



Dear A Child's Garden Crocus, Iris, and Sunflower Parents/Guardians,

We hope you are having a relaxing, fun-filled summer. We look forward to a great year with our new and returning friends. This letter is full of information about the beginning of the school year. If you have any questions, please contact us.

The Crocus class is the class for our youngest class (preschool). The Crocus teachers are Lindley and Lorenza. Lindley is an NGFS graduate who has been teaching at NGFS since 2016, and worked in our summer program and Extended Care prior to that. This will be Lindley's first year teaching in A Child's Garden. Her children Amelia and Grayson are at NGFS as well. This is Lorenza's second year teaching in the Crocus classroom. Lorenza is the parent of Kayla, Liam, and Kion. Lindley and Lorenza are both excited to be welcoming our youngest learners to NGFS. The Crocus class is in Guilford Hall, facing the back parking lot and the Parker Young building. Crocus is accessed through the gated playground entrance.

The Iris class is made up of Pre-K students. The Iris teachers are Jeannie and Ben. Jeannie and Ben have been teaching in A Child's Garden together for several years. Jeannie loves sharing art activities with the children, and Ben loves leading science experiments and discussions. Jeannie is a former NGFS parent of two adult children. Ben grew up as a student at NGFS, and prior to teaching served as the NGFS Extended Care Director. The Iris class is in Guilford Hall, facing the back and main parking lots. Iris is accessed through the gated playground entrance.

The Sunflower class will be a combination Pre-K and Transitional Kindergarten class. The Sunflower teacher is Courtney, and the Sunflower class assistant is AJ. Courtney joined the A Child's Garden team last year and taught in the Crocus class. She is excited to be continuing with A Child's Garden team, this year in the Sunflower room leading children in the next steps of their social and academic development. Courtney's daughter Maeve is a student in the NGFS Upper School. AJ has taken on many roles at NGFS over the years from summer program to athletics and is excited to join the A Child's Garden team. The Sunflower class is located at the back of the Parker Young building.

School Supply List:

- If your child will be with us for the full day, send a personal blanket (preferably no larger than an adult bath towel) and/or stuffed animal (no taller than 12 inches) for rest time. Cots/mats will be provided.
- Bug Repellant, Sunscreen (labeled)
- One labeled reusable water bottle of your choice with a spill-proof cap, no glass
- Lunch box and labeled snack

Please bring the following to Classroom Welcome Night:

- A seasonally-appropriate change of clothes, in a labeled Ziploc bag, for your child: top, bottom, underpants, and socks. These clothes will be kept in our classroom.
- Three recent 4x6 photos of your child that we can keep.

Personal Possessions at School:

We ask that children leave toys at home. ACG students are allowed to bring a personal blanket and/or small stuffed animal (no taller than 12 inches) for rest time. We ask that students take the blanket or stuffed animal home each weekend, have it washed, and then bring it back to the classroom each week.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures:

- You will be given a name card to display on your car window visor. Please be sure to clearly display this card on the visor in the morning and afternoon; we appreciate your assistance in helping drop-off and pick-up run smoothly and efficiently.
- Drop-off will begin at 7:30 a.m. for Extended Care and 8 a.m. for the regular school day and will continue until 8:25 a.m. Please plan to arrive during this window of time.
- Crocus and Iris parents: Please pull around and park behind Guilford Hall. Parents/guardians can walk their child over to the playground gate where children will be greeted and escorted to the classroom by school staff. Parents/guardians can take a minute at this transition point for a quick goodbye hug.
- Sunflower parents: Please pull around and park in the spaces behind the Sunflower building (Parker Young). Parents/guardians can walk their child to the sidewalk near the Parker Young building and take a minute at this transition point for a quick goodbye hug. A staff member will be present to escort your child to class.
- If your child arrives late, parents/guardians should bring their child to the office to sign in. The student will be escorted by staff to their classroom.
- **Half-Day Dismissal at 12:45 p.m.:** Parents/guardians can park in the spaces near the ACG classrooms. Parents/guardians can pick up their child at the gate.
- **Full-Day Dismissal (2:30 p.m.) and Extended Care Dismissal (up to 6 p.m.):** Parents/guardians can pick up their child at the classroom door. If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up, please make sure the person you send is on your authorized pick-up list in ParentsWeb. Instruct them to have identification with them; staff will check the ID of anyone unknown to them.
- If you must pick your child up before school is over, please come to the office to sign your child out. If this early pick-up is for a scheduled appointment, please coordinate with your student's teachers in advance so they will have their belongings packed and ready to go at the designated time of pick-up. If someone other than the parent/guardian is picking up early, please make sure the person you send is on your authorized pick-up list in ParentsWeb.

Morning Snack and Lunch:

Children need to bring a snack and lunch each day. For snacks, healthy items such as fruit, vegetables, cheese, and crackers are appropriate. We would rather not have children eat desserts at snack time. Soft drinks and glass containers are not allowed. Be sure to label your child's lunch box and any plastic containers in it so that we can return them to you if they are lost. We suggest sending a small ice pack in the lunch box to keep items cold. Items meant to be eaten warm need to be sent in a thermos. **Please send one refillable water bottle with fresh water with your child daily as we will be spending a great deal of time outside.**

Upcoming Dates:

- Monday, August 22 - Classroom Welcome Night, 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m..
- Wednesday, August 24 - First day of school
- Monday, August 29 - A Child's Garden Parent Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Friday, September 2 - Hopes and Dreams Conferences

Please see the Welcome Letter email, sent on August 5, for the **A Child's Garden Class List**.

Sincerely,

Lindley and Lorenza, ACG Crocus Teachers

Ben and Jeannie, ACG Iris Teachers

Courtney and AJ, Sunflower Teachers

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Ben: blancaster@ngfs.org

Jeannie: jeanniew@ngfs.org (be sure to add the w)

Courtney: coshea@ngfs.org

AJ: ajsmith@ngfs.org