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August 2024

Dear Summit Preschool Families,

Hello and welcome! My name is Cathy Leon and I have worked in the school setting for 20 + years as a teacher's aide, interpreter, and now teacher. The School District of La Crosse is dedicated to providing inclusive educational opportunities for all students. Summit is a wonderful, nurturing place for families to begin their school journey. Together, we will build a compassionate community of lifelong learners.

Our classroom focus is on building a caring, respectful community of "bucket fillers". This concept is based on the book Have You Filled A Bucket Today? A Child's Guide to Happiness by Carol McCloud. In addition to building a solid foundation in social and emotional skills, we also work on academic readiness skills. Please check out our website at <https://www.lacrosseschools.org/> to find out more information about our program at Summit. You can search "preschool program" in the top right hand corner to go directly to the preschool page.

Here's a little information about myself. I have been married for 25 years and we have a beautiful daughter. In my spare time, I enjoy volleyball, tennis, gardening, hiking, and photography. I also volunteer in my church on the worship team. But most of all, I enjoy time with my family.

I look forward to getting to know you and your child over the course of the next year. Feel free to contact me via email at cleon@lacrossesd.org or by phone at 608-789-8842 if you have any questions, concerns, or have information you would like for me to know about your child in advance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy Leon".

Cathy H. Leon (Pronounced Lay-own)
Pre-K Teacher @ Summit Environmental School

2024-2025 School Calendar

July 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

August 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Emergency Closing Info

Should more than one school day be lost due to an emergency closing, students

and teachers will follow the schedule below:

1st Day Missed = Waived

2nd Day Missed = Waived

After 2 Missed = Minutes will be added to the daily schedule to extend the day at each level

School District of La Crosse

807 East Avenue South

La Crosse, WI 54601

(608) 789-7600



Start & End

September 3 First Day of School

June 6 Last Day of School

Total Student Instructional Days: 175

No School

August 20-22 New Teacher Induction - No School

August 27-29 Staff Development - No School

August 29 is FLEX Day

September 2 Labor Day - No School

September 27 No School

October 18 Staff Development - No School

October 21 Family Conferences - No School

November 1 Staff Development - No School

November 27-29 Fall Break - No School

December 23-Jan. 1 Winter Break - No School

January 17 Staff Development - No School

January 20 MLK Jr. Day - No School

February 13 Staff Development - No School

February 14 No School

March 7 Staff Development - No School

March 10 Family Conferences - No School

April 18-21 Spring Break - No School

May 26 Memorial Day - No School

Semesters/Quarters

Quarter 1: September 3 - October 31

Quarter 2: November 4 - January 17

Quarter 3: January 21 - March 28

Quarter 4: March 31 - June 6

Family/Teacher Conferences

Family/Teacher Conferences are on **October 17**

and **March 6** at all levels for approximately 4 hours

after the regular student instructional day

Family/Teacher Conferences are on **October 21**

and **March 10** from 12:00-7:50 at elementary levels

*Teachers at MS/HS will have PD starting at

12:00 followed by conferences

NOTES

August 27 is welcome back for all staff

August 29 is flex day for teachers

October 18 is PD for teachers and TAS

January 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Calendar Key

No School

Staff Development

(No School for Students)

No School: Family/Teacher

Conferences from 12:00-7:50 for elementary

and PD/Conferences from 12:00-7:50 for MS/HS

Family/Teacher Conferences

beginning after school for approximately 4 hours



SUMMIT OPEN HOUSE

AUGUST 28, 2024

OPEN HOUSE 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

PICTURES 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Please review the forms in this mailing and have them ready for Open House

HAVE YOU COMPLETED THE STUDENT INFO UPDATE?

Save time at Open House; do it today!

- Please complete the Student Info Update **BEFORE** the Open House on August 28.
- If the update is not completed by August 28, it will be added to your Open House visit. Computers and assistance will be available.
- **Need computer access?** Call the school's Main Office at 608-789-7980 to make an appointment. You can also find access at all La Crosse public libraries, Boys & Girls Clubs, and the Black River Beach Community Center. Please call ahead for availability.
- For assistance over the phone or in person, call the school's Main Office at 608-789-7980.

For step-by-step directions, visit the Student Info Update page:



STUDENT INFO UPDATE QUICK START GUIDE

- 1 Scan the QR code to go to the School District of La Crosse Student Info Update page.
- 2 Click the blue "Skyward Family Access" button on the right.
- 3 Enter your login and password and sign in.
- 4 Click on "Go to Student Info Update for [STUDENT NAME]" in center column.

SUMMIT ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOOL

Summit Environmental Preschool

Supply List 2024-2025

We ask that families provide the following items for their preschooler:

- **A change of clothing** (pants, shirt, underwear, socks) inside a Ziploc bag labeled with your child's name. This will stay at school in their lockers in case they have an accident or spill water/milk.
- **Box of Kleenex** (class use)
- **Box of crackers** (or other snack item your child would enjoy sharing). Please do not send items that contain peanuts, peanut butter, or which are made in a peanut facility.
- **A Backpack** that is big enough to hold a standard size folder (little backpacks are cute but not big enough for folders or library books, no wheels please).
- **2 plastic folders with pockets** (labeled with your child's name)
- **1 1-inch binder** (Labeled with child's name)
- **1 pkg of small paper plates**
- **Crayola watercolor palette** (a small two-row palette is fine)
- **Playdough Brand playdough** (bigger containers)

Optional Items (will be pooled for class use, anything on this list will be greatly appreciated)

- ~~Markers~~
- ~~Glitter glue~~
- Ziploc bags (quart and gallon)
- Paper plates (large)
- Paper towel rolls
- Clorox disinfecting wipes
- ~~Glue sticks~~
- ~~Glue bottle~~
- ~~Page protectors~~
- 5 oz cups for snack

Important information about your child.

Child's Name _____ DOB _____

1. My child will be:

A. Dropped off/picked up from school by _____

B. My child will come to school on a bus from

C. My child will go home/to daycare on the bus to

2. My child will eat breakfast/lunch at school. (this must be on a daily basis) _____ Yes _____ No

3. My child has older siblings. They are _____

(Names and grade)

4. Child's Allergies _____

5. Child's interests _____

6. What name does your child prefer to be called?

7. How should we learn to spell your child's name? (Eg: Jo for Joseph, Mike for Michael) _____

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Summit Preschool

Q: Does preschool start on the same day as the rest of the school in the fall?

A: No, Preschool Registration is held the first two days of the school year. Preschool will officially begin the third day of school.

Q: What is the importance of Preschool Registration?

A: There are three purposes.

First, it gives the preschoolers a chance to spend a short amount of time with their teacher, learn some important information, and practice what to do when they come to school for the first time.

Second, this is the time for parents to fill out and turn in the necessary paperwork and ask questions about our program. This is when you also need to turn in immunization cards.

Third, this is also a time to unpack supplies, check parent info, and get photos taken.

Q: Can my child eat breakfast/lunch at school? What is the cost?

A: Yes, your child can eat breakfast at school. This must be on a daily basis, not dependent on whether your child was able to eat at home or not because we order breakfast a day ahead. The cost for breakfast and lunch will be covered in your orientation.

Q: Will my child have a snack during the preschool day?

A: Yes, we will end our day with a snack together. Snack items are donated by the children for the whole class. When we begin our classroom jobs, the leader of the day will provide a snack for the class. There will be a monthly calendar sent home for the leader of the day. If you are unable to provide a snack when your child is the leader, we have extra snacks here at school that we can use. Children can also bring water bottles daily to school. (Snack ideas: Pretzels, fresh fruit, raisins, carrots, applesauce, string cheese, yogurt, and a variety of crackers)

Q: Will bussing be provided for my child?

A: If you filled out a bussing form for your child, bussing will be considered for your child. This does not mean that bussing will be available. The bus company should have contacted or should be contacting you regarding bussing. All bus requests/changes must go through our District Preschool Administrative Assistant, **Chong Yang (789-7006)**. Bus changes usually take up to three business days.

Q: If my child is ill or if we are going out of town, what should I do?

A: You can call the office to report an absence (789-7980). Please include the reason for your child's absence. If your child rides the bus to school, you will also need to call the bus company to let them know not to pick up your child.

Q: If I need to pick up early from school, what is the procedure?

A: Summit doors are locked at 8:15 each day and opens again at 2:40. At any other time, you must buzz the intercom system and enter through the office. If possible, please give us a heads-up (teacher and office) so we can have your child ready and waiting in the office if possible.

Q: What does drop off/pick up look like?

A: **AM Class:** Children may arrive between 7:45- 8:00 for the morning class. Parents can drop their preschooler off at the designated drop-off spot. There will be a teacher or teacher aide to help transition students once they are inside the building. At 10:30, we will walk the children to the bus or pick up spot.

PM Class: A teacher/teacher assistant will meet parents and children at the designated drop off spots at 12:00. This is where all kids will be waiting. At the end of the day, we will meet you at the same spot for pick-up. Bus kids will go directly to the bus.

** Please note that if a student has a hard time transitioning to school, we ask that parents make drop off sweet and quick. This will make drop off easier and less emotional for your child in the long run.*

Q: If I have a last minute change of plans regarding pick up, etc, what do I do?

A: Call the Summit office (789-7980) and speak with our admin assistant, Mrs. Walker. Please DO NOT rely on your four year old to give us a message.

Any other questions about our preschool program can be directed to our Preschool administrative assistant, Chong Yang at 789-7006.

Preschool Program Times:

AM- 8:00 - 10:30

PM- 12:10 - 2:40



How to Help Your Child Have a Successful Morning

Brooke Brogle, Alyson Jiron & Jill Giacomini

Do you struggle with stressful mornings when you want to lay your head down and cry before 8:00 a.m.? Do you often leave the house in an angry, frantic rush? Mornings can be a particularly challenging time for parents. Getting your entire family up and out the door is no easy task! It is important to understand that your morning routine serves as the foundation for your family's entire day. You can create a morning routine that not only helps your day to begin more smoothly, but also teaches your child important skills that he needs to become more independent and confident. A morning routine can also reduce challenging behavior such as crying, whining and tantrums.



Backpack Connection Series

About this Series

The Backpack Connection Series was created by TACSEI to provide a way for teachers and parents/caregivers to work together to help young children develop social emotional skills and reduce challenging behavior. Teachers may choose to send a handout home in each child's backpack when a new strategy or skill is introduced to the class. Each Backpack Connection handout provides information that helps parents stay informed about what their child is learning at school and specific ideas on how to use the strategy or skill at home.

The Pyramid Model

The Pyramid Model is a framework that provides programs with guidance on how to promote social emotional competence in all children and design effective interventions that support young children who might have persistent challenging behavior. It also provides practices to ensure that children with social emotional delays receive intentional teaching. Programs that implement the Pyramid Model are eager to work together with families to meet every child's individualized learning and support needs. To learn more about the Pyramid Model, please visit ChallengingBehavior.org.

More Information

More information and resources on this and other topics are available on our website, ChallengingBehavior.org.

Try This at Home

- Use a visual schedule with items such as photos, clipart, or objects that shows your child the steps in his morning routine. This visual schedule can help him to understand the expectations of the morning routine. To learn more about how to create a visual schedule, go to challengingbehavior.org and search the site for "visual schedules" in the search box located in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.
- If your child has trouble waking up in the morning, it might be because he is not getting enough sleep at night. Set a consistent bedtime and stick with it. When a child's bedtime changes it can make it harder for him to wake up in the morning. For more information on bedtime routines, go to challengingbehavior.org and search the site for "bedtime routines" in the search box located in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.
- Plan Ahead. Use your bedtime routine to plan for the next day together.
 1. Lay out the clothes your child will wear.
 2. Pack his backpack.
 3. Discuss the morning routine, show him pictures and talk about the day ahead.
- Give your child some power over his morning routine by offering reasonable choices. For example, "First, get dressed. Then, you get a choice! Would you like to have cereal or pancakes for breakfast?"
- Include bonding time in your morning routine. Time to read, bathe or snuggle will help your child feel loved and calm as he begins his tasks for the day.

- Encourage your child. When your child completes a task and follows the routine, provide positive and specific encouragement. For example, say "Wow! You got up and got dressed all by yourself! Now we will have a few extra minutes to play with trains. What a great way to start the day!"

Practice at School

Teachers use routines to provide a predictable structure to your child's day. When a child understands what she should be doing and what will come next, she feels less anxiety and more excited to participate. While the specific activities in the classroom might change, the routine does not. For example, while 10:00 may always be art time, the specific craft (painting, cutting, gluing) may vary from day to day. Children become eager to try new activities because they are confident and comfortable with the routine.

The Bottom Line

A morning routine is a daily opportunity for you to build and nurture a positive relationship with your child. When you follow a repetitive morning routine you allow your child to gain practice with important skills such as dressing, bathing and grooming and give him a feeling of confidence and success. A calm, loving morning routine at home sets the tone for the entire day for both you and your child.



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Confidence in Kids

From play to chores, encourage effort and help kids acquire skills Liz Greene

Self-confidence originates from a perception of competence — or, to put it more simply, children develop confidence not because family and friends praise them, but because of their own accomplishments. As a preschool teacher, I watched many children become more confident and self-assured as they learned and completed new tasks and goals.

It's only natural that as parents you want to instill confidence in your kids. Confident children believe in themselves and are able to face new challenges without fear—essential factors for a happy and fulfilling life.

Although each child is different, there are a few general guidelines you can follow to build your kids' confidence.

Make time for play

Playtime is one of the best investments you can make in your child. The hours you spend playing with your children show them that they are valuable and worth your time.

Focus your attention on your child during play. Children are perceptive and will know if your mind is elsewhere. Dedicate yourself to the game that you and your child are playing. That shared imagination brings you closer together and lets your child know that you're listening to them.

The life of a preschool teacher is a hectic one, and I often spent time multitasking. However, when it came to playtime, I gave the kids my full attention and jumped into their play with both feet. The bonds I shared with my students were often built during this important time together.

Provide them with small jobs

Children need opportunities to display their skills and feel that their contribution is valued. At home, this means asking them to help with household chores such as:

- Setting the table
- Tidying up toys
- Dusting
- Sweeping
- Vacuuming
- Doing the dishes
- Sorting or folding laundry
- Washing the car

Handwriting Without Tears®

Help Me Write My Name

"That's my name. My name starts with ____." Maybe your child is trying to write or even make letters you can recognize. If so, then it's time to start showing your child how to write a few letters. Here's how:

1. Be a good example.
2. Write in all capitals.
3. Start every letter at the top.
4. Teach letters step by step.
5. Write on paper strips with a smiley face in top left corner.

How can I be a good example?

Hold the crayon correctly. Your child will be watching both how you make the letters and how you hold the crayon or pencil. Be sure to be a good model. You may need to make a special effort to hold it correctly.

Why should I use all capitals?

Capitals are the first letters to learn. Capitals are the letters children can visually recognize and remember. Capitals are the first letters children can physically write. You may use lowercase if you and your child's teacher think your child is ready.

Does it matter where my child starts?

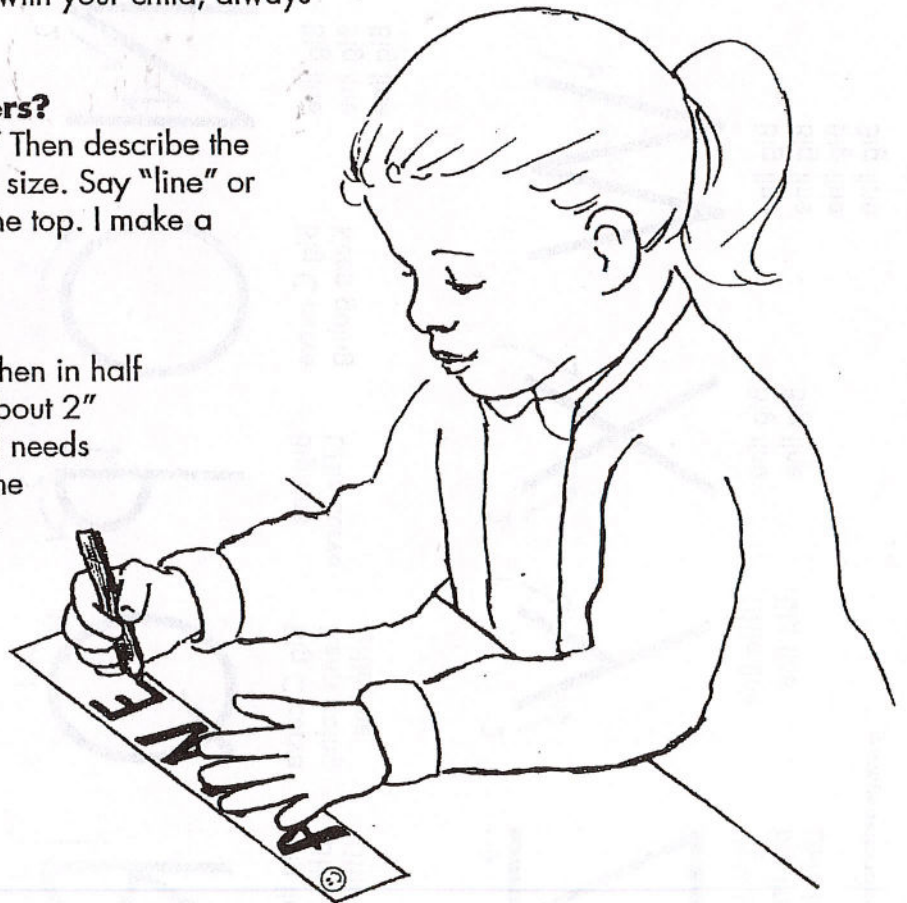
Yes, it really does. English has one basic rule for both reading and writing: read and write English from the top to bottom, left to right. When you write with your child, always start at the top!

What do I say when I teach the letters?

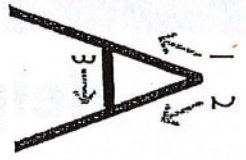
This is easy. Always say, "I start at the top." Then describe the part you're making. Say "big" or "little" for size. Say "line" or "curve" for shape, like this: D = "I start at the top. I make a big line. Now I make a big curve."

What kind of paper should I use?

Just fold a paper in half the long way and then in half again. Cut. That will give you four strips, about 2" by 11". You can adjust the size if your child needs to write bigger. Now put a smiley face in the top left corner of each strip. Use two strips. You write on the top one; your child writes on the bottom one. Make the capital letters as big as the paper.



GET SET FOR SCHOOL!



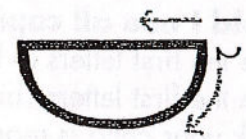
Big line
Big line
Little line



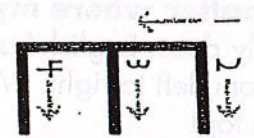
Big line
Little curve
Little curve



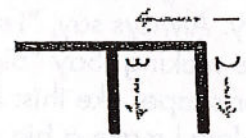
Big C curve



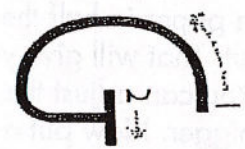
Big line
Big curve



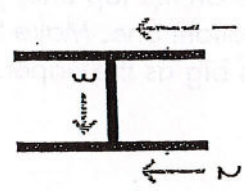
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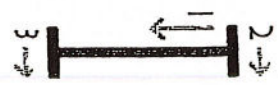
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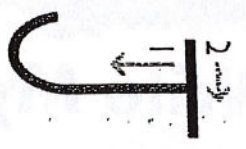
Big curve
Little line
Little line



Big line
Big line
Little line



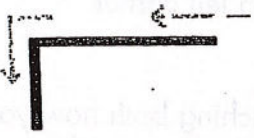
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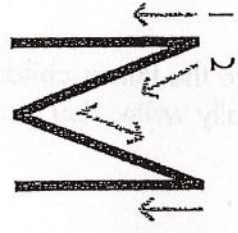
Big line
Turn
Little line



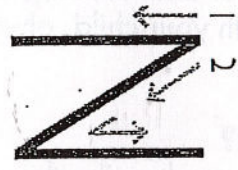
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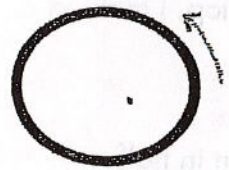
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Big line
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Big line



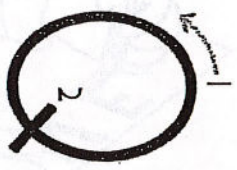
Big line
Big line
Big line



Big C curve
Keep going



Big line
Little curve



Big C curve
Keep going
Little line



Big line
Little curve
Little line



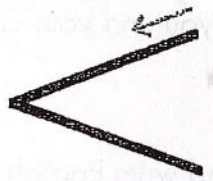
Little curve
Turn
Little curve



Big line
Little line



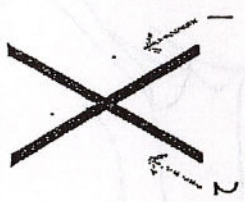
Big line
Turn
Big line



Big line
Big line



Big line
Big line
Big line
Big line



Big line
Big line



Little line
Big line



Little line
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Little line