



Dear Pre-K Families,

Welcome to Pre-Kindergarten at Dewey! We are going to spend a wonderful year together. My name is Marla Finley. I spent over 20 years working in Early Childhood Education with children from 6 weeks through 8 years old. Besides my time in the classroom, I have been an Assistant Director of a NAEYC accredited child care center. I have degrees in Early Childhood Education from St. Louis Community College and University of Missouri- Saint Louis from an Associate's to a Master's Degree. This is my 14th year at Dewey. I am married and we are empty nesters. My twin sons are 25 years old.

I feel that my true passion is working with Pre-K age children. I love to promote self-help skills and empower the children to believe in themselves. I work with the children in various learning experiences including large group, small groups, and individually. I believe that providing the right learning is essential for this age because it fosters independence and creativity. Learning centers allow the students to engage in play based learning and to freely explore the learning activities provided for them at their developmental level. We are unsure what the guidelines that CDC will provide schools for the fall. With that being said, I will make sure that each student receives the education they need while still having fun in a safe, healthy environment. We are a team and in this together. Know that I am here for your family. Please let me know if you need any assistance.

I work very hard to optimize learning through team teaching with my assistant, Judy Lee (Ms. Judy). We work to create the best learning environment for your child that fosters creative thinking, problem solving, and imagination. I look forward to getting to know your child and family this year. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me. My email address is marla.finley@slps.org. Thank you in advance for your help this year and I look forward to a great 2021-2022 school year.

Sincerely,
Marla Finley



Back to School Dewey ISS



For your information...

- **Backpacks**-Please make sure your child has a backpack (big enough for a folder). I will also be giving each child a folder that will travel from school to home each day. This folder is how we will communicate with you on a daily basis and where we will put homework and completed assignments to come home. Please make sure your child's backpack, coat, and other belongings are **labeled**.
- **Extra Clothing**- Accidents sometimes happen in our classroom whether it is a puddle on the schoolyard, a spill at lunch, or a potty accident (sometimes we have so much fun, we forget to go potty). Please send a full set of clothes to school in a gallon Ziploc bag. This bag should be labeled and each clothing item should be labeled as well. Items in the bag should include underwear, socks, pants, and shirts.
- **Snack**- It would be greatly appreciated if you could send a snack for about 20 students at the beginning of each month. This includes dry snacks (crackers, rice cakes), or fresh fruits and veggies (eaten first).



- **Homework**- Homework will be handed out weekly and will be a review of what we are working on in class. Homework should only be between 5-15 minutes per night. This is a wonderful time to spend working with your child and a great prompt to discuss what he/she is learning in school. (Ex: working on a sheet writing the letter B. "I see you are learning about the letter B in school, do you know any words that begin with the letter B?"). In pre K, homework is not graded, and should never cause stress. It is just practice for when your child enters kindergarten and beyond.
- **Reading**- Research has shown that reading at least 20 minutes a night increases school performance. When reading, discuss the pictures, letters, and words on the page. You can also talk about parts of the book (i.e. characters, setting, and what happened throughout the story).

Ms. Judy is Ms. Finley's assistant. This is her 4th year at Dewey but has worked with children for over 30 years with children from Pre-K through middle school. She loves working with pre-k because they are eager to learn and love to ask questions.



School Rules

1. Be Safe
2. Be Respectful
3. Be Responsible
4. Be a Problem Solver

We discuss the rules throughout the school year what each rule looks like in the classroom, on the playground, at lunch, and on the bus.

Suggested Supply List

2 glue sticks
2 boxes of Kleenex
Disinfecting wipes
Hand sanitizer
Markers

A small blanket and pillow for rest time
(pillow must be travel size or no bigger than 12 inches wide)

A backpack large enough to fit a folder and a blanket
Large Ziploc bags

***I also suggest Velcro shoes. Shoe tying is not a part of school curriculum anymore because studies show that this skill is not really mastered until children are 6-8 years old.**



Mrs. Finley's Tentative Pre K Schedule

8:50- Supervision in one of the Pre K rooms
9:05- Breakfast
9:40- Related Arts (art, music, or PE- no Related Arts on Mondays).
10:10- Morning Meeting/ Centers
10:40- Foreign Language (Spanish, French, Japanese)
11:10- Recess
11:40- Lunch
12:10 – Learning Centers
1:00- Read Aloud/ Bathroom Break/ Rest Time Prep
1:15- Rest
2:15- Snack
2:30- Learning Centers
3:30- Class Meeting
4:05- 4:17 – Dismissal (your child should be picked up no later than 4:17)