

World Community Education Center

1329 Prosperity Drive Bedford, VA 24523

wcedcenter@hughes.net



Farah Laura Symons, Principal

540-297-1662

Student-Parent Handbook

2016 – 2017

MISSION STATEMENT

THE WORLD COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER (WCEC) offers a Montessori-based “prepared environment for learning” focused on academic excellence and universal spiritual values that build character and community responsibility. It is a school-for-life that encourages deep love of learning, respect for all people, love of order, self-discipline, generosity, cooperation, and service to family and community.

PROGRAMS

PRIMARY

Ages 2.5 - 6 A fully equipped Montessori classroom with certified Montessori teachers.

LOWER ELEMENTARY

Ages 6 – 9 A Montessori classroom with certified Montessori elementary teachers. Individual and group lessons.

UPPER ELEMENTARY

Ages 9 – 12 Classes are taught to suit individual needs of the student and of the group. These include Montessori lessons, specially chosen texts, and well-proven curricula.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL / HIGH SCHOOL

Brain-compatible individual-subject classes are offered in English, science, mathematics, social studies, and foreign languages. Individual attention is given for study skills and college preparation. High school students may be eligible for dual-enrollment college courses in junior and/or senior years.

13th YEAR Transition to College

After graduation, advanced classes can be arranged at WCEC while students take college classes locally. This provides an introductory adjustment to college. Students can receive academic coaching and subject-matter tutoring as well as help in arranging internships and other projects.

DAILY SCHEDULE

- Primary 8:30 – 12:00
- Primary all-day program 8:30 – 3:30
- Elementary, Junior / Senior High 8:30 – 3:30
- Classes end at 12:00 on Fridays for all levels.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

APPLICATION AND ENROLLMENT

Families of students applying for enrollment must submit an application form, have a school tour, and have an interview. Upon acceptance into the program, enrollment will be finalized after the following documents have been received:

- *School Entrance Health Information Form (MCH-213F Part I)*
- *Certificate of Immunization (MCH-213F Part II) **OR** Religious Exemption, Commonwealth of Virginia (CRE-1)*
- *Signed Handbook Agreement*
- *Signed Tuition Agreement*
- *Emergency Contact Information*
- *Signed Optional Photo/Video/Voice Release*

UNIFORMS

Students in elementary, junior high, and high school are required to wear uniforms. Primary and elementary students should wear or bring shoes suitable for outdoor play. Every Friday is an optional non-uniform day. Casual clothes may be worn. Clothing should not have images from cartoons or movies, or intentional rips. Shirts should cover the shoulder and skirts should be no higher than 3" above the knee.

The uniform policy includes the following:

- White polo shirt with collar--long sleeve or short sleeve
- Navy pants, skirt, or jumper, or uniform shorts
- Solid navy or white socks, knee socks, or tights
- Elementary require indoor shoes or slippers
- Solid navy fleece, sweater or vest with or without school logo
(Sweatshirts and hoodies are not acceptable for the classroom)

~Uniforms with (and without) school logo are available through <http://www.landsend.com>. The WCEC preferred school number is 900160003.

Uniforms may be purchased through a vender of your choice, such as: Land's End, Old Navy, or Wal-Mart.

Primary Clothing

- Comfortable, easy for child to manage independently without distracting images
- Slippers or indoor shoes required
- Complete change of clothes, including underwear

SUPPLIES

Students at every level must have a backpack. Supplies lists will be provided before the beginning of each term.

SNACKS

There is time in the morning schedule for a healthy, small snack if the student chooses. Please do not send desserts.

PUNCTUALITY

Classes begin at 8:30. Arrival time for junior and senior high school student is 8:20-8:25. The tone of the morning is greatly influenced by the timely arrival of students. It is important that students feel settled into the classroom on time for the beginning of the day.

Please pick up your child just before or by the closing time. If a parent should be delayed, please call your child's teacher and inform them that you will be late. A late charge will be assessed for staff overtime if tardiness becomes a problem.

PRIMARY AND ELEMENTARY ABSENCES

Please contact your child's teacher as early as possible to report an absence, and *re-contact him or her for each day missed*. To maintain the integrity of the learning period, please try to schedule outside appointments after the end of the school day (allowing for travel time), or on days school is closed.

JUNIOR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL ABSENCES

Parents should contact the principal (540-598-7256) as early as possible in the event of an absence and re-contact for subsequent days. Please make sure to get assignments and textbooks to keep up with homework. Please schedule outside appointments after classes (allowing travel time) or on days school is closed. If for some

reason there is a need for make-up classes, they will be scheduled at the discretion of the teacher.

TRAVEL ABSENCES

We understand that at times, travel is educational in itself. However, please try to schedule travel during break times. If this is not possible, please notify the principal and your child's teacher as early as possible to discuss when you will be gone, and to get assignments.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS AND DELAYED OPENINGS

WCEC follows the Bedford County School closings. In the event of early dismissal due to bad weather or unavoidable circumstances, the principal will notify families and teachers as soon as possible.

ILLNESS

Please do not send your child to school with a fever, sore throat, cough, cold, or flu symptoms. If an illness develops while your child is at school, he/she will be safely isolated from the group, and the parent or an authorized person listed on the emergency form will be contacted. Communicate with the principal if the child or anyone in the child's household contracts a communicable disease. Notice can then be given to the families of other children who may have been exposed.

MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION POLICY

With the exception of diaper creams, sunscreen, insect repellent, and emergency lifesaving medication such as epi-pens and inhalers, WCEC does not administer or store any medications. Parents may not send medications. Parents of Primary and Elementary students may not send lip balm, hand sanitizer, or lotions in their child's book bag, cubby, or lunch box. If a child needs any of the above, parents are required to fill out a Parent Consent form and deliver the above items to their child's teacher for proper storage.

ACCIDENTS / EMERGENCIES

In case of minor accidents, staff will administer routine first-aid procedures. In the event of a serious injury, the family will be notified at once. If parents cannot be reached, emergency procedures provided by parents and kept on file will be followed. Be sure to notify the school of any changes in emergency information.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

An emergency preparedness plan will be discussed with parents and agreed upon at the beginning of the school year. Students will have periodic emergency event drills.

FIELD TRIPS

Parents will be notified well in advance of field trips and what children will need to bring. A permission slip signed by the parent is required for every child going on a field trip.

BIRTHDAYS

On a child's birthday, parents are welcome to bring a special snack for the class. Please notify the teacher of your plans at least one day before the child's birthday.

PERSONAL BELONGINGS

The school provides abundant materials for use in school. At the primary and elementary levels, we ask that toys, games, trading cards and personal belongings that are not directly related to school use be left at home. The teacher may choose to include a sharing day when a special item may be brought to school. Students with mobile phones must have them turned off during class times and stored with their personal belongings. Pocket-knives are not allowed on school premises.

RESPONSIBILITY

As a condition of your child's attendance at World Community Education Center, you agree to release and hold World Community and World Community Education Center harmless for any injury, loss, delay, damage, costs or expense that students may incur or sustain while at school or on school-sponsored field trips, by reason or in consequences of: (i) any incident beyond World Community Education Center's or World Community's reasonable control, including, but not limited to, acts of God, crimes of violence, acts of war, or government actions and restrictions; (ii) any event directly or indirectly caused by intentional or negligent acts or omissions by any third party.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

World Community Education Center does not discriminate based on race, religion, creed, gender, or national origin.

REPORTING OF SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

Private schools in Virginia are mandated by law to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to the Department of Social Services.

PROGRAM STANDARDS

STUDENT CONDUCT

Students are expected to be respectful of teachers, peers and themselves. Verbal or physical harassment of others cannot be tolerated, and will be dealt with on an individual basis. Teachers do not use physical means for discipline. The preferred methods include

1. Setting clearly defined limits of behavior with consequences for going over the limit, such as removal of privileges or limitation of participation. In extreme cases, the child may be asked to remain at home until they are able to conduct themselves appropriately.
2. Engaging the child in curricula and discussions, which lead to awareness of ones own strengths and challenges.
3. Providing tools for dealing with challenges.

The goal is internalization of the highest human values so that the student behaves from his or her own initiative without excessive external reminders of appropriate and respectful behavior.

HONOR SYSTEM

Honesty and integrity in preparing homework and taking tests is expected. Breaches will be handled on an individual basis.

HOMEWORK STANDARDS

1. Homework is to be handed in on time.
2. Written assignments are to be typed or handwritten neatly with name and date at the top.
3. Extensions may be given by advance arrangement with the teacher.
4. Late homework will affect the student's grade in the class.

STUDENT RECORDS

Report cards are issued twice during the academic year at the end of each semester.

Elementary Grading System:

- Excellent
- Satisfactory
- Needs improvement

Junior High and High School Grading System:

| | |
|--------------|----|
| 97 – 100 | A+ |
| 93 – 96 | A |
| 90 – 92 | A- |
| 87 – 89 | B+ |
| 83 – 86 | B |
| 80 – 82 | B- |
| 77 – 79 | C+ |
| 73 – 76 | C |
| 70 – 72 | C- |
| 65 – 69 | D |
| 64 and below | F |

SCHOOL RECORDS

Transcripts, reports, and report cards will be kept on file in the school office. These are confidential and only students, parents, or guardians may obtain copies. Teachers may review records upon request to the principal.

PROMOTION POLICY

Students move on to new levels based on recommendations by the teacher(s) in consultation with parents.

AWARDS, INCENTIVES, CONTESTS AND GLOBAL ACTIVITIES

Certificates and awards will be presented throughout the year at the discretion of the teacher. Teachers may choose to include participation in local, state, or national contests or activities as part of curriculum enrichment.

OPTIONAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION AND PRACTICES

Religious education classes may be offered as electives. These classes are not required, and other electives are offered in addition. Daily noon prayer is part of the school day for Muslim students. Other students will be supervised at school and may choose an activity during the prayer time.

GUIDANCE

Guidance is provided for SAT and/or ACT preparation and application as well as college and career counseling. College entrance and financial aid applications are the responsibility of the family. If needed, recommendations for special testing or tutoring may be made to the families by the teachers and/or principal.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Each year, students at the secondary level must take English, social studies, science, mathematics, a foreign language, and at least one elective. Elective offerings vary from year to year and may include art, music, crafts, practical life skills, environmental studies, computer programming, journalism, Islamic studies, community service, current events, and/or a second foreign language.

FAMILY PARTICIPATION

HOMEWORK HELP GUIDELINES

Given the high academic standards of WCEC, it is not unusual for a student to need help with homework from time to time. It is important to understand that you will be acting as a tutor rather than a second teacher. This means that you help the child with his or her process, but the child provides the content. In a successful tutoring session, the student will be doing 75% or more of the talking. The following will help you help your child in the most efficient way:

1. Make sure the student understands the assignment or the question.
2. Find out what the student does understand and at what point he or she has become confused.
3. Ask questions to help the student work through the problem.
4. Let the student come up with the ideas. Even if an answer or a word is completely obvious to you, don't say it! If you are supplying the content, you are the only one learning.

5. If the student is not able to grasp the concept without explanation on your part make sure the student can explain it back to you before you finish the session.
6. The pencil is always in the student's hand.
7. If there is something you and your child do not understand in the assignment or the content, please contact the teacher for clarification before 8:30 pm. Leave a message if you cannot speak directly with the teacher.
8. Finish the session with a re-cap of what was learned (supplied by the student, of course!) and make sure the student knows what the next step is in his or her work.

PARENT PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL PROJECTS

Parents are a vital element in the education of the children at WCEC. With a variety of professions, skills, and expertise, WCEC parents often provide workshops, class activities, fundraisers, after school programs, and participate in simulations, plays, and school improvement projects. Please do not hesitate to share ideas for any of the above. The variety of experiences you help to provide for our students enriches their education and improves the potential of each child.

PARENT OBSERVATION IN THE CLASSROOM

We have an open-door observation policy. We welcome observation. While it is not a requirement, we would appreciate one day's notice before your visit.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Parents are encouraged to share important information with your child's main classroom teacher, particularly any changes at home or in the child's life that may have an effect on the school experience.

Parent-teacher conferences will be held in the fall and the spring of each year and at other times as needed. During the conference, the classroom teacher(s) will discuss the progress of the student, answer any questions, and address any concerns you may have. Teachers and parents work together to arrange a suitable time for the conference.

FUNDRAISERS AND VOLUNTEERING

Parents, with the help of the administration, teachers, and students organize two or more fundraising activities a year. The funds raised at these events help pay for field trips, textbooks, supplies, academic enrichment activities, and construction or maintenance projects for the school.

Families are also expected to help with other school projects during School Workdays and as needed.