

North Wildwood School District
PreSchool Handbook



1201 Atlantic Avenue
North Wildwood, NJ 08260

www.mmace.com



NORTH WILDWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT MARGARET MACE SCHOOL

Public Roots, Private Excellence.

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North Wildwood, NJ 08260 | (609) 522-1454 | www.mmace.com

Preschool Families,

Welcome to the Margaret Mace Preschool Program! We are excited for you and your child to join the MMS family.

This handbook is designed to ensure that our parents have a rewarding experience working with the staff in our program. The purpose of this handbook is to provide information regarding the program's policies and procedures mandated by the State of N.J. and the North Wildwood School District.

We strive to work closely with parents in a partnership that will facilitate the transitions between home and school. Daily communication is vital. Our goal is to provide the highest quality care and education for children in a warm, safe and developmentally appropriate environment and to ensure that parents are valued and respected.

We encourage parents to use this handbook as a tool to follow the policies and procedures outlined. We welcome your comments, questions, concerns and suggestions about your child's experience and the program.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patricia Donlan".

Patricia Donlan
Assistant Principal



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Mission

In society that is dependent on information and knowledge, equitable and universal access to technology is essential to the learning process. With guidance of skilled educators and community members, all students will have the opportunity to become actively engaged in the learning process as they think, create, inquire, solve problems and communicate in collaborative and interdisciplinary environments. Students will emerge as lifelong learners, productive members of the workforce and citizens that can contribute to society.

Our District Believes

- The school of tomorrow will not be bound by walls or limited to a standard school day
- The community of tomorrow will be one of continuous learning. Information and communication are essential tools for the process of improving our curriculum.
- Using technology ethically and appropriately, students can support their own learning by communicating with professionals and students from around the world
- With increasing global information, students must be able to scrutinize for information validity
- Suggested applications to incorporate effective technology use should be modeled by teachers in the classroom
- Effective student assessment is an integral part of strong teaching methods
- In collaboration with the other school districts of Cape May County, we are committed maintain the high standard of technology-infused curricula that has been established through the years of partnership, cooperation, and implementation of shared education vision.

Vision

The fundamental purpose of our Margaret Mace School's Preschool Program is to ensure that all students receive a high quality education through experiences with partnerships between school, home and community stakeholders.

To introduce the beginning stages of the learning process to the children while intertwining and helping their development social and communication stepping stones to unfold. To provide a supportive and fun classroom environment. To help the children make new friends and discover new interests.



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Program Philosophy

The Creative Curriculum provides the foundation for academic learning. It is the preparation children need before they learn highly abstract symbols such as letters and numbers. Children will experience growth and learning in their social – emotional, physical, language, and cognitive development, and families will feel supported and nurtured in their child rearing efforts.

Play enables us to achieve the key goals of our early childhood curriculum. Play is the work of young children. The philosophy behind our curriculum is that young children learn best by doing. Therefore, our curriculum surrounds learning with play.



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Healthy and Safe Environment Policy

Grow N.J Kids 1.5.1

Personal Belongings / Nap Time Requirements

1. Labeled Book Bag

The items listed below are required for your child to have. It is best to keep these materials in a special place at home to ensure that they are easy to find and returned to school each day.

- Book bag (large enough to hold a folder)
- A folder and communication notebook will be provided

2. Change of Clothes

Please send a change of clothes and underwear in a small Ziplock bag labeled with your child's name. If your child wears pull-ups, diapers, and/or uses wipes, it is your responsibility to provide and label them. They will only be used for your child. Please remember to replace the change of clothes each time our child needs them.

3. Nap Time

Please send in sheet / blanket. They must be able to fit inside the large Ziplock bag provided. It must be labeled with your child's name. Set of sheets will be sent home to be washed and they must be returned on Mondays.

Safety Procedure

Parents must abide by the following school district guidelines:

- Drop off and pick up locations will be provided to parents at orientation
- Parents must fill out an emergency and custody form at the beginning of the school year and indicate the name of the person(s) in charge of pickup and drop-off. If any information changes throughout the year, the parents must fill out a new updated form each time.



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Handwashing – Washing Procedure: Please teach this proper hand-washing procedure at home.

Hands should be washed upon arrival, after outside play, after toileting, diapering, after engaging in messy play activities, after coming into contact with bodily fluids, before meals and sometimes after meals if finger foods were served.

Steps for Proper Hand-washing:

- 1) Moisten hands with warm water and use liquid soap (No antibacterial soaps)
- 2) Rub hands together for at least 20 seconds (Sing the verse "Row, Row, Row your boat" 2 times)
- 3) Rinse hands free of soap under running water
- 4) Dry hands with a clean, disposable towel
- 5) Turn off water faucet with a paper towel and throw away the used paper towel into a hands-free trash container.



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Food Policy and Dietary Restrictions Procedures

Grow N.J. Kids 1.3.3

Healthy Menus / Allergies or Dietary Restrictions

Preschool menus follow the guidelines of “Best Practice for Healthy Eating by Nemour Health and Prevention Services” Handbook. Families’ dietary restrictions due to religious beliefs, personal beliefs, cultural customs, and health issues are respected. Download the Nutri-Serve App to access the menus.

Students will be eating in the classroom and/or outside eating areas. Teachers will sanitize and disinfect tables before serving food.



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Parental Involvement

Grow N.J. Kids 3.5.1

District – Wide Parental Involvement Events

Back to School Night: September 10, 2026

Parent Conferences: (November 23, 24, 2026) (February 17, 18, 2027) Preschool Teachers will have opportunity to meet and provide parents information regarding Early Childhood Education assessments and students' progress toward meeting learning goals in person meetings.

Newsletter / Remind: Weekly newsletters (Launch Points) Daily Reminder texts:

- Upcoming school events and meetings
- District related – information
- Information regarding the curriculum
- Upcoming community events for families
- Home – school connections (HSA meetings 2nd Wednesday of the Month)
- Diversity / multicultural activities



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Screen and Physical Activity Policy

Grow N.J. Kids 1.2.2

Screen Time Policy

As children get older, too much screen time can get in the way of reading, doing homework, playing with friends, and spending time with family, and can also increase their risk for being overweight or obese.

In order to improve the health of the children in our care, we follow the American Academy of Pediatrics' Recommendations on Screen Time.

- Children under 2 should have no screen time.
- Children age 3 – 5 should not exceed 2 hours of screen time per day

Physical Activity

Children should exercise at least two hours per day indoors or outdoors. In our program, students have 60 minutes to engage in rigorous gross motor activities. Gross motor is mandatory component of the curriculum. Any exclusion from gross motor requires a doctor's note.

Tips for Parents...

- Limit TV viewing, smart phone and video game use
- Track screen time with a scheduling sheet
- Avoid watching TV while eating



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Margaret Mace School
Preschool Teachers
2026 -2027

Mrs. Karen Holland – Preschool Teacher – Room 14
Ms. Dina Chernenko - Paraprofessional

Mrs. Anne Regan – Preschool Teacher – Room 11
Mrs. Andy Suchan - Paraprofessional

NORTH WILDWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT | 2026-2027 CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER '26

S	M	T	W	Th	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			

- 1-2 Teacher Orientation
* Staff PD Day
3 First Day of School
* Early Dismissal
3-4 Early Dismissal
* Staff and Students
Total Days for Students: 19
Total Days for Staff: 21

FEBRUARY '27

S	M	T	W	Th	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						

- 10-11 Early Dismissal-
*Conferences
12 President's Weekend-Close
15 President's Day- Closed
Total Days for Students: 18
Total Days for Staff: 18

OCTOBER '26

S	M	T	W	Th	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

- 9 Closed for Students
*Staff PD Day
12 Columbus Day- Closed
Total Days for Students: 20
Total Days for Staff: 21

MARCH '27

S	M	T	W	Th	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			

- 25 Early Dismissal-
*Staff and Students
36-31 Spring Break- Closed
Total Days for Students: 19
Total Days for Staff: 19

NOVEMBER '26

S	M	T	W	Th	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					

- 4 Closed for Students-
*Staff PD Day
5-6 NJEA- Closed
23-24 Early Dismissal-Conferences
25 Early Dismissal-
*Staff and Students
26-27 Thanksgiving-Closed
Total Days for Students: 16
Total Days for Staff: 17

APRIL '27

S	M	T	W	Th	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	

- 1-2 Spring Break- Closed
5 School Reopens
Total Days for Students: 20
Total Days for Staff: 20

DECEMBER '26

S	M	T	W	Th	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		

- 23 Early Dismissal-
* Staff and Students
24-31 Winter Break- Closed
Total Days for Students: 17
Total Days for Staff: 17

MAY '27

S	M	T	W	Th	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					

- 28 Early Dismissal-
* Staff and Students
31 Memorial Day- Closed
Total Days for Students: 20
Total Days for Staff: 20

JANUARY '27

S	M	T	W	Th	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						

- 1 New Year's Day-Closed
4 School Reopens
18 M.L. King Day-Closed
Total Days for Students: 19
Total Days for Staff: 19

JUNE '27

S	M	T	W	Th	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			

- 14-16 Early Dismissal
16 Tentative Last Day of
School
Total Days for Students: 12
Total Days for Staff: 12

COLOR KEYS

	No School Students & Staff
	Early Dismissal Students & Staff
	No School Students Only
	Early Dismissal Students Only

Marking Periods

- 1st: Sept 3, 2026-Nov 13, 2026
2nd: Nov 16, 2026-Jan 29, 2027
3rd: Feb 1, 2027-Apr 16, 2027
4th: April 19, 2027- June 16, 2027

Board Meetings

The NWBOE will conduct its regular meetings on the fourth Monday of each month

Total Days for Students: 180

Total Days for Staff: 184

Revisions to the Calendar due to Weather and Other Emergent Circumstances~

Note: Early closing for additional teacher in-services will be scheduled on an as needed basis. Days lost due to inclement weather, etc. (up to five days) will be made up at the end of the school year. After five (5) days, make-up days may be scheduled during vacations after consultation with Association.

Board of Education approval: 2/26/26