

Back to School Night 2020-2021

We will do this together!!





Welcome Parents

Ms. Grace's Preschool Class



About Miss Grace

Originally from Brooklyn NY this city girl found her way to Verona, New Jersey in 1996, with her husband Mark. She commuted to Brooklyn from Verona for 2 years with her then newborn son, Christopher, to work at a special needs preschool where she realized her passion for working with students with special needs and their families.

Fast forward to 2007 and now having a 10 year old son, Christopher, and a 5 year old daughter, Isabelle, she started working at the Verona Preschool Program and has been there ever since. She originally started in the Integrated Preschool Program and then was given the LSS Full Day Preschool Class after a few years. She has been with the LSS preschool class for 10 years, and wouldn't have it any other way!!

Miss Grace has a B.A. in Dance/Psychology from Hunter College, CUNY and an M.S.E., Masters of Science in Special Education, from The College of Staten Island, CUNY. She has been teaching for 25 years! Miss Grace is also certified in The Nia Technique, a dance fitness program and is a musical theater choreographer. Miss Grace loves to bring dance and movement of all kinds into her students lives and is inspired by the joy she sees as they move.

When she is not teaching her wonderful students, you can find Miss Grace running around Verona and Montclair as she trains for half and full marathons, hanging with her family and good friends or teaching fitness classes to adults.

The most rewarding part of her teaching life is seeing her students grow at their individual pace and to help parents navigate the education of their children. She considers herself a student who is always learning as well as a teacher who wants nothing more than to share what she has learned with others.

The Laning/Preschool Team

Director of Special Services: Mr. Frank Mauriello

Laning Avenue School Principal: Mr. Howard Freund

School Psychologist/Case Manager: Mrs. Elise Edelstein

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Giselle Ilic

BCBA: Ms. Brooke Raskin

Speech Therapist: Ms. Rebecca DeFrance

Occupational Therapists: Mrs. Vasi Givas, Mrs. Andria Rosenberg

Physical Therapists: Mrs. Dana Garcia, Dr. Amy Quinn

Miss Grace's Class Paraprofessional Team:

Miss Kathy, Miss Carol, Miss Barbara, Miss Sophia, and Miss Lynn

What Makes Our Class Unique??



- We provide 1:1 and group instruction for children with learning differences - each child has a 1:1 throughout the day or via remote learning
- We follow the Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) methodology at the preschool level
- We combine intensive learning in a safe, motivating, full of fun preschool environment
- We have an amazing team of committed, enthusiastic, paraprofessionals, and therapists that are eager to work diligently to make your child feel safe while learning and growing
- We do all this while incorporating a state recognized Preschool Curriculum (The Creative Curriculum) rich in objectives for Learning and Social Emotional Development including: Physical, Language, Literacy, Mathematics, Science and Technology, Social Studies, The Arts and Language Acquisition.

What Is ABA??



Applied Behavior Analysis is a scientific approach to understanding behavior and how it is affected by the environment. ABA techniques are systematically applied to increase or improve socially significant behavior to a meaningful degree. ABA breaks down the teaching of skills and new behaviors into small sets to promote success. ABA also relies on research based procedures to teach skills. It must be proven that the procedures involved are what changed the behavior and that is why data collection is crucial. We need to know if the treatment is effective and if not - how can we change it (right? why continue doing something if it is not effective??). Remember it is about the influence of the environment (teaching, curriculum, therapists, communication devices, motivational systems, setting) that affects behavior.

What our Program is going to look like this year with our current Hybrid approach:

In person school 4 half days or Full Remote - If Full Remote: Your child will engage in synchronous learning for Circle Time, Read Aloud, Exercise, Art, Academic/Themed Lessons and 1:1 will occur in the afternoons after 1:15

Full Virtual Wednesdays - ALL Students - Each child will have a 1:1 session with me and attend Circle Time as a large group, and complete assignments from the Binder or otherwise (project, video lessons, links to view, online games etc.)

Virtual afternoons - 1:1 Sessions for students who are full remote and Parent Meets and Trainings and Large Group Friday's

Binder Assignments

Video lessons from Miss Grace

Video Links with activities to follow

Online Academic Games

Virtual meetings and trainings with parents

Video to show teaching strategies we use in school



Plan for Afternoons 1:15-2:45:

1:1 lessons

Parent Meetings

Binder Assignments

Video lessons from Miss Grace

Video Links with activities to follow

Online Academic Games

Special Large Group Activity on Friday's - Recap and Show and Tell, Cooking/Science



Specials:

We will have Phys Ed with Mr. Phelan every Thursday at 9:15 - we will figure out how to effectively have our students who are doing full remote to join us - TBA

We will have Art Therapy on Fridays - Time TBA and we will figure out how to effectively have our students who are doing full remote to join us - TBA



What does safety precautions look like in our class/school:

Mask wearing

Sanitizer upon entering the building and temp taking

Take care of belongings then wash hands and start the day

After any play with toys or interaction with materials, we sanitize hands

Before snack we wash our hands, go outside, sit 6 feet apart, pull our masks down and eat.

After snack we wash our hands

Everyone has their own labeled tissue box, sanitizer at their tables and a bin of their own supplies and materials

The staff collects and sanitizes all items the children use. They are then left out for overnight sanitizing before being put away for later use

The windows are open and the door is ajar for proper ventilation

Bathroom is cleaned and disinfected as needed throughout the day



What are other changes:

New Playground is in but is closed until further notice due to sanitization concerns



Snack outside



No visitors in the building

If a conflict comes up where you can not get your child to school, let me know and you can join remotely - I will quickly send invites

What does Remote Learning entail at home:

Proper learning environment with no distractions, good lighting and adult supervision and support when needed - preferable: child sized table and chair with device on table and enough room to do work

Materials ready

Binder work ready

What you need to know!



- Communication - folders, email, virtual meetings (reach out and I'll set it up after 1:15 daily)
- Create frequent GoogleMeets to discuss student progress, strategies, activities and provide training
- Snack - Outside only - I'll keep you posted if this changes
- Follow the district protocol for health and well being of your child
- If your child is out/late - Call Giselle [973-571-2029](tel:973-571-2029) x7520 and email me if you'd like
- Supply Lists - I'll let you know if we need items for your child or the classroom - Donations are optional
- Arrival/Dismissal - One family at a time - Pull up only when you are waved on- no passing in the lot
- Parent/Teacher Conferences - December - These will most likely be virtual
- Celebrations: Birthdays, Halloween, End of Year/Graduation TBD
- Field Trips are postponed until further notice

What hasn't changed:

Enriching, motivating preschool learning program for your child

1:1 Learning every day

Group Activities - Circle, Read Alouds, Movement, Art/Science, Academics and thematic lessons, and Floor Play (with social distancing guidelines in place)

ABA Methodology used throughout the day - reading and adjusting the environment to facilitate positive strategies for individual students to guide their learning and effective participation in school and remote learning

Parent Support

Special Thank You's for:

Going with the flow

Your communication

Your organization and responses

Your commitment to making this work

Supporting me as I navigate through this new wave teaching

QUESTIONS???



Contact Information

gminervobuneo@veronaschools.org

Call the preschool office:

Giselle Illic

973-571-2029 x7520