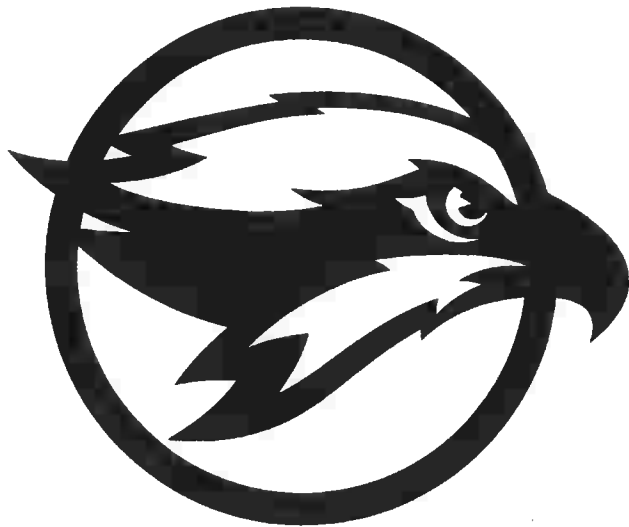


North Wildwood School District
PreSchool Handbook



Margaret Mace School

North Wildwood, NJ

1201 Atlantic Avenue
North Wildwood, NJ 08260

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'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Patricia Donlan
Assistant Principal



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 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 to maintain the high standard of technology-infused curricula that has been established through the years of partnership, cooperation, and implementation of a shared educational 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.

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.

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 you 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 you 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 a 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) I charge of pickup and drop-off. If any information changes throughout the year, the parents must fill out a new updated form each time.

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.

These are the 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 of "Row, Row, Row your boat" 2 times).
- 3) Rinse hands free of soap under running water
- 4) Dry hands with a clean, disposal towel
- 5) Turn off water faucet with a paper towel and throw away the used paper towel into a hands-free trash container



Patricia Donlan

Assistant Principal

pdonlan@mpace.com

609-522-1454

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 Practices 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 Nutrislice 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.

Parental Involvement

Grow N.J. Kids 3.5.1

District – Wide Parental Involvement Events

Preschool Orientation: August 28, 2024

Back to School Night: September 12, 2024

Parent Conferences: (November 25, 26, 2024) (February 12, 13, 2025): Preschool Teachers will have the opportunity, to meet and provide parents information regarding Early Childhood Education assessments and students' progress toward meeting learning goals in person meetings.

End of Study / Holiday Celebrations: Focuses on what the children have learned throughout the study

- **Monthly HSA / ECAC meetings**
- **ECAC Meeting dates:**
 - 09/12/2024 – Back to School Night
 - 12/06/2024
 - 03/17/2025
 - 06/16/2025Meetings will take place in the Media Center & Room 20

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

- Upcoming school events and meetings
- District related – information
- Information regarding the curriculum
- Upcoming community events for families
- Home – school connections
- Diversity / multicultural activities

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 of time 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



Margaret Mace Home and School Association

Facebook: Margaret Mace Home and School Association

Jenn Clemens	President	609- 972-4948
Dina Bilios	Vice President	609-675-8786
Lauren Cooper	Treasurer	302-528-2309
Kathy Gonzalez	Secretary	609-602-9437
Haroula Rotondi	Events Coordinator	609- 827-9392

The Margaret Mace Home and School Association is looking forward to another great year of activities! During the school year the HSA will host many special events for the students, as well as raise funds for assemblies, educational items, holiday parties, playground equipment, and many other activities that will enhance your child's education and overall experience here at Margaret Mace School.

The success of the HSA depends on the continued support of the parents. Getting involved with the HSA is also a great way to spend time with your child, get to know the school staff and meet other parents. It is also fun and rewarding to volunteer! Please use the form below and the sign-up sheet on the reverse side to let us know your interest, availability **and any new ideas for activities or fundraisers!!**

***** The 2024-2025 meeting schedule is the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 8:15am in the library starting in October.**

___ YES, I would like to become a member of the MMS HSA. AND YES, I am willing to volunteer some time to help with the events that I have selected on the reverse side of this form.

Member Information:

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Name and Grade of Students: _____



Remind

HSA uses the **REMIND** app for communication with our volunteers.
Please download the app from your favorite app store.

Please select the events you are interested in volunteering for on the reverse side of this form and return it to the school in an envelope marked Margaret Mace Home and School Association



Margaret Mace Home and School Association

I would like to help! (Check all boxes that apply)

A. ___ Food Drive: November

Each year we support the Lazarus House, our community food bank by providing donations from our school families. A flyer will be sent home suggesting items that are requested and for volunteers to help organize this effort.

B. ___ Santa's Workshop: December

This is a 2-day shopping event for our children, where they can purchase gifts for their family and friends. Volunteers are needed to assist the children with shopping, run the "store", wrap the gifts, setup, and cleanup of the event.

C. ___ Pizza with Santa: December

A big holiday social event, filled with games, crafts, carolers, pictures with Santa, and of course, Pizza! Volunteers are needed to coordinate, serve refreshments, help with games and crafts, setup, and cleanup. We also will be asking local businesses to donate gift certificates or monetary donations to help make all the prizes even better!

D. ___ Teacher / Staff Appreciation Day: May

The MMS HSA shows our appreciation to all the MMS teachers and staff with a luncheon. Volunteers are needed to provide homemade side dishes, homemade desserts, beverages, setup, and cleanup the lunch.

E. ___ Field Day: June

The MMS HSA provides the children with cold drinks and snacks while they are busy with activities on the field. Volunteers are needed to serve drinks, snacks, setup, and cleanup.

F. ___ Hospitality: Ongoing throughout the year

MMS HSA provides cookies for special events, such as Halloween, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day and Easter. Volunteers are needed to serve the cookies to our students.

G. ___ Fundraisers: Ongoing throughout the year

Help to sell MMS spirit wear / gear at MMS sporting events.
Help distribute event flyers, reminders, stuff envelopes, and help on event or delivery day.

**New fundraiser ideas and or social events are always welcome,
please list ideas below**

Parent/Guardian's Name: _____



EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

The purpose of the Early
Childhood Advisory Council is an advisory group of community
Stakeholders interested in the education and welfare of children
In preschool through grade three
That is convened by the school district
(N.N.A.C,6A:13A-1.2)

September 12, 2024 Back to School Night

December 16, 2024

March 17, 2025

June 16, 2025

Meetings will take place in the Media Center & Room 20 at 5pm

Margaret Mace School

If you are interested or have any questions,
please call 609-522-1454, Ext: 610



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NORTH WILDWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT | 2024-2025 CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3				7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

2 Labor Day- Closed
3 Teacher Orientation
 * Staff PD Day
4 First Day of School
 * Early Dismissal
5 Early Dismissal
6 Early Dismissal
Total Days for Students: 19
Total Days for Staff: 20

FEBRUARY '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11			14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

12-13 Early Dismissal-
 * Conferences
14 President's Weekend- Closed
17 President's Day- Closed
Total Days for Students: 18
Total Days for Staff: 18

OCTOBER '24						
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		

11 Closed for Students
 * Staff PD Day
14 Columbus Day- Closed
Total Days for Students: 21
Total Days for Staff: 22

MARCH '25						
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					

14 Closed for Students-
 * Staff PD Day
Total Days for Students: 20
Total Days for Staff: 21

NOVEMBER '24						
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		27	28	29	30	

6 Closed for Students-
 * Staff PD Day
7-8 NJEA- Closed
25-26 Early Dismissal- Conferences
27 Early Dismissal-
 * Staff and Students
28-29 Thanksgiving- Closed
Total Days for Students: 16
Total Days for Staff: 17

APRIL '25						
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			

17 Early Dismissal-
 * Staff and Students
18-25 Spring Break- Closed
28 School Reopens
Total Days for Students: 16
Total Days for Staff: 16

DECEMBER '24						
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				

20 Early Dismissal-
 * Staff and Students
23-31 Winter Break- Closed
Total Days for Students: 15
Total Days for Staff: 15

MAY '25						
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 Memorial Day- Closed
Total Days for Students: 21
Total Days for Staff: 21

JANUARY '25						
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
2 School Reopens
20 ML King Day- Closed
Total Days for Students: 21
Total Days for Staff: 21

JUNE '25						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11			14
15				19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

12-18 Early Dismissal
18 Tentative Last Day of School
Total Days for Students: 13
Total Days for Staff: 13

COLOR KEYS	
	No School Students & Staff
	Early Dismissal- Students & Staff
	No School Students Only
	Early Dismissal- Students Only

Marking Periods	
	1 st : Sept 4, 2024 - Nov 5, 2024
	2 nd : Nov 11, 2024 - Jan 31, 2025
	3 rd : Feb 3, 2025 - Apr 8, 2025
	4 th : Apr 9, 2025 - Jun 18, 2025

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: 03/25/24