

SHAKER PRESCHOOL POST

November 3, 2024

Preschool Calendar

- **Election Day** | Tuesday, November 5, **NO SCHOOL**
- **PTO Meeting** | Wednesday, November 20
- **Professional Learning** | Monday, November 25, **NO STUDENTS**
- **Professional Learning** | Tuesday, November 26, **NO STUDENTS**
- **Thanksgiving Break** | Wed-Fri, November 27-29, **NO SCHOOL**

Link to [Online District Master Calendar](#)



Message from the Preschool Administrative Assistant

Dear Preschool Families,

Thank you for taking the time to meet with us during Parent-Teacher Conferences. We enjoyed the opportunity to share your child's progress with you. As always, please let us know how school is going for your son and/or daughter. We welcome your comments.

Thank you for entrusting your child in our care,

Courtnei D Blockson, Preschool Administrative Assistant

School News

Nature Center Field Trips

A couple weeks ago our preschoolers took nature walks around the school grounds. That was a wonderful experience leading up to their [Nature Center field trips](#).



November UPK Activities

As mentioned in the early October newsletter, as a part of our Universal PreKindergarten (UPK) grant, we are provided with some wonderful Home-School activities to share with families.

Families please enjoy the [November Learning Lab](#) activities and take a look at the [Calendar](#) for events!



Shaker Heights Preschool is now a University Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) site! We are still in the process of gathering information and learning new procedures, but we are so excited for this opportunity. UPK is its own entity and for that reason, we need more information from you, the parent and your preschooler. In your child's folder will be a **UPK Child+ Application** and a **UPK Program Privacy Practices Form**. Please complete these forms as soon as possible and have them returned in your child's folder. You can also fill out the application here, [UPK Child+ Application](#) and scan it to, blockson_c@shaker.org.

UPK Surveys

Families, I know there have been quite a bit of forms to be filled out as of late, and we appreciate your cooperation. Below you will find two surveys that will need to be completed for UPK:

[Curriculum Night Survey](#)

[Family Interest Survey](#)

Ludlow Info!



Renovation Set to Begin for Ludlow Early Learning

The construction fence is up at Ludlow! Renovations will begin shortly as we prepare for the opening of the Ludlow Early Learning Center in Fall 2025. Ludlow will accommodate an expanded pre-Kindergarten program, so all Shaker students have a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

This space is designed with early learning in mind, featuring spaces to accommodate occupational and physical therapy, preschool-aged playground equipment and outdoor learning spaces, flexible furniture designed for our youngest learners, smart storage and more! The Ludlow school building will have 11 classrooms, a physical therapy room, a gymnasium, a multipurpose room and a secure vestibule entrance. Read more about the Ludlow Early Learning Center [here](#).

To Ludlow We Go, 2025!

Scheduled to open in August 2025, the building will welcome over 200 Preschool children and 40 staff members to create a center of excellence in early learning. Parents of Preschool or soon-to-be Preschool students are urged to [sign-up for updates](#) on the enrollment process and other helpful information about the benefits of Preschool experiences.



PRESCHOOL
IS COMING TO LUDLOW!

Full- & Half-Day Options
International Baccalaureate Curriculum
High-Quality Instruction
Licensed Teachers
Before- & After-Care Options
Special Education Services

2025-2026 ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

Be 3 years of age by August 1, 2025
Live within the Shaker Heights City School District attendance zone

Sign up for updates!
SHAKER.ORG/PRESCHOOL



A Universal Pre-Kindergarten site funded by Invest in Children.



Current Program Rating

Now Accepting Vouchers!



Scan here for more info!



A Message from the School Nurse

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN I SHOULDN'T SEND MY CHILD TO SCHOOL?



Here are some helpful tips to decide if you should send your child to school:

Ask yourself:

“Is my child well enough to learn in school today?”

Contagious illness: Please do not send your child to school if you suspect or know that your child has any contagious illness. Some of the most common contagious diseases include: Covid-19, strep throat, influenza, head lice, ringworm, and pink eye (conjunctivitis).

Children should be kept home if they have an emerging illness or a fever of 100 degrees fahrenheit or higher. **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD WITH A FEVER TO SCHOOL ON FEVER-REDUCING MEDICATION** (like Tylenol or Motrin/Advil). These medications do not prevent the spread of any illness.

In addition to the illnesses listed above, please keep your child home from school if he/she has any of the following symptoms:

1. Fever of 100.4 F or higher (child should be fever-free for 24 hours without medication before returning to school)
2. Vomiting and/or diarrhea (should not return to school until 24 hours after symptoms stop)
3. Frequent, severe cough
4. Fresh cold with a constantly runny nose
5. Rash that has not been diagnosed and/or treated
6. Difficult or rapid breathing
7. Yellowish skin or eyes
8. Unusually dark urine and/or gray or white stool
9. Suspected strep throat; Keep child home until after throat culture results are known and 24 hours after medication is started to treat the infection
10. Itchy red eye or eye with sticky drainage
11. Other symptoms that suggest the child is ill and/or should not be at school

Please call or contact your school nurse if she can be of assistance to you at any time during the school year. Valerie Bermel, RN - (216) 295-4083 / bermel_v@shaker.org

Peanut Free Zone!

We can never take food allergens lightly! Please be mindful of the fact that we are a peanut free school. It is important that there is strict avoidance to this food in order to prevent a life-threatening allergic reaction. To reduce the chance of this occurring, we are asking that you do not send any peanut or nut containing products with your child that will be eaten in the school.

If your child has eaten peanuts/nuts before coming to school, please be sure your child's hands and face have been thoroughly washed before entering the school. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Dressing for the Weather

This is just a friendly reminder that students need to come to school properly dressed for the weather. As the weather gets colder and wet, students need to have the following items: winter hat, mittens/gloves, scarf/neck warmer, winter boots, snow pants and a proper winter jacket. Please continue practicing zipping up jackets at home. Despite the cold weather, we will be going outside, unless there has been a weather advisory stating that we cannot go outside or if it's raining. Please make sure to adjust your child's extra change of clothing that is kept at school, or in their bookbag, to match the season.

At Onaway We Play, When We Show Up Each Day!

Teaching the importance of good attendance starts now! One missed day or walking into class late is a lost opportunity for your student to learn and to engage with his/her peers. Please be mindful of getting your preschool scholar to school daily and on time. Let's start good habits now.

Please report your child's absence to Ms. Blockson at 216.295.4190. Thank you.

ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...



PRESCHOOLERS
build skills and develop
good habits for showing
up on time



**ELEMENTARY
STUDENTS**
read well by the
end of third grade



HIGH SCHOOLERS
stay on track for
graduation



**COLLEGE
STUDENTS**
earn their degrees



WORKERS
succeed in
their jobs

Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.



Now Accepting Vouchers

We are happy to announce that the Shaker Heights Preschool will now be accepting vouchers.

What is a voucher?

- For employees with child care expenses, the Child Care Voucher Program provides cash grants once a year for work-related child care expenses.

The amount you receive depends on:

- Your family adjusted gross income.
- Your hours and pay periods worked.
- Your number of dependents.



Please click the [link](#) to learn more about how to obtain a voucher for the Shaker Heights district.

Arrival and Dismissal Reminders & Updates

The safety of our scholars and staff is of the utmost importance. One way to ensure that everyone is safe is by refraining from parking in the bus zone in the front of the building during scholar drop-off and pick-up times. **Please park on the street beyond the parking lot driveway, during arrival and dismissal, not in front of the building or in the parking lot in areas not marked for parking.**

Refer to the [Arrival & Dismissal Procedures](#), for classroom specific arrival and dismissal doors. Thank you for helping us to keep Shaker Preschool scholars, staff and families safe.

For those of you who park in the parking lot, please make sure, you are not parking in a handicap spot, unless authorized.



A Message from our Onaway IB Coordinator



Shaker is an International Baccalaureate district, our Onaway IB Coordinator helps to keep our families informed. Please see this week's [IB Newsletter](#) for the latest updates. If you have any questions about IB, please reach out to your child's teacher or our IB Coordinator, Denise Brown (brown_d@shaker.org).

PTO News

RAFFLE BASKETS FUNDRAISER

The Senior Celebrations Committee is hosting an online fundraiser and you have the chance to win! Opportunities include Browns, Cavaliers, or Monsters games, tickets to the Cleveland Orchestra, self-care packages, yummy treats from local businesses, and so much more! Buy your raffle tickets today at bit.ly/ParentPartyFUNdraiser. The official drawing will be on Saturday, Nov. 16th. Proceeds will benefit beloved traditions for the Class of 2025 including After Prom Event, Senior Clap Out, and Black & White Photos.

Join the PTO

All Parents and Caregivers are automatically a part of the PTO. For more information regarding this wonderful, dedicated community of parents/caregivers please take a look [here](#), as well as the [PTO Welcome Letter](#) for the 2024-2025 school year.

Our Onaway Co-Presidents are, Meghan Jordan (meghanjordanjordan@gmail.com) and Brooke Feher (brooke.falk@gmail.com). Take a look at the [PTO Calendar](#) for exciting events. Thank you!



Coming To A Mailbox Near You!

Our Fall 2024 Donor Appreciation Report, "**Educate, Empower, Explore & Engage**," is hot off the press and coming your way soon! This report highlights the successes achieved by the Foundation because of your unwavering support and commitment to investing in our future! It also marks the launch of our Advancing Shaker Annual Appeal campaign. Your support allows us to continue to enhance educational opportunities for Shaker students. We are dedicated to our mission of building community resources to promote equitable access and enhance opportunities both in and out of the classroom!

Learn more by visiting www.shakerschoolsfoundation.org.

Stay up to date by following the Shaker Schools Foundation on our social media platforms, [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#)!