



Penn Brook School

“Where Learning Takes Root”

68 Elm Street
Georgetown, MA 01833
978.352.5785
www.pennbrookschool.net

Margaret C. Maher
Principal

Hope Doran
Assistant Principal

2020 Kindergarten Parent Orientation Q & A

*** What are the expectations for the knowledge that a child should have in order to start kindergarten?**

Students need to be five years old by August 31 and residents of Georgetown. Beyond that, there are no expectations that students have certain knowledge or information. Students may have different abilities and we will adjust instruction to meet the needs of the child. On **Tuesday, June 9, at 6:00**, there will be a workshop entitled, “Getting Ready for Kindergarten,” which addresses social/emotional issues, among other topics, associated with a child starting kindergarten.

*** Can you discuss before and after care and if the kids will be able to meet teachers virtually or have a virtual tour of the school?**

We know that many families rely on before and after school care and typically, the Penn Brook School runs an extended day program. However, we are awaiting recommendations from Comm. of Education, Jeffrey Riley, scheduled to be released in mid June, on what safeguards should be implemented for extended day. Once we know this, we will be able to plan for the program. If you are interested, please reach out to Elizabeth Carroll at carrolle@georgetown.k12.ma.us so that we can gauge interest. We will be posting a virtual tour of certain areas of the Penn Brook School and the kindergarten wing.

*** Will there be an option for remote learning for families that may want to choose to stay home?**

We are awaiting recommendations from Comm. of Education, Riley, scheduled to be released in mid June, to give us guidelines for what school will look like for the 2020-2021 school year. There are many reasons why a family may not feel comfortable sending their child to school, and Comm. Riley will address what to do in these situations. It is likely that there will be remote learning for those children and teachers/staff who may not be able to physically be in school.

*** How or where to submit the paperwork required. Please show/give/send the link. We have not yet submitted, this email was the first we heard of this requirement. When is it due by?**

Please visit the Penn Brook School website, <https://www.gssapp.org/GeorgetownPublicSchools/pennbrook/> for information on how to register a child for kindergarten.

*** What precautions will be in place for COVID? Will the children be required to wear masks? What type of cleaning will be done? Will the buses be running as normal or will that change as well? What impact does it have on aftercare and how do we sign up for aftercare programs?**

Comm. of Education, Riley will be releasing extensive guidelines for schools as to the safeguards schools must follow, which will likely include students and teachers/staff wearing masks. However, we will have to wait for the guidelines to be released for the specific information. Within the recommendations will also be guidelines for transportation.

*** Is there a specific website I should be checking frequently? Just want to make sure I don't miss information.**

Please check the Penn Brook School website at <https://www.gssapp.org/GeorgetownPublicSchools/pennbrook/> for information. In addition, throughout the school year, a message is sent out with updates to parents on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m. via A.P. Notifier at the email address provided.

*** Is there early drop off and after school care hours?**

We know that many families rely on before and after school care and typically, the Penn Brook School runs an extended day program. However, we are awaiting recommendations from Comm. of Education, Jeffrey Riley, scheduled to be released in mid June, on what safeguards should be implemented for extended day. Once we know this, we will be able to plan for the program. If you are interested, please reach out to Elizabeth Carroll at carrolle@georgetown.k12.ma.us so that we can gauge interest. When will we be given info on what is needed prior to start day.

Diversity in the classroom. How is it taught? How is it promoted? How is it honored? How is the class inclusive?

We honor all children and families and in the placement process strive for heterogeneous classes. We have adopted the **CARES** motto (Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy, Self- Control) to reinforce traits that create a bias and stereotype free environment which builds on a family's beliefs of inclusion and respect.

We model these values and provide instruction and strategies through our social/emotional program, **Second Step** (see, <https://www.secondstep.org/>), that reinforce specific skills students can learn to promote social/emotional well-being. We use **Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)**, which is a framework for encouraging positive behavior, (see <https://www.gssapp.org/GeorgetownPublicSchools/pennbrook/pbis/>). We build a community of kindness and respect throughout the year such as through Friendship lessons for students in Kindergarten and Grade 1, lessons from adjustment counselors in Grades 2- 6, Community Gatherings, Peer Mediation, and monthly Fun Day Fundraisers.