**Frequently Asked Questions**



It is natural to have many questions when beginning a new school year. Please ask us anything! For your convenience, below are answers to some frequently asked questions, which we hope will be helpful to our incoming families!

**What are the school hours?**

Students will be in school from 8:15am - 3:00pm every day *except for Wednesday.* On Wednesday afternoons we will dismiss two hours early, by 1:00pm, to allow teachers to plan together and participate in professional development. For your convenience, school doors open at 8:00am. Dismissal begins at 2:45pm on regular days and 12:45pm on Wednesday.

**Is Kindergarten a full day?**

Yes, our kindergarten is full-day. In our play-based kindergarten, remember that students do NOT spend all day sitting at tables or involved in whole-group instruction. Much of the day is spent moving about and involved in hands-on activities, and play is a large part of every Kindergartener’s day.

**Will you have recess?**

Yes, every student will have recess daily. During very rainy or very cold weather, we will make every effort to provide recess activities indoors.

**Will kids get any other short breaks during the day other than recess?**

Our teachers know their students best. They have the flexibility to offer short breaks, change the type of activity that students are doing, give extra recess, provide brief quiet time / nap time, or otherwise be responsive to students' needs.

**Will the students have to do the same mandatory testing that is done at regular public schools? (PARCC)**

Yes, as a public charter school we are required to do the mandatory state testing. PARCC assessments begin in the 3rd grade. However, we do not need to complete district testing (such as quarterly benchmarks).

**Are parents required to volunteer?** **What does parent engagement look like?**

As a public charter school, we do not require parent volunteering. However, we will strongly encourage it and work with parents to find ways that they can volunteer that are responsive to their strengths and time constraints.

We are a parent-founded school and parent engagement is woven into the fabric of who we are in many ways. We have a Parent’s Association and parents elect (and can be nominated for) the Creative City Public Charter School Foundation Board of Directors each year. Parents are encouraged to participate on committees if they wish. We also welcome classroom volunteers, office volunteers, and lots of other specialized ways for parents to volunteer if they wish.

We have a Family Resource Room and we will offer resources, programs and events for the whole family on a regular basis.

**How many students will be in my child’s classroom?**

There will be approximately 22 students in each classroom. Teacher’s aides will be shared across classrooms at the times that they are most strategically needed.

**Will there be free or reduced-price meals available?**

Yes. Beginning in 2015, all students have access to free breakfast and free lunch. No application or qualification is needed. Students may also bring their own lunch if they prefer.

**Are parents allowed to visit/observe in their child’s classroom?**

Yes, parents are welcome to visit/observe in their child's classroom as long as the teacher feels that it is not disruptive.

**Will before and after care be offered? Who will provide it? What is the cost?**

Please see enclosed information from UEC. You can also find more information at www.uecprograms.com.

**Will students wear uniforms?**

No, we are not a uniform school. Student attire should fall within Baltimore City Schools’ dress code. We recognize that uniform-type attire is preferred by some families. With that in mind, we have developed suggested guidelines that many families chose to follow in our first year. Those guidelines are enclosed.