



Maryville Early Childhood Center

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- We are off and running at the MECC! There are lots of expectations and procedures to go over the first few weeks. The students and teachers are already in a nice routine for the beginning of school.
- We are in our 4th year of our social and emotional curriculum grades Preschool- 4th grade called "Character Strong" through a partnership with Mosaic. Each month focuses on a character word and the students participate in daily lessons. The first month's lessons focused on kindness. Each teacher then selected a student who showed kindness for the month of August. They were recognized during their lunch time and received a certificate, an Applebees free kids meal and a photo taken. This has been an impactful program as students are always pointing out when others are using the word of the month.
- We continue to have a strong focus on early literacy skills within our building. All preschool and kindergarten classrooms use the Michael Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum each day. The lessons take approximately 10-12 minutes a day and are designed to teach the eight phonemic awareness skills within our whole group settings. We are amazed at how well the students can do the skills. It is neat to see the students in Kindergarten who had this curriculum in preschool become such leaders in class.
- We continue to implement the *Handwriting without Tears* program with our preschool classes. The readiness and writing program uses music, movement, and multisensory manipulatives to teach all the core readiness skills including crayon and pencil grip, letter and number recognition, number and letter formation, and body awareness. It has made a big impact in past years with skills such as students' grip, letter formation, and fine motor skills.
- The Kindergarten and Preschool teachers and students have been busy with the beginning of the year testing. It is always so fun to see how much they learn and grow throughout the year. Kindergarten teachers have been giving the Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA). The KEA is a one-time assessment designed to measure a child's skills and behaviors within the first few weeks of entering kindergarten. We are using the *Kindergarten Observation Form*. This is an assessment given to test students' readiness for Kindergarten.
- The Preschool classes have been learning about expectations, routines, counting, colors, graphing, and comparing through themes such as *All About Me*, *Pete the Cat*, *Fireflies*, and *Apples*.
- The Kindergarten classes have started their *ABC Bootcamp* where they learn all about the letters and sounds.

- Mrs. Hamilton from Northwest Missouri State University is bringing some practicum students into a few kindergarten rooms to learn from our teachers and gain some experience working with students in small groups, assisting with transitions, etc. They will be coming into school for an hour and a half each day for 7 weeks. This will hopefully be beneficial for both the practicum student and classroom teacher!

Parents as Teachers:

- Kristi Snodderley resigned due to having a baby, so we are looking to hire another part time Parent Educator. Feel free to share the info with anyone who has 1 to 2 evenings available to see and work with families. Here is the link to apply: <https://jobs.redroverk12.com/org/4561/opening/200076>
- The *Touch the Truck* event with Maryville Parks & Rec is coming up on September 12 at Donaldson Park. We are offering a free book to the first 30 families and we will have 2 car seat technicians from Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments.