



2021-2022
Kindergarten
Parent
Orientation
Q&A



Will the children be able to play together? What does playtime look like this year and how do you hope it will change next year?

- As a learning community, the Primary Centers value play and social interaction. We recognize its importance, especially for the students' social-emotional development.
- Social-distancing guidelines minimized our ability to bring children together. As the school year progressed, the staff explored and executed numerous strategies to provide more social interaction during the school day and during their pm virtual instruction.
- As the guidelines from the CDC and our local Board of Health are shared with us, we will have a better idea of how social-distancing will impact the structure of the school year. Health and safety come first.

Any insights into how lunch and snack will be handled next year? Is it possible for parents to volunteer at lunch?

- All of the schools are currently involved in committee work, whereby we are exploring the safest and most efficient ways to structure lunch, recess, snack, in addition to other aspects of the school day, recognizing the unique needs of each building and the grade levels.
- Currently, snack time is held outdoors, with numerous movement breaks built into each classroom's schedule
- At this time, we do not anticipate parent volunteers for lunch/recess across the schools.

What are the specific plans for returning children to school full time in person in September? What are the specific issues that would prevent full time, in-person instruction? What is being done to solve those potential issues?

- We work closely with our Board of Health, in addition to guidance from the state, regarding social-distancing protocols as well as other health/safety guidelines.
- Until more specifics about these areas are released, we are not able to share more specific details.
- Eating lunch and providing recess were two areas that prevented full day, in-person instruction this year.. Note that our instructional model was strong and formal instruction was met through both in-person instruction and virtual instruction in the afternoon, including related arts and small group work.
- Specific issues that would prevent full time, in-person instruction would align with health and safety guidelines. Health and safety guidelines are dictated by our local Board of Health/State of NJ.

Is summit in touch with neighboring towns and districts that have returned for full time in person instruction to share information and knowledge about what those districts are doing that has allowed their children to return full time in person.

- While we do communicate and engage in conversations with neighboring districts and schools throughout the county and state, each school district is unique and what works for one building and district may not be able to be replicated.

Will there be a virtual option in September? I realize these plans may not be formed at this time.

- The Governor has indicated school will be in-person, full time.

- A student unable to attend school due to a medical condition would typically receive homeschooling services; the pandemic saw the introduction of virtual learning this school year. We have yet to receive further guidance in this area for the 2021-2022 school year.

Do kindergarteners have recess? I have no recollection perhaps because only know is kindergarten full-time; is it part of lunch? I realize pandemic restrictions play a role here, but with the kindergarteners only having gym 2 times a week, I was wondering about their outdoor/recess time.

- Yes, Kindergarten students have recess. Recess is a separate, dedicated time whereby students will engage with their peers and enjoy less structured activities to build independence, practice problem-solving skills, and incorporate movement activities during their busy school day.
- Our goal is to be outside as much as possible. Dress the children in layers, as we will be outside, even in the winter!

My child will be going from JPC to the Connection after care. I expect to receive more information from them about the process, but wondering if you could share any information from your side as to that transition process.

- The Connection program has a dedicated space in each Primary Center.
- Teachers or staff members will dismiss the students to the Connection Staff at the end of the school day.
- The Connection will provide more details, as it is their program.