



Pre-K & EC NEWS



August, 2011



Cook County School
District # 130
Horace Mann & Nathan Hale PreK
Dr. Carol Crum- Director

Dear Families:

FALL 2011

Welcome to our schools! Whether your child will be attending Horace Mann or Hale Primary Prekindergarten we look forward to working with you and your child during the 2011-12 school year. We have many exciting learning activities planned for both children and parents!



We strongly encourage you to attend our "Parent/Child Orientation Days" that are planned for August 24th, 25th and 26th . This is a wonderful way to meet your child's teacher and become acquainted with our school. We are looking forward to working with you to provide your child with a positive and successful school experience.



NON-ATTENDANCE DAYS

Please check your child's back pack every day. We encourage you to refer to the "Parent Handbook" and District #130 Calendar for important information throughout the school year.

Monday, September 5th
Friday, September 23rd
Monday, October 10th
Friday, October 21st
Thursday, November 10th
Friday, November 11th
Friday, November 18th
Thursday and Friday,
November 24 and 25
Thursday, December 22
thru Wednesday, January
4th.

Sincerely,
Carol Crum, Ph.D.
Principal





OUR SCHOOLS

Horace Mann and Nathan Hale Prekindergarten Schools provide educational programming to over 460 three and four year old students at our two locations. In addition, we provide a home and center based program for 150 families who have children between the ages of birth to three through our state funded Prevention Initiative Program. Each of our three programs (Preschool for All Children, Early Childhood Special Education, Birth to Three Prevention Initiative) is aligned with the Illinois State Board of Education Early Learning Program Standards.

Our Programs are based on the following guiding principles:

1. Young children are capable and confident
2. Children are individuals who develop at different rates
3. Developmental domains are highly interrelated
4. Children will exhibit a range of skills and competencies in any domain of development
5. Knowledge of how children grow and develop, together with expectations that are consistent with growth patterns, are essential to develop, implement and maximize the benefits of educational experiences for children.
6. Young children learn through active exploration of their environment in child-initiated and teacher-initiated activities
7. Families are the primary caregivers and educators of young children

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Conferences will take place on Wednesday, November 9th and Thursday, November 10th. This is a wonderful time when parents and teachers discuss goals for the child. Parents and teachers can learn if they are both on the same page in regards to the child's academic expectations--as well as emotional and social expectations. Join us in this opportunity to learn about your child's life at school. In addition, you will gain ideas of how you can help continue your child's learning at home. Make your child's conference as beneficial as possible...

- Arrive five minutes before your scheduled appointment time
- Bring along a list of questions you would like to have answered by the teacher
- Focus on strengths as well as those things that may need improvement
- While at school visit the lending library and bring new items home to share
- Provide your child with praise following the conference and share with him all that you learned

During the 2011-12 school year Horace Mann and Hale PreK Class sessions will be as follows:

AM Session 8:30 to 11:00

PM Session 12:15 to 2:45

Parents who transport their children must escort their children into the building and sign them in. Teacher assistants and teachers will receive students at the front door at 8:25 for morning students and 12:10 for afternoon students. Please understand the importance of being on time. The whole routine of the classroom is essential for your child's success. In addition, please note the ending times and pick up your child on time.

OPEN HOUSE



Join us ...

Horace Mann

Thursday, September 15th

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Hale Primary PreK

Wednesday, August 31

6:00-7:00 p.m.

Come meet the school staff and visit your child's classroom. Your attendance matters!!!!

CAUTION: CHILD HARD AT WORK



Parents occasionally express to teachers that they feel too much time is spent playing in the Prekindergarten and Early Childhood classrooms.

Fear not, your child is being exposed to numbers, letters, and shapes in a creative, fun and non-traditional way. Children learn best through doing the kinds of activities they find interesting whether it be parading around in dress up clothes, building a tower of blocks, stringing beads or reading in circle time. During play a great amount of academic learning takes place. More importantly, they learn how to socialize -- get along with other children, share, contribute, and compromise. The children are building their foundations for school and life success.



Parents are their child's first and most influential teacher. And its through prekindergarten that parents and teachers are first brought together. Parent participation is one of the greatest ways you can assist in your child's academic success. The parent/teacher relationship, when strong, can truly guide and strengthen your children's development. Below are suggestions that will help maintain open communication between you and school staff:

1. Check your child's school bag daily
2. Read all notes and respond as necessary
3. Call or write staff regarding anything that would be helpful in understanding your child (i.e., separation of parents, development of a new fear, illness)
4. Attend Parent/Teacher Conferences, Open Houses and Parent/Child Activities
5. Stay connected and actively learn through Parent Connections and parent workshops. These are opportunities for all our parents to increase their understanding of child development and family relationships. These are also wonderful times to make connections with other parents.



**SAY
CHEESE...PICTURE
DAY IS COMING!**

Its time to start practicing those great big smiles and pick out that special outfit because picture day is around the corner. Watch your child's book bag for additional information.

Horace Mann
THURSDAY, November 3rd
Nathan Hale PreK
TUESDAY, October 4th

When you come into our school please remember ...it is a child's world!

THEIR WORK,
THEIR IDEAS,
THEIR FUN

Sometimes a child's idea of decoration, beauty and good housekeeping does not coincide with adults.

A child's imagination is great! Children can do wonderful things... paint the wind, dance like a leaf and find joy and happiness in performing simple tasks. These are abilities that adults may have lost along the way. Enter and return for a brief visit to the wonderful world





BUILDING YOUR CHILD VOCABULARY

Language is exploding. After relying solely on crying and gestures your preschooler is finally using words as a means to relate to others and organize his world. You may have noticed that your child is constantly asking questions and talking to himself during play. Supporting your child's language learning will greatly affect his school experience and success. Below are some suggestion of ways you can increase your child's vocabulary...

Keep alphabet and picture books readily available to your child. (both can be found at your local library)

Be a language role model by reading to the child and by letting him see you reading for your own pleasure and pointing out new words.

Sing silly songs together. We remember better when we put our new knowledge to music. (think of the alphabet song).

Ask your child questions such as "How do you think that works? \ What do you think is going to happen next? \ What would you do?" throughout the day to increase conversational and higher thinking skills.

Be patient. When your child regresses and resorts to crying and tantrums remain calm and help him with the words to express emotions ie. anger, frustration, jealousy, fatigue, fear, etc. "Are you jealous that your baby brother is getting all the attention and you want me to play with you?"

Parent Connections



We all question our parenting practices from time to time. "How do I respond to the temper tantrums? Should I force my child to eat their vegetables? Am I giving my child enough attention?"

Parent Connections was founded in 2005 as a series of workshops and one on one parental support developed to address some of these parenting questions and concerns. This support and information is given by our Parent Educators, Community Educators and School Staff.

Come learn some of the answers to these questions, as well as, meet other parents with similar questions. Workshops and activities will be offered throughout the year, during the day and in the evening. Look forward to receiving more detailed information through flyers, which will be sent home in your child's backpack.

Want more information regarding Parent Connections? Please call Judy or Diane at Horace Mann 385-2450 or Maria at Hale 385-5853

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE PRE-K PROGRAMS OF HORACE MANN AND NATHAN HALE ARE STRENGTHENING FAMILIES ILLINOIS CENTERS?

WE PLEDGE TO:

- WELCOME AND RESPECT YOU AND YOUR IDEAS
- APPRECIATE THE IMPORTANT ROLE YOU PLAY IN YOUR CHILD'S LIFE
- HELP YOUR CHILD COMMUNICATE FEELINGS & GET ALONG WITH OTHER CHILDREN
- GIVE YOUR CHILD OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND HAVE FUN
- INTRODUCE YOU TO OTHER PARENTS FOR FRIENDSHIP AND SUPPORT
- USE OUR EXPERIENCE TO HELP YOU DEAL WITH TOUGH ISSUES
- CONNECT YOU TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES
- HELP YOU TO BE THE BEST PARENT YOU CAN BE
- BE A SMILING FACE, A FRIENDLY PLACE AND A PARTNER YOU CAN TRUST

