

Peirce Preschool Handbook
2018-2019

Helen C. Peirce School of International Studies
1423 W. Bryn Mawr Ave. Chicago, IL 60660



Classrooms and Curriculum

Our classrooms are part of the Ready to Learn full day Prekindergarten Program. Our curriculum is based on the most current research about how children learn. It is based on the belief that play is the natural mode of learning for preschool age children. It is through quality play activities that children gather valuable information and develop important skills that support later academic success. Our rooms are divided into interest learning centers where children learn about themselves and the world around them through experimenting, exploring, and discovering. The interests learning centers include blocks, table toys, painting, writing, art, sand and water, housekeeping, and library. We are also a part of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program (PYP). Peirce School is an IB World School that offers our Preschoolers through Eighth grade an IB World Education. It aims to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect. We support their learning with a global mindset. Our classrooms also focus on the social-emotional development of the child. Using the Second-Step curriculum, Growth Mindset lessons, and Restorative Practice techniques, we guide each child through their feelings, basic communication skills, and how to be a good human being.

Attendance

Daily attendance is required unless your child is sick or there is a family problem. A note to the teacher explaining the absence is required when your child returns to school. Your child's absence will be considered unexcused until a letter has been brought into school, and approved by the attendance clerk in the office. Family vacations are not considered an excused absence.

Please try to follow the school calendar.

Items Your Child Needs for School

Your child needs a large book bag/backpack. One folder with their name written on it for notes.

He/she needs an extra set of clothes in case of an accident.

For rest time, you may send a blanket and stuffed animal to keep at school.

Communication Between School and Home

Please check your child's folder every day. Monthly newsletters are sent home to inform parents of day-to-day activities and upcoming field trips or any changes in the routine or schedule. There are weekly emails sent to families to update what is going on in your child's classroom for the week. The teacher and teacher assistant are always available in person or by phone to discuss questions or concerns that you have about your child.

Breakfast and Lunch

A healthy free breakfast is offered within our classrooms between 8:05-8:20 a.m. Your child is not required to eat breakfast at school. Please let us know if you do not want your child to eat breakfast in the classroom. A free lunch is served in the classroom to all preschool children.

Your child may also bring a healthy lunch from home if you do not want them to eat school lunch. Please do not send in high sugary foods, drinks, or peanut products. Peirce is a peanut free school. Peirce is a peanut free school.

Dropping Off and Picking Up Your Child

Drop Off is at 8:00 at Door 4

Pick up is at 3:00 at Door 4

If you are late to school, you and your child MUST go to the main office and get a late slip and then come to the classroom and give the teacher your slip. If you come to the classroom without a late slip, you will be sent back to the main office to obtain the slip.

If someone is going to pick up your child other than the usual person, please let us know ahead of time. That person should be on the pick-up permission form. The pick-up permission form may be added to or changed at any time. If you are picking up your child early from school, please sign your child out at the main office. The office clerks will call your child's classroom, and their teacher will bring them to the office.

Field Trips

We will take several field trips throughout the school year. Information will be given about upcoming field trips in the monthly newsletter and permission forms will be given to parents before each trip. Parents must sign up on the CPS website in order to volunteer. Go to <https://chicagopublicschools.civcore.com/admin/index.php?section=application&action=new>

Children's Overnight Lending Library

Children may take home one to two books from our classroom library either daily or bi-weekly based on the teacher's preference. Please make sure that if your child brings library books home, that they are read that evening and returned the next day. The children choose their own books to take home. They must take care of the books and carry them in a backpack to and from school. Parents or older siblings should read the books to the child. This will begin some time in October.

Some of our library books have a parent and child activity card inside the cover. These cards share some ideas for you to help further your child's understanding of the book and make the story more meaningful to him/her. Make sure the cards are returned to the pocket in the book before the book is returned to school.

School Dress

Children should be dressed comfortably in play clothes and shoes for running and hopping. Preferably gym shoes. NO FLIP FLOPS! Please dress your child for the weather because we go outside every day unless it is below 30 degrees or it is raining or snowing. Make sure that your child has a warm jacket, hat, and gloves. Write your child's name inside their outerwear.

Preschool Reports and Parent Teacher Conferences

Preschool reports will be distributed in February and June. Preschool Parent Teacher Conferences are held in November and in April. You will receive a notice about these conferences well in advance.

Toys from Home

Children are asked NOT to bring toys from home to school.

Birthdays

Peirce School is part of the Healthy Fit Wellness Program in CPS. Due to this program, we do not allow any food to be brought into our classrooms. If it is your child's birthday and you would like to send in a little token, you may send in pencils, mini play-dough, bubbles, etc... If you have any questions, please see your child's teacher.

Parent Volunteering and Parent Meetings

Parents are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom and on field trips, along with attending parent meetings. Parents who are interested in volunteering in the classroom need to enroll as a volunteer by completing the online Volunteer Registration form that is available at <https://chicagopublicschools.civicore.com/admin/index.php?section=application&action=new> Volunteering in your child's class is beneficial to both you and your child. We hope that you find the time to come, even if it is once during the year.