

**WOODFORD COUNTY SPECIAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
INTENSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
EUREKA EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER
2022-23**

FALL ENROLLMENT LETTER

Hello Families!! When I began my journey in education almost 14 years ago, I had no idea my path would lead me to where I am today! My background is diverse with experience teaching public school music and band, family-style early childhood music classes with children as young as 6 weeks old, teaching in a special education homebound tutoring setting, and working in special education with children who have very similar needs to the families that will be served by our new program. Currently, I am pursuing a Master's Degree in Special Education with an emphasis in early childhood. I am a lifelong learner who is always searching for new and innovative ways to enrich the lives of my students' families. My family of five lives in Mackinaw. I am always seeking to find a good balance in my life, so when I have free time, I enjoy watching my children play recreation league and school sports, tent camping, Scouting, church activities, and playing a variety of instruments.

As part of my passion for working with exceptional children, I recognize that no two children are exactly alike. There are nuances, strengths, and needs to be discovered and honored for each child. In our classroom this year, we will strive to create highly individualized content while we work on effective communication, fine and gross motor skills, emotional and sensory regulation, and establishing predictable routines all while showing the children that school is a safe and enjoyable place to be. In particular, my last 7 years in education have taught me the power of play-based learning, how to be attentive to the rise and fall of the energy in the classroom, and how to strike a balance between being both gentle and firm. You will see evidence of these things in our classroom. The things I am looking forward to the most about the upcoming year are the moments when we get to celebrate student growth. It is easy to get tunnel vision, only seeing areas where the children need to improve, so I make it a top priority to pause and recognize all successes, great and small!! Most importantly, I recognize that the task of educating and caring for these young children is a team effort with families playing a crucial role.

Required Orientation for parents and students - August 18th and August 19th (see attached schedule)

First day of class: Monday, August 22nd

Class times: 8:00-10:30 AM and 12:00-2:30 PM

Paperwork- Please fill out and submit the four required forms on the wsea website (wsea.us). New students only - You will bring a courthouse copy of your child's birth certificate, recent physical with immunization record, and proof of income to the required orientation appointment.

Bus- Bus transportation is handled by your school district. You will receive a call sometime in July or

early August to schedule your child's bussing.

Location of Classroom: Our classroom is located in the Early Childhood Center (District Administrative office) at 109 West Cruger Eureka, IL 61537

Book bags- Children need to bring their book bag to school every day. I will place papers and notes home in the bag so please check it daily.

School Calendar: We will follow the Eureka School District for most days but we do vary somewhat. Our program has built in one day monthly for school staff to connect with parents to talk about student progress. Students do not attend on these days. Our program will also start one week later than the district in order for our team to continue training and have a chance to meet with each family. See the Eureka District calendar and the WCSEA/Eureka calendar addendum.

Orientation/Visit Day Schedule:

Thursday August 18th

8-8:45AM Benjamin and family

9-9:45AM Mason and family

10-10:45AM Barrett and family

11-11:45AM Leo and family

Friday August 19th

8-8:45AM Nova and family

9-9:45AM Kingston and family

10-10:45AM AJ and family

Please bring school supplies to your orientation/visit day appointment. You will have time to see the classroom and meet staff. I am very excited to meet you and your child!

Sincerely,

Victoria Awbrey
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