Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: My child needs after school care, is there a program offered by the school?**

**A**: Yes, Junior Blast is offered at Pinnacle, but it is only for K-5 students. There are child care centers in this area that offer transportation to their center after school. Please contact the Stokes Partnership for Children to inquire about these centers. Their phone number is 336-985-2676

**Q: How do I pay for my child’s lunch?**

**A**: You can bring money to the school and either pay the cafeteria directly ( give the money to either Mrs. Smith or myself), or load money onto your child’s account online. Here is the website with a tutorial on how to complete the process: <http://www.stokes.k12.nc.us/payments.html>

**Q: What do I do if my child needs to be absent? How many days can my child miss?**

**A:** Please provide a written note explaining why your child is absent and provide a doctor’s note for appointments. Pre-K students cannot miss more than 3 consecutive days. If your child plans to be absent for long periods of time due to medical/family reasons, please contact me and I will provide materials to work on at home with your child.

**Q: Can I pack my child’s lunch? Are you able to keep it cold until lunchtime?**

**A:** Yes! Even if you did not sign the “Nutrition Opt-Out” form, you can still pack your child’s lunch as long as it meets nutritional guidelines. It must contain a protein, grain, a fruit or vegetable, and white milk. Unfortunately, we cannot place lunchboxes in refrigerators to stay cold, but several parents freeze milk in a thermos and it is thawed by lunchtime.

**Q: Do you send homework?**

**A:** No. The ability to accomplish a worksheet task does not represent the child’s ability and often, the task is not developmentally appropriate for 4-5 year olds. Worksheets can be used only one way and are generally considered close-ended materials. They lead children to think that there is only a single correct way to use them, and they require little, if any, higher-order thinking (problem solving skills!). In addition, homework can very easily dampen a child’s enthusiasm for learning, and at such an early stage in life, this would be devastating for their future success. I do however send home suggested activities to do with your child, as well as encourage you to read to your child daily.

 **Q: I’m worried my child might need speech therapy services. Who do I contact?**

**A:** Contact me! I will get in contact with the speech therapist and send home a speech referral form. Once it is returned, we will hold a meeting and start the process. Your child will be assessed by the therapist and later the team will determine whether or not your child qualifies for speech services.

**Q: What curriculum do you use? Does Pre-K follow the Standard Course of Study?**

**A:** Pre-K uses the Creative Curriculum and follows the North Carolina Foundations for Early Learning (<http://ncchildcare.nc.gov/pdf_forms/NC_foundations.pdf> ). We are also implementing SEFEL (Social-Emotional Foundations for Early Learning) <http://csefel.vanderbilt.edu/about.html>. More information will be given out on curriculum night in the Fall.

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