

Welcome to North Hero Preschool!

I am so excited to have the privilege of working alongside you and your children this year as the Pre-K teacher at North Hero. I realize that it has been a spring/summer of many challenges and uncertainty leading up to the school year, however I cannot wait to begin to move forward, starting the process of getting to know one another and forming our classroom community.

About Me



My name is Morgan DeVarney and I am so excited to be joining the North Hero community this year. I obtained my undergraduate degree in 2014 at UVM, studying Early Childhood Education. I am currently enrolled in a master's program there and hope to be finished by this December. For the past six years I taught at The Children's School on campus with preschoolers. Currently I reside in St. Albans with my boyfriend and our dog Bosco and cat Lola. I love to spend time outdoors, especially when the Fall weather rolls around. I am thrilled to be your child's teacher this year. My educational philosophy is that all children are capable and competent and should have opportunities to make meaning through play and exploration. The curriculum I follow is based on your child's interest and individual needs. I believe relationships are at the forefront of teaching and learning and hope to build a strong sense of community within our classroom.

Family Involvement

Family relationships are very important to me and I hope to create a meaningful partnership with you and your family. I hope to keep communication open and honest and value your input as a parent and as your child's first teacher. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have at any time.

General Information

Drop Off: [During COVID-19 Time]

During this remote/hybrid instruction period, drop off will look very different. While adults are not allowed to come into the classroom, going over the routines and expectations at home below might help to support your child through this transition. At the beginning of the year we will spend extra time going over each step, so children feel comfortable doing so on their own.

Drop Off: [During Non-COVID-19 Time]

Each child enters school differently. Some come in ready to play right off, while others might need a moment to settle in. I am here to hopefully make the transition smoother for both the child and you as a parent. If there are ways that I can assist with this, please do not hesitate to reach out. When children get to school, they have a few jobs to complete before getting busy.

1. Take off gear in the hallway by the cubby area. Outdoor shoe storage is to the right of the PreK door and cubby bins are located to the left. The child should place their outdoor shoes in the allotted space with their name on it and take their indoor shoes out of their cubby bin to put on before entering the classroom.
2. Once inside the classroom, children (& adults) should immediately wash their hands.
3. Eventually the hope is to have a 'sign-in' for children to increase their exposure to letters, name writing and literacy.
4. If applicable, say goodbye to parent or guardian dropping off.

****Once these jobs are complete children will be free to explore an area of the classroom. If you are dropping your child off, please help or encourage them to complete these tasks before saying goodbye.**

Ownership over Materials:

For children in Preschool it is important to teach them about taking care of their individual and shared materials. This skill helps children learn independence, and ownership over things they care about. During a regular school year this can be encouraged by asking children to take off their own gear and put away their belongings. This should be a positive experience, so if your child is struggling, please do not hesitate to ask for help from a teacher.

Indoor Shoes:

We ask that all families provide **indoor only** shoes that will stay at school. These shoes should be simple and easy for children to get on by themselves. In the past shoes that have been successful as indoor shoes are; crocs, slip on boat shoes, and easy Velcro shoes. We ask that if possible, you refrain from bringing in flip flops or slippers. These types of shoes make it difficult for children to walk in during fire drills.

Extra Clothes:

As you may know preschoolers can get very messy! Please send in the following items to live in your child's 'extra clothes' bin at school.

MASKS: Make sure your child has at least TWO masks for the school day. You know your child best and if they are prone to biting or sucking on their mask, it might be best to provide more than two. We have extra disposable masks here at school if your child has run out and needs another.

Weather Appropriate sets of clothing, including;

- 2 shirts
- 2 pants

- 2 pairs of socks
- 2 pairs of underwear (more if your child is prone to having accidents)
- Sun hat if you prefer
- Sweatshirt or jacket if your child tends to run cold

Misc;

-Sunscreen (please try your best to apply sunscreen on your child before coming to school).

Snack:

In years past the Preschool program has always had a communal snack expectation for families. This year to stay as safe and healthy as possible we are asking that you provide a snack for your child instead. Our hope is that we can eventually move back towards the old snack routine as it provided children the opportunity to engage in a shared experience, trying the same foods, and having conversations around healthy eating. However, for the time being we ask that you please **pack a snack for your child each day.**

Toys from home:

I kindly ask that you refrain from bringing toys or other materials from home into school. In my experience, these objects often get broken or lost easily. That can be very distressing to your child and to yourself as toys are not cheap. This policy also helps in reducing the possibility of spreading the virus and keeping everyone safe and healthy.

Remote/Hybrid Learning:

I will be providing curriculum provocations and opportunities to embed learning at home throughout the remote/hybrid learning period. These will all be available on Google Classroom and you/your child should be receiving an email regarding that soon. These prompts are suggestions to do with your child on a remote day or whenever works for your family. My hope is to provide opportunities that will keep consistency for children even on days when they are not physically here.

Mailboxes:

Each child has a mailbox outside of the classroom for parents. For the time being I will be using email as the main source of communication. If you foresee this being an issue for your family, please do not hesitate to contact me and we can problem solve other options.

Contact Info:

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