



Monument Academy Preschool

Where Excellence Begins

CLASSROOM POLICIES, PROCEDURES, AND PHILOSOPHY

2.206

Welcome to Monument Academy Preschool, where Core Knowledge learning for children ages 3 to 5 years is incorporated into a fun, loving, and caring environment. Monument Academy Preschool is a place where your child can grow physically, mentally, and emotionally. Our classes encourage a healthy balance of self-autonomy, academics, and creative play. In addition to following the Core Knowledge sequence, Monument Academy Preschool also uses beginning elements of Saxon Math, Heggerty Phonics, Handwriting Without Tears, and Capturing Kids' Hearts.

According to the Colorado Department of Human Services, 7.702.31, the following preschool policies shall be available for parents to review:

PARENT COMMUNICATION

2.207

Contact Information West Campus Attendance Email:

attendance-west@monumentacademy.net

Main Office: 719- 481-1950 ext. 0

Healthy Communication Effective communication between home and school is important for student success! MA is committed to practicing and encouraging good communication with our learning community.

There will be times when we need to share critical thoughts. At these times, if our purpose and how we phrase our words are considered first, sharing honest and direct feedback can be very positive and powerful and build trust. Speaking with good purpose is the cornerstone of healthy relationships. This fosters a positive emotional environment where people are happier, more productive, and more likely to succeed. It is essential that, as educators and parents, we model these excellent communication skills.

We recommend that parents encourage their students to consult the teacher if there is an issue in the classroom. Parents can email or schedule an appointment with a teacher. If no resolution is found, an administrator will provide communication support. All grievances will be handled as mentioned before in the conflict resolution portion of the handbook.

Collin Vinchattle (Executive Director): cvinchattle@monumentacademy.net

MA Board of Directors: MABoard@monumentacademy.net

Communication Channels Communication between parents and teachers is paramount to students' success. Parents should communicate with their student's teacher via Parent Square, email, or phone and can expect a response within two business days. Teachers are available to meet with parents by appointment only. Parents are asked not to speak with a teacher about their student's progress at impromptu times during school (drop-off/pick-up, volunteering, or other activities). Information regarding another student's progress or behavior is strictly confidential and will not be shared. All communication between MA parents and teachers/staff should be civil and respectful. If the administration deems any communication inappropriate and/or threatening, the school reserves the right to request that communications be redirected or restricted accordingly. This may include limiting physical and/or electronic access to school staff. Please be mindful and sensitive to the daily email volume teachers receive and avoid monopolizing a teacher's time.

The School will also comply with all applicable laws and regulations to ensure meaningful communication with parents who are limited English proficient, including providing interpretation or translation services as necessary.

SCHEDULES/HOURS OF OPERATION

2.206 (A)

Monument Academy Preschool offers a variety of student schedules with varying class contact hours. Please refer to the preschool section of the Monument Academy (MA) website for specifics regarding available programs and hours of operation. Preschool also follows the MA calendar regarding school holidays. Please refer to the school calendar link at the MA website for specific information.

ADMISSION/REGISTRATION/FEEES

2.206 (A-C)

Monument Academy Preschool offers a variety of part-day and full-day classes. Fees vary depending on the specific program. Please visit the preschool section of the MA website and click on “Enrollment” to begin the registration process by filling out a letter of interest form. Intent to enroll and preschool registration packets are also available for download in the “Preschool” section of the MA website. Classes will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

All children in Colorado can apply for up to 15 hours per week of tuition-free, high-quality preschool in their year before kindergarten through Colorado’s Universal Preschool program. [See More Information in the UPK Guide for Families.](#) Families may qualify for additional hours based on qualifying factors subject to available funding. Depending on the provider, families can pay for additional hours if desired. If your child qualifies with UPK, you will have a separate fee contract that the director will review with each family on an individual basis. If your child qualifies with UPK, you will have a separate fee contract that the director will review with each family on an individual basis.

The first payment, plus a \$150 materials fee, is due at the time of signature. The first payment, as well as the \$150 materials fee, is non-refundable. This deposit ensures your child’s seat in the program. The remaining payments are **due on the first of the month**. If you withdraw from the program, you will need to give 2 weeks’ notice to the director and registrar and pay your monthly tuition fee through the next full month.

If a payment is not received by the 10th of the month, a \$75 late fee will be added to the balance due. If no payment arrangement has been made and payment is 30 days past due, administration will be notified, and your child may be removed from the Monument Academy Preschool program. Your account is also subject to collection.

In the event of student absences, school closures, or inclement weather, tuition refunds will not be issued.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

2.206 (B. 4)

Monument Academy Preschool may be closed unexpectedly due to severe weather, power failure, heating issues, or other unforeseen circumstances. School closings due to weather will follow those of D 38 and Monument Academy grades K-5. Additionally, if a delayed start is called for grades K-5, morning preschool classes will still be held as usual. Report time for a delayed start is 2 hours after the normal schedule, and pick up is at the regularly scheduled time. In the event of excessively hot or inclement weather, preschool staff will modify outside time in the daily schedule. Student safety is always our priority in all decisions.

CHILD LOCATION/LOST CHILD PROCEDURE

2.208 (B. 1-6)

Monument Academy is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all preschool students. Teachers will count the preschool children throughout the day. The count is taken during classroom time to make sure everyone is present. A name-to-face count is done before and after each transition. Children are counted as they go out to and come in from the playground. In the event a child cannot be located, preschool staff will advise other team members of the situation and re-check the preschool facility. If the child still cannot be located, preschool staff will advise the front office of the situation and follow school and local law enforcement guidelines for locating a child on the Monument Academy campus or in the surrounding off-campus area.

BEHAVIOR AND DISCIPLINE

2.206 (B. 8-9)

Monument Academy preschool follows the discipline guidelines for elementary and middle school as described in the student handbook's discipline section. Preschool staff strive to cultivate self-autonomy and a positive learning environment by implementing Character First, Capturing Kids' Hearts, and Love & Logic principles (<https://www.loveandlogic.com/>) in the classroom, including:

- Recognizing and highlighting positive choices made by students.
- Allowing students to learn via natural consequences within safety constraints and guidelines. Rules for behavior are kept simple and to a minimum.

Our rules are as follows (and are repeated daily):

1. Keep yourself safe.
2. Keep each other safe.
3. Keep our things safe.

If there is a serious behavioral issue with a child, a conference with the parents will be requested. Together, the teacher, director, and parents will put together a plan to address the behavior. If needed, the school principal, vice principal, and/or school counselor will also be consulted.

If a resolution cannot be made within a reasonable period, Monument Academy Preschool reserves the right to dismiss any child for the inability of the child or parents to adjust to the school program or if the behavior of the child or parent is unsuitable or interferes with the safety and/or welfare of other children and/or staff members.

HEALTH/MEDICAL INFORMATION

2.219 and 2.220

Monument Academy Preschool follows the health and medical policy outlined in the student handbook regarding accidents, illnesses, and immunization requirements. Please refer to the health and medical information section of the student handbook for further information. If preschool staff determines your child is not feeling well enough to participate in normal class activities, you will be notified to pick up your child as soon as possible. Parents will be notified in writing of accidents or injuries that occur at school.

The staff members observing the accident will complete a report explaining how the accident or injury occurred and what actions were taken, including any first aid that was administered. A copy of the incident report will be given to the parents and placed in the school file.

Any medicine needed by children will be stored in the nurse's office and handled in compliance with Section 12-38-132, C.R.S. of the Nurse Protection Act.

Vision and Hearing Screening: A qualified individual will test students' hearing, vision, and dental during the school year. The screening date will be communicated to families. Parents will be notified individually should a deficiency be found. Please inform the school if you have any religious or personal objections to this testing.

SUN PROTECTION/SUNSCREEN

2.221 (A-F)

CO receives some of the strongest UV sunlight in the nation, and licensing regulations stipulate that all preschool students must have sun protection before going outside. Parents/guardians may choose:

- To apply the sunscreen of their choice to their child’s exposed skin EVERY DAY before he/she comes to class. If the child attends school for a full day, preschool staff will reapply the center-supplied sunscreen to children at the appropriate time throughout the day.
- To dress their child in a wide-brimmed hat and sun-protection clothing labeled UPF 30 or more EVERY DAY they come to class.
- To have Monument Academy preschool staff apply center-supplied sunscreen to children’s exposed skin at the appropriate time before students go outside each day they are in class.

All parents/guardians must sign an authorization form detailing their choice of sun protection for their student. Authorization forms and specific product details of center-supplied sunscreen will be available at the student “Meet and Greet” event before school starts or as part of the student’s registration packet.

INCIDENT ACTION PLAN

2.209 (B)

Monument Academy preschool will follow the school’s incident action plan. Incident plans are accessible in each classroom. Fire Drill Procedures and Tornado Drill Procedures are clearly posted in the classrooms near the door. Fire, tornado, and other incident drills are routinely practiced in accordance with CDHS (Colorado Department of Human Services) requirements.

FIELD TRIPS/EXCURSIONS

2.226 (C. 1-5)

There may be occasions when preschool classes will take walking excursions to areas on or immediately surrounding the MA campus. Preschool does not currently take off-campus field trips requiring transportation and/or parent/guardian permission slips. Preschool staff will maintain established child-to-adult ratios during all excursions and follow child location/lost child procedures if a child becomes separated from the group.

TELEVISION, COMPUTER & VIDEO POLICY

2.226 (B. 1-7)

Monument Academy Preschool may, on occasion, use age-appropriate educational videos and computers during rest times or to supplement curriculum activities. Preschool staff will maintain established child-to-adult ratios during video viewing activities.

VEHICLE PROCEDURES

2.227

Monument Academy Preschool does not provide transportation to students, nor can staff buckle children into vehicle safety restraint systems. Parents/guardians are responsible for following Colorado law regarding child safety restraint requirements, properly seating and supervising children in private vehicles, and following proper traffic/emergency procedures on the road.

PERSONS AUTHORIZED TO PICK UP STUDENTS

2.207 (F-G)

Parents/guardians must complete an “Authorization to Transport” form when registering their child. Parents/guardians are asked to confirm and/or amend this information at the beginning of the school year and throughout the school year if there are any changes. Preschool students will only be released to people with written authorization to pick up students. Parents are responsible for notifying preschool staff in writing of any changes to the people authorized to pick up their student.

LATE ARRIVAL/LATE PICK UP

2.207

Parents who arrive late with their children should be as unobtrusive as possible when bringing their child into the classroom. If parents drop their children off late to school on a day when the school has gone on an excursion, the parent may elect to take their child with them or leave their child with the front office staff, if necessary, until the class arrives back in the classroom. If a child is not picked up by dismissal time, a preschool staff member will remain with the child. The parent and/or guardian will be called 10 minutes after dismissal and may be subject to a \$10 late fee after 10 minutes and a \$1 per minute fee until the child is picked up. We understand that there may be extenuating circumstances. If you are caught in a storm, traffic accident, or event may delay you from picking up your child on time. Please call the school office at (719)481-1950 and inform us of your circumstances. Parents who arrive late will sign a separate sign-out sheet, which will be

turned into the finance office for billing. If preschool staff cannot contact a parent and/or guardian or the child's emergency contact within a reasonable time (approximately 40 minutes after class dismissal), the preschool director will notify MA administration, and appropriate steps, including calling the authorities, will be taken.

CHILDREN'S PERSONAL BELONGINGS/MONEY

20206 (B. 20)

All children enrolled in the preschool program will be assigned a cubby to store their personal belongings. Parents/guardians are asked to clearly label their child's belongings and keep their valuables at home, as cubbies are not secure. Monument Academy Preschool will not be responsible for lost or stolen items.

MEALS AND SNACKS

2.224

Parents/guardians are asked to provide a water bottle and a snack for their child. We ask that snacks be healthy. Monument Academy will provide students with water throughout their time at school.

Children attending both morning and afternoon sessions, and children attending school the full day bring their own lunches, including a beverage. Lunch containers should be as small as possible and be clearly marked with your child's name. We cannot heat or refrigerate lunches stored in the classroom or your child's cubby. Teachers will assist children with their lunches as needed, but self-help containers are encouraged.

"Lunchables" are very teacher intensive, and for this reason, we request that you do not send "Lunchables."

TOILET TRAINING AND TOILET ACCIDENTS

2.222 (B)

Toilet training is required as a condition of enrollment at Monument Academy Preschool. However, we understand that young children occasionally have accidents. Each child should have a change of clothing kept at preschool, including socks, underwear, pants, and a shirt. If a child has more than three toileting accidents within a two-week period, preschool staff will begin discussions with parents/guardians regarding continuing current class enrollment or postponing enrollment until the child is properly toilet trained.

VISITOR'S/VOLUNTEER POLICY

2.207 (E)

Visitor's Guideline

All volunteers and visitors, including family and friends, must sign in and out at the front office and wear a Monument Academy Visitor Badge during their stay. This is a security measure to keep our school, students, parents, and staff safe.

All volunteers must read and sign a Confidentiality Notification and Agreement form at the front office prior to volunteering. A copy of this agreement is included in Appendix A. All volunteers are required to observe our strict confidentiality policy. No student actions, grades, etc., will be discussed with anyone except appropriate staff members.

All volunteers working at or representing MA are considered primary role models and should observe all MA rules of dress and behavior in an exemplary manner. A volunteer's actions and attitudes should always reflect the school's philosophy of respect for and responsibility toward students and staff. All parents/volunteers must sign in at the front office when entering or leaving the school.

Parents may volunteer or visit the school at any time; however, please give teachers prior notice if possible. If teachers have no volunteer tasks for the day, other school duties will be offered. If, for any reason, a volunteer cannot fulfill a commitment, the school must be notified as far in advance as possible.

Volunteers working with students must have background checks completed before volunteering and must not be supervised or overseen by MA employees. MA staff will notify the front office so the necessary paperwork/approvals may be processed prior to volunteering. Please contact the school office for further information.

Siblings and friends are not permitted in the classroom unless approval has been obtained from the administration and/or teachers. Children who are not MA students are considered visitors and must be always accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.

Parents who are at school for a teacher's meeting or any other reason when school is not in session must always keep their children with them or provide suitable supervision.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

MA is committed to creating a strong family-school partnership. The Monument Academy Board is composed of parents at MA. Board meetings are scheduled on the second Thursday of every month, and agendas and minutes are posted on the website.

The School Accountability Advisory Committee is an advisory body made up of parents and community members that makes recommendations to the Monument Academy School Board regarding academics, budgets, and safety. These recommendations are based on the interpretations of various internal and external data. The committee also advises the principals in developing the Unified Improvement Plan (UIP). Teachers, principals, and board members serve on MA's Curriculum Committee. Parents are encouraged to meet with their child's teacher when questions concerning the curriculum arise.

Parents may choose to serve in the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO). The PTO has worked in concert with the administration, teachers, and staff to enhance every aspect of the school. The PTO plans multiple fundraisers throughout the year, including spirit-wear sales, restaurant nights, and other activities. The PTO also supports teachers in the classrooms, celebrates staff during Teacher Appreciation Week, and hosts staff appreciation luncheons.

CONFERENCES

2.209 (B. 2-3)

Parents/guardians are notified of classroom happenings via periodic class e-mail updates. Additionally, preschool staff may inform parents/guardians of their child's behavior, progress, social, and physical needs via written or oral communication. Level I students will receive a written progress report once a year, and Level II students will receive a written progress report twice a year. Formal conferences are held once a year for all students, but parents/guardians may contact teaching staff for additional conferences at any point during the school year.

WITHDRAWALS

2.206 (B. 30)

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their child from any portion of the preschool program are requested to notify the preschool director and MA registrar in writing at least two weeks prior to any changes being implemented. Withdrawal notices can be emailed to: khays@monumentacademy.net.

FILING A COMPLAINT

7.701.31.B.25 and 7.701.55

You have the right to file a complaint against any childcare center your child has attended, either in writing or via telephone. A complaint may be reported to:

Colorado Department of Early Childhood

710 South Ash Street

Denver, CO 80246-1714

303-866-5958 or 1-800-799-5876

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE

7.701.31.B.26 and 7.701.53

All Monument Academy Preschool staff members are required by law to report all incidents of child abuse and/or neglect to the El Paso County Department of Human Services or local law enforcement agencies. Parents/guardians wishing to report suspected child abuse or neglect may also make a report to the El Paso County Department of Human Services or local law enforcement agencies. To report child abuse or neglect through the El Paso County Department of Human Services, contact:

1-844-CO-4-KIDS or 719-444-5700 (Child Abuse Hotline);

childabusereport@elpasoco.com El Paso County Department of Human Services Citizens Service Center

1675 West Garden of the Gods

Colorado Springs, CO 80907

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SIGNATURE STATEMENT

7.702.31

Written copies of Monument Academy Preschool's Policies and Procedures are available in each preschool classroom. Parents/Guardians are also provided a printed copy of current policies and procedures at the preschool "Meet and Greet" event before school starts and/or upon enrollment in class.

I certify that I/we have read the current Monument Academy Preschool Policies and Procedures as outlined in this document. I understand that I may question Monument Academy staff about any part of the document I do not understand. By signing this document, I/we agree to follow, accept the conditions of, and give authorization and approval for the activities described therein.

Printed Name(s): _____

Signature(s): _____

Date: _____