

October 29, 2020

Dear Preschool Families,

The 2020-2021 school year may be unusual and anomalous, but our Pennoyer Preschool Team is dedicated to supporting our youngest students in new and remarkable ways! First, we would like to thank you all for the feedback you submitted to us through our *PFA | Return to Remote & In Person School Survey*. Your input is invaluable as we strive to maintain the health, safety, and well-being of our students, while also balancing the need for educating children and making a positive impact on their growth and development. Based on the feedback we received, Pennoyer's Preschool For All program will be maintaining the weekly rotating team schedule of the Explorers Team and Discovery Team. We will reevaluate adding an afternoon session in December, with a potential transition to daily morning and afternoon sessions in January 2021.

In the survey, families shared that the morning program time is preferable to their circumstances, which our team understands and appreciates. However, Pennoyer must also balance program time preference with the fact that our preschool is a state funded program. The Preschool For All grant affords Pennoyer the opportunity to offer free preschool to eligible students. Our program must balance the need to serve our intended population of at-risk children with the preferences of families.

Our *PFA | Return to Remote & In Person School Survey* also inquired about requests to adjust a preschool child's learning pathway from remote learning to in-person learning. At this time, Pennoyer Preschool can move forward with honoring all learning pathway change requests while maintaining in-person class sizes of 12 students. Mrs. Gray, Pennoyer's preschool teacher, will be contacting families interested in changing their child's learning pathway to share more information. **Beginning on Monday, November 9, our Explorers Team will be adding additional in-person learners on the team. Beginning on Monday, November 16, our Discovery Team will be adding additional in-person learners to the team.** Pennoyer School is committed to maintaining class sizes of 12 students or less in order to follow and implement the recommendations from the Illinois Department of Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE).

Thank you again for your partnership with our Team as we navigate these unusual times for our students. Pennoyer's Preschool Team is diligently working to provide meaningful learning experiences for our children, and we are here to support! Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

In partnership,

Alicia Schmeisser

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