

August 2023 Newsletter



Summer break is over and it's time to settle back into a school year routine.

We are excited for all this new year will be!

- Welcome to our new families -

We are honored you have chosen us to care for your children.

We are excited to get to know you and your family!

RBUMP STAFF

Administration: Lindsey Walker

Samantha Cannon, Robin Keeling

Little Lookouts: Shelby Pardue, Ella Dolan

Choo Choos: Makayla Owen, Kelsea Stewart, Madi

Dycus, Katy Beth Effler

Coolidge: Jackie Ritchie, Alyssa Cross, Lauren Self

Greenway Group: Emily Sailors, Addison Benecke,

Brinley Platt

Mocs: Hope Lockhart, TBD

Signal Climbers: Kim Gentry, Ashley Williams,

Stella Adams

Rock City Room: Charlotte Wells, Hannah Leffew

Auxiliary: Destiney Walker, Lane Brown

Studio: Amy Dorsett, Tobi Weldon

RBT: Annalise Martin

REMINDERS:

- August 10th is the last day of attendance for those not enrolled for the '23-'24 school year
- Please read your parent handbook to ensure you are aware of and following all new policies and procedures as agreed to in your contract.

IMPORTANT DATES:

- August 11th - Closed - Teacher In service & Classroom changes
- August 14th -First Day of new school year!
- September 4th - Closed - Labor Day

*Staffing in classrooms subject to change.

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Wow! I'm not sure I have enough words to express my gratitude to the families, staff, and administration for what we've accomplished the past 2.5 years. When I took over during Covid in 2021, I was very nervous but also very ambitious. I walked through the hallway with Pastor Ken thinking, there is so much work to be done, all children deserve meaningful, intentional environments and quality care, LETS DO THIS. I had spent 6 years teaching and working with some incredible co-educators at Highland Plaza Preschool and I wanted to take that experience and bring just a touch of it to RBUMP. I had so much support from past teaching staff, family, and friends I felt ready to take on the 17-student program and build something that rose to the standard I envisioned for the school. I projected my vision to the preschool board, and with full support, I started my journey of hiring quality staff. Fun Fact: 3 of my first four hires are still on staff, Annalise Martin (RBT), Elizabeth Carey(Signal) & Emily Sailors (Coolidge). I poured every ounce of myself into the program working 12-hour days, making slow changes to environments, and training the staff on inquiry-based, quality care with touches of Reggio Emilia practice. The first year was trial and error, but as I projected my vision to the community, families started enrolling. Year two was our building year. We had created a strong foundation with quality teachers, and our environments were more natural, open-ended, and intentional. We started investing even more into training and focused in on our deficits. We brought on Robin as our administrative assistant to tidy up everything and help manage the program. Going into year three, I look back on our dated program with two small classrooms, and I'm amazed that we're now opening our 7th classroom. We have a studio space and even an RBT on staff. We are deepening our pedagogy and moving towards every classroom following the inquiry-based learning model where CHILDREN will dictate their own learning, and we, as collaborators, will scaffold their thinking to deepen the process of inquiry. We will have two certified pre-kindergarten teachers dedicated to the kindergarten readiness of each child and will also help each of them find an intangible love of learning. All of our environments are still a work in progress, but my goal for this school year is to finish out our classrooms, hallway, and outdoor environments and train side by side with our staff focusing in on how theory influences practice AND how that practice influences theory. I want us to be known for the ever-evolving, progressive work we do in our classrooms!

Thank you all for choosing RBUMP and an extra thank you to the families that have been here since the beginning trusting our vision and the process.

Lindsey Walker



What's New



We have many changes coming for this new school year! Some of these changes are licensing related and therefore non-negotiable.

Here is a reminder of some of the changes:

- New Phone Number - (423) 877-2881 option 3
- Drop off ends at 9am. Grace period ends @ 9:15am. A \$15 late fee will be applied for drop off between 9am-9:15am. Students will not be admitted without a doctors note after this time.
- Parent Check-in via Brightwheel - please allow a little more time at drop off the first few days so we can assist you in checking your children into their classroom. Please add approved pick-ups to their Brightwheel accounts and be sure all student information is up to date.
- Student and School related documents and information will begin to be uploaded to Brightwheel.
- School Calendar is attached and will also be available on Brightwheel.
- No medication will be given to any child with out prescription from a doctor. All Medication must be in original packaging with prescription label.
- Personal Safety Curriculum is required for ALL students. *please see additional hand out for more information and permission form*
- Only 1 bag or backpack should be sent to limit hallway clutter. It should contain all of their needs for the day: 1 sheet, 1 blanket, & 1 full change of clothes (including shoes). Lunch box can be separate.

Please be sure you have read the Parent Handbook in its entirety to ensure the policies and procedures are upheld as agreed to in your contract for the '23-'24 school year.

The latest copy will be uploaded to your child's Brightwheel profile under documents.