(p) requires an up to date “Religious Exemption from Immunization” (Form DH681)
- Section 65C-22.001 (7)(q) requires an up to date “School Entry Health Exam” (Form DH3040)

Miscellaneous Information

Please always notify CCAP if you have any changes to your address, phone number, email addresses, or changes in your child’s medications. Please also let us know about any major changes that your child may be processing (divorce, death, moving, new pets, etc.) We have found that the smallest changes have huge impacts on children.

CCAP aims to provide your student with a happy, safe, positive, fun, and encouraging introduction to school. This is most easily accomplished when teachers and parents work together. If we feel that we are not the most appropriate place or if we are unable to offer services your child needs or if you fail to disclose a medical or emotional diagnosis of your student, we reserve the right to dismiss your child from CCAP and request that you find another preschool program for your child.