



# PARENT HANDBOOK 2022-2023

50 Cherry Valley Avenue  
Garden City, NY 11530  
516-481-7765  
Fax: 516-550-0461  
[www.gcns.org](http://www.gcns.org)  
[gcns50@gcns.org](mailto:gcns50@gcns.org)  
[gcnsdirector@gcns.org](mailto:gcnsdirector@gcns.org)  
[facebook.com/gcns50](https://facebook.com/gcns50)

# GARDEN CITY NURSERY SCHOOL PARENT HANDBOOK

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME LETTER	3
1. HISTORY OF GARDEN CITY NURSERY SCHOOL	3
2. SUMMARY OF OUR COOPERATIVE STRUCTURE	4
3. EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY	4
4. OUR STAFF	4
5. MEMBERSHIP POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	4
6. HOURS OF OPERATION	5
7. SCHOOL CALENDAR	5
8. SCHOOL CLOSINGS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER	5
9. DROPPING OFF/PICKING UP	5
10. CONFIDENTIALITY	6
11. RIGHTS OF NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS	6
12. FAMILY PARTICIPATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	6
13. CLOTHING	7
14. CARPOOLS	7
15. BIRTHDAYS	7
16. CLASS TRIPS	7
17. CONFERENCES	7
18. PHOTOS	7
19. PUBLICITY/DIRECTORY	7
20. POSITIVE GUIDANCE	8
21. WITHDRAWING FROM GCNS	8
22. HEALTH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	8
23. ACCIDENTS AND INJURIES	10
24. FOOD ALLERGY AND ANAPHYLAXIS PREVENTION	10
25. ADMINISTERING MEDICATIONS	10
26. SNACK SUGGESTIONS	10
27. PARKING	11
28. EMERGENCY EVACUATION & DISASTER PLAN	11
29. SHELTER IN PLACE POLICY	11
30. LOCK DOWN PROCEDURE	12
31. FUND RAISING POLICIES	12
32. FINANCIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	13
HELPFUL INFORMATION SECTION	14
WORDS OF WISDOM FROM OUR FOUNDER	15
SCHOOL CALENDAR	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.

# Welcome Letter

Dear GCNS Community,

Welcome to the Garden City Nursery School! We are so pleased that you have joined this cooperative school and community; it truly is a special place. Providing a safe and comfortable start of any child's educational journey is very important to families, children and the staff at GCNS. We aim to give our children a full and rewarding experience as they embark on this path of early childhood learning. In addition to the educational benefits your child will receive at GCNS, as parents you will enjoy wonderful experiences and forge lifelong friendships as a result of our cooperative values. GCNS will give you much more in return, so take this opportunity to jump right in.

This parent handbook provides useful information about our school, policies and procedures. Please read through it completely. You will be asked to attest that you have read this handbook and understand all of the policies of our school.

All the best,

GCNS President

## 1. History of Garden City Nursery School

The Garden City Nursery School is a parent cooperative, administered by a member-elected Board of Trustees, which employs the professional staff of director, business manager, certified teachers and experienced assistants. It is registered and chartered (1954) by the N.Y.S. Department of Education.

Begun as a playgroup sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and housed for its first 6 years in the Church-in-the-Garden and St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, the school grew from one group of 15 children in 1951 to 4 groups and 72 children in 1957, when its present building on Cherry Valley Avenue was erected. Present membership is approximately 90 families in 6 groups of 2 - 5 year olds.

For the first 3 years the school was called the AAUW Cooperative Nursery School. The name was changed when we received our charter (incorporation) in 1954. The construction of its own building was a triumph of dedication and hard work by Garden City parents, determined to establish their school within the environs of our village.

As early as 1955, the long search for permanent housing had begun. Under the able leadership of Julianne Lewis and Agnes (Coppie) Short, the school's Director, a Housing Committee searched the Village in vain for a suitable location. Turned down by the Zoning Board, resisted by potential neighbors, the parents finally turned in desperation to the Village Trustees for help, and found a sympathetic ear in the then Mayor Webster Caye. One hot July night in 1956, Julianne was electrified to hear the Mayor's voice over the telephone ask, "Would the school like an acre of land in the Village?" INDEED, WE WOULD!

Then came a mad rush of action-petitions, a hearing, approval, the raising of funds from alumni and current members, seeking a mortgage and planning a building. At this crucial juncture, Hamilton Smith, architect and parent, contributed his time and workmanship to design our lovely original two-classroom building...a debt we can only repay with gratitude. To open by September 1957, after the builder had completed the initial shell in mid-August, crews of mothers and fathers worked days and nights painting, laying floor tiles, installing shelves, raking, grading, and planting the muddy site. And we opened---only one week late!

Since that proud day the school has continued to grow and flourish. In 1962 the mortgage was refinanced to construct the west block and activity room; in 1966 the east block room. Through varied and successful fund raising projects (children's events, garage sales, art auctions, craft fairs, special events, etc.) each succeeding group of parents has made its contribution to the improvement of the facilities and equipment for their children. Furnace, floor and roof have been replaced, new doors, cabinets and closets installed. The entrance area was landscaped, a rock garden constructed, the lobby refurbished and we make improvements each year. We have been the recipient of many gifts from our members.

The Garden City Nursery School is an achievement of which our Village and we, can indeed be proud!

## **2. Summary of Our Cooperative Structure**

In the organization of our cooperative nursery school, basic power resides in the Membership, which delegates administrative duties and responsibilities, as specified in the By-Laws, to a Board of Trustees, a professional Director and a Business Manager. The Director and Business Manager are accountable to the Board; the Board is responsible for the Director; the Board, Director and Business Manager are responsible to the Membership.

The Board of Trustees, some seventeen to twenty-five voting members, consists of the nine elected officers of the school, chairpersons of certain standing committees appointed by the President, certain chairpersons of additional committees and/or events, the immediate past President, and one A.A.U.W. representative. The President of the school is the chairperson of the Board of Trustees.

Recommendations of the Board concerning finances or policies must be referred to the Membership for decision. All minutes and financial records are open to the Membership. Meetings of the Board of Trustees are open to any member who wishes to attend.

The nine officers of the school comprise the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. This committee may take independent action only in emergencies or, when so instructed by the Board or the Membership. The officers, as individuals or as a committee, are responsible to the Board and to the Membership.

The educational program for the children is entrusted to a professional staff under the supervision of the Director. The Director and staff are responsible to the Board and the Membership.

Certain financial and business aspects of the nursery school shall be administered on a day to day basis by the Business Manager.

In order that our school may function effectively as a parent-cooperative, it is incumbent upon the individual member to bring to the Board of Trustees, the chairperson of which is the President of the school, any and all suggestions for improvement in the administration of and operation of the school.

## **3. Educational Philosophy**

We are interested in all aspects of the young child's development, social, emotional, physical, and cognitive.

Our primary concern is guidance: helping each child gain the social coping skills and emotional stability to live humanely with others in a complex and crowded society. We wish each child to feel he/she is a good and able person, with a positive self-image.

We believe that physical competence enhances self-esteem, contributing to successful social and cognitive functioning. The children make full and daily use of our two outdoor playgrounds and extensive outdoor equipment.

We believe that children learn by active involvement in first-hand experiences (as demonstrated by Piaget) within a context of self or teacher initiated play. Nature and science activities, number games and problem solving, free expression through art materials, songs, stories, discussions, and other language activities, appropriate to each age level, are an integral part of the curriculum.

Parents share in the education of the child by participation in the classroom and by conferences with the teachers. Parent administrators serve on the Board of Trustees and on various committees for the smooth functioning of the school. They employ the professional staff, provide for continuing enrollment, and ensure financial stability.

## **4. Our Staff**

Our dedicated teachers and assistant teachers were thoroughly vetted before joining our staff. Lead Teachers are certified and all our staff complete the required hours of continuous staff development training courses throughout the year as required by our license via NY State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). We follow OCFS guidelines to clear and screen any new staff member as well as check all their references.

## **5. Membership Policies and Procedures**

The Membership Committee in accordance with the current needs of the school and community shall determine enrollment. It shall conform to the accepted standards of nursery education as to the number of children in a group and the amount of space per child. The membership committee consists of: Membership Chairperson, President, Director and Business Manager.

The Garden City Nursery School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and other school administered programs.

#### Criteria for Admission:

Classes are formed from a list kept according to the ages of the children and the following criteria:

1. Because of restrictions in our deed to Village property, 75% of the membership must come from Garden City.
2. Garden City alumni in order of application.
3. Alumni outside Garden City once the 75% quota has been met.
4. Children of AAUW members (a) within Garden City; (b) outside Garden City.
5. Others in order of application, keeping a balance of boys and girls.

#### Registration Procedures:

1. List of applicants is kept by the membership chairperson/Director/Business Manager whose duty it is to inform the applicant about the advantages and obligations of a cooperative school. The list is formed in order of residence and date of application. All vacancies are filled from this list.
2. Currently enrolled children are registered in October/November. The membership committee will hold places until communication has been made with the family and a registration fee has been received.
3. Children who are eligible for kindergarten but want an extra year at the Garden City Nursery School, are registered after currently enrolled children, but before any applicants on the list.
4. The birth date determining the placement of children each year will be determined by the membership committee based upon the population's birthdays. Playgroup will consist of 2 year olds, Nursery classes will consist of 3 year olds, Pre-K classes will consist 4 year olds.

## **6. Hours of Operation**

GCNS is open from 8:45am-11:15am and 11:45am-3:15pm.

#### Class Times

Playgroup East & West will meet Mon, Thurs, 8:45am - 10:45am

Nursery East & West will meet Tues, Wed, Fri, 8:45 - 11:15am

Pre-K East & West will meet Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, 11:45am – 3:15pm

Enrichment classes are from 3:15pm-4:15/4:30pm depending on the class. Check with your enrichment teacher.

*Enrichment classes are offered for Pre-K children in the Fall and Spring semesters. Registration will take place prior to each semester.*

## **7. School Calendar**

As a general rule, we follow the Garden City School District calendar for all Federal holidays, December & February school breaks. For our complete school calendar please look in last section of this handbook.

## **8. School Closings due to Inclement Weather**

In most cases, GCNS will be closed if the Garden City Public Schools are closed. There are times, however, that GCNS will close despite Public Schools remaining open, i.e. icy conditions, conferences, etc. Director/Business Manager will notify all parents and staff via our One Call Now telephone information system and email of unexpected closures. Please remember to inform caregivers of any changes to the schedule. In the event that GC announces a morning delay to start classes, GCNS will be closed for the day.

## **9. Dropping Off/Picking Up**

Teachers will inform parents in their welcome letters where children are dropped off at the school. Generally, it is one of three locations: the front door or one of the two side entrances. Parents & caregivers are asked to always stay with your child at the entrance way until the teacher takes the child from you. At pickup, again the teachers will confirm the pickup spot and will only release the child to the persons authorized to pick them up. If you are carpooling or need another parent or caregiver to pick up your child, please inform the school office or teacher ahead of time.

Please pick up your child at the dismissal time. To accommodate the changes to our teacher's schedule due to late pickups, please note that there will be a \$25 late fee assessed per **15 minutes'** increments at the discretion of the school.

**IMPORTANT** Emergency Contact and Child Release Information are collected at the beginning of the school year. This information is kept confidential and will be used for contact in the event of any changes to the pickup time. Please notify the front office if any information is changed on these forms during the school year.

## 10. Confidentiality

All documents collected (e.g. emergency contact forms, educational, health records, and financial statements) are kept in confidence by the front office. Information is not shared. A request from the parent in writing is required to share information, e.g. statements for flexible spending accounts or tuition receipts.

## 11. Rights of Non-Custodial Parents

Without an official custody order or restraining order on file, the school must grant both parents' access. In the event that there is a designated custodial parent, mailings, conference, emergency contacts and authorizations used in case of accidents and illness will be directed to the custodial parent. All parents are encouraged to attend conferences and other functions but it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to inform the non-custodial parent of such arrangements.

## 12. Family Participation Policies and Procedures

### Classroom Participation aka "Special Day"

Families are required to serve as "Helper of the Day" on a rotating basis throughout the school year. This allows parents and caretakers to observe firsthand the social and intellectual development of their child in relation to the class and permits parents and teachers to get to know each other better. Please remember that participation at this level effectively boosts the self-esteem and emotional well-being of the child and enhances the parent-child relationship.

1. Each participating adult serves as an assistant to the teacher as scheduled. Any family who is overburdened by other services to the school may be relieved of a portion of this basic classroom participation at the discretion of the executive committee.
2. The participating family is responsible for securing another participant if she/he is unable to be at the school on the day for which she/he signed. The class parent for the group may be called on for suggestions and must be notified, along with the teacher, when changes are made.
3. All families will attend the first teacher conference during the first weeks of school, and new families will attend the new parents' meeting.
4. The participating adult in **Playgroup & Nursery** brings in a healthy snack (crackers, cheese, fruit) and may bring a drink (milk, watered down juice). See Snack Suggestions (p.10). The water in the school is filtered and can be served with snack.
5. The participating adult should not bring siblings into the classroom for an extended period of time.
6. **PLEASE READ ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT GUIDELINES REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN THE HELFUL ADVICE SECTION IN THIS HANDOUT.**

### Maintenance Participation

1. A member of each family participates in the equivalent of two three-hour sessions a year in maintenance of the building and grounds, typically, one maintenance session of the three per semester. Fall semester runs September to January. Spring semester runs February to June. Any family who is unable to fulfill this maintenance obligation has the option of paying a \$150 maintenance fee per session.
2. The executive committee has the power to relieve a family from their basic maintenance participation if, in its opinion, additional duties would be excessive.

### Committee Service

1. Each family is expected to serve on one committee as needed. Any family unable to complete committee participation on an assigned committee may fulfill the obligation by aiding another committee, or by attending extra maintenance sessions, or by paying a fee of \$325.
2. In so far as possible, there shall be representation from all classes on all committees.
3. Each family may be called upon to provide food for one event during the school year.

### Meetings

1. All members are expected to attend the combined business and parent education meetings four times a year.
2. All participating families are expected to attend back to school nights at the start of the year. New families will also attend the orientation meetings.

### Fund-Raising Events

1. Members are expected to support all fund-raising events.

### **13. Clothing**

Children should wear comfortable play clothes. Please do not dress a child in his or her "best" clothes. The clothing should be easy to put on and take off in order to minimize time spent daily on these details. For safety in the playground, girls may wear dresses only on birthdays or party days and shoes should be sneakers or have rubber-soles. If a child wears snow boots or rain boots, please send a change of shoes. The children do not need to bring any supplies to school. To carry winter clothing, an open canvas type bag is preferable to a backpack with zippers.

Label all outer clothing (using last names). All children must bring a plastic bag marked with their name containing a seasonally appropriate extra shirt, pants, underwear or diaper and socks.

### **14. Carpools**

The school takes no responsibility for the transportation of children. The director can help you find parents with whom you may car pool. Parents with large carpools are asked not to drive the car pool on their participation days.

### **15. Birthdays**

Whenever possible, the parent participates the day of the child's birthday. The parent brings a special birthday treat for snack. Check with the teacher as to what snack to bring.

Please do not put invitations or gifts in the children's cubbies. Summer birthdays can be celebrated in late Spring if desired. Please check with your teacher.

### **16. Class Trips**

Pre-K children will go on a number of field trips (most of them with parents/caregivers). Parents will be notified prior to all class trips by the School Director and/or Lead Teacher of all the details. If a child will be absent on the day of a trip, please call the school, in a timely manner, so the trip is not delayed. Parents are responsible for making transportation arrangements for class trips.

Siblings are not invited on class trips. The parent's attention is needed to help supervise the children.

### **17. Conferences**

Conferences are very helpful to both teachers and parents/guardians. Conferences for children in Nursery and Pre-K groups are scheduled twice a year and conferences for children in Playgroup are scheduled once a year (the first conference). The first conference is held before classes begin in September. The purpose of this conference is to gain information about the child and to get an understanding of parents' or guardians' goals for their child. You will be asked to fill out an interview form to better learn about your child. The second conference is scheduled in early spring to give a summary of the child's progress.

Extra conferences may be held when needed by either parent or teacher. You are invited to visit the school at any time during the year to observe our classes.

### **18. Photos**

The children will be photographed occasionally by staff members and/or parents for class projects and to share on HomeRoom an application for sharing photos of the school day. Access to Homeroom is granted by the class parent. Please note that all photos on the HomeRoom app are private and cannot be shared with any external parties.

At times, the school would like to use these photos for publicity (ex. in the local newspapers and/or on the school's website) without names. Parents can allow the school to use their child's photo by indicating permission in Jovial under "Use of Photo". If at any time a parent chooses to change this setting, please contact the school. The school will request permission from any parent whose children's face is visible in a photo the school uses for publicity.

### **19. Publicity/Directory**

All school publicity should go through our Communications chairperson(s) so that we maintain continuity. Our membership directory is published for private use within our school community **only**. Please do not use our school directory for any type of solicitation.

## 20. Positive Guidance

We strive to instill confidence and independence in our children through positive guidance. The process develops self-esteem, self-control, focus and attention, life skills and the ability to engage with peers and learning in the classroom setting.

We understand that during these growing stages our children will show a wide range of emotions and behaviors. In these instances, our staff will:

- a. Guide, redirect or encourage different behaviors or actions while acknowledging emotions.
- b. We will stop any behavior that is harmful physically or emotionally to a child or others or damages school property.
- c. The staff does not use physical punishment of any kind.

Occasionally, a child who is displaying maladaptive behaviors will need to be closely supervised by a staff member as they adjust to the routine and independent interactions with peers. If a child is temporarily unable to participate in an activity because they cannot self-control their movements or behavior, our practice is to offer the child a quiet place to sit to refocus or redirect the child's attention until they are ready to rejoin the activity.

Our goal is for the child to develop age appropriate internal controls and intrinsic motivation. Communication between the staff and family will be open and ongoing if the child needs more than the occasional reminder to be able to function in a productive way at school. If needed, the teacher, director and parent will meet to discuss further strategies to support the student's success in class. These may include an evaluation by the school district or other professionals.

## 21. Withdrawing from GCNS

If for any reason you need to withdraw a child from GCNS, please notify us in writing as soon as possible with your intentions. We will prorate and reimburse tuition only if the spot can be filled. Tuition is not refundable after August 1<sup>st</sup>.

If, at the sole discretion of the professional staff, the student is unable to adjust to the school group program and have their educational needs met at GCNS and is therefore asked to leave the school, we will prorate and refund the appropriate tuition.

## 22. Health Policies and Procedures

By observing good health standards, you will be protecting your child and others in the school. We appreciate your cooperation and adherence to the policies regarding your child's health.

According to New York State law all children entering preschool must be immunized. Please refer to the Health and Immunization form for requirements.

1. A physical examination must be done within the calendar year for each child. The school form or equivalent must be signed by the examining physician and each child's immunizations must be up to date. This form must be returned to school before the start of the school year. **The child will not be permitted to attend school until the health forms are received.** If a parent has any questions, the health chairperson may be contacted.
2. Parents must give written permission to the school to provide for medical attention in case of emergencies.
3. Children with cold symptoms **MUST NOT** be sent to school.
4. Children who cannot participate fully in the day's program **SHOULD NOT** be sent to school.

Sick children do not belong in school. They will be sent home. Sometimes children want to come to school even if they are sick, but remember, "Parent" knows best. It is your duty and responsibility to keep sick children home, away from the others in school. A child cannot perform normally if he/she is sick. A sick child will not be happy in school.

--If a child has had a fever, he/she must be fever-free for 48 hours without use of antipyretics (fever reducing medicine) before returning to school.

--If the child has vomited or had diarrhea, you must wait 48 hours after the child is symptom free -without medication - before returning to school.

--If your child is sneezing, coughing or has a runny nose, he/she is contagious and should not be in school.

--If the child has allergies with a persistent cough or runny nose, we need a note from your doctor explaining the condition.



Parents must notify teacher and director/front office immediately when a child has contracted or has been exposed to a communicable disease. You can use [Office@gmail.org](mailto:Office@gmail.org) to inform the Director & Front Office. Exposure is defined as exposure within an enclosure. A child exposed to certain communicable diseases is excluded from school for all or part of the incubation period. All incubation figures are taken from the N.Y. State Dept. of Health. If a child contracts a contagious disease, he/she does not return to school until their physician approves. Call the health chairman or director with any questions or concerns. In all cases the child is to be kept home when even the slightest symptoms or indisposition occur.

6. Parents of children who have been exposed to communicable diseases in Nursery School will be notified by the health chairman, or by school administration.
7. For communicable diseases including Impetigo, Conjunctivitis, COVID-19, a parent should receive clearance from a doctor before returning the child to school.
8. Parents should notify the school if a child will be absent due to a prolonged illness. Clearance from a doctor must be received before children can return to school after a prolonged illness or a broken bone.
9. Mothers are required to inform the health chairman and/or teacher/director of pregnancies as early as possible for their own protection. This information will be confidential.
10. All of the above procedures apply to any adult who interfaces with the children on a regular basis, i.e. teachers, student aides. Participating parents should exercise proper judgment.
11. It is included in the philosophy of our school that outdoor play is equally beneficial to children as indoor play. A portion of each day, subject to the discretion of teacher, director or will be spent outdoors.

## **Return to School after Illness Protocol**

If your child is sick, we ask that you give your child adequate time to rest and recuperate until they are well. Please be aware that there is an overlap between COVID-19 symptoms with other illnesses.

When a child has been absent due to illness, the school will require:

The child to be **symptom/fever free for 48 hours** without fever reducing medications. Depending on the illness, the school may also require a doctor's note to return to school. See below for COVID return policy.

### **COVID-19 Guidelines**

A child experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status:

- Must remain out of the program for 5 days OR until they receive a negative COVID-19 test AND symptoms are improving according to our General Health Guidelines.

A child **tests positive** for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status:

- Child with a positive COVID test must stay out of the program for at least 5 days.
- Child with a positive test who is NOT experiencing symptoms must isolate for 5 days. They may return for days 6-10 wearing a well-fitted mask. Day 0 is the day of the positive test. If they cannot wear a well-fitted mask, they must remain out of the program for 10 days.
- Child with a positive test who IS experiencing symptoms must isolate for *at least* 5 days. Day 0 is the day symptoms began. They Must be fever-free for 48 hours without medication AND symptoms must be resolved according to our General Health Guidelines. They must wear a well-fitted mask for days 6-10. If they cannot wear a well-fitted mask, they must remain out of the program for 10 days.
- If a class is exposed to COVID-19, the school must inform OCFS. Exposure means any child within six feet of someone with COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes. Asymptomatic children can return to school masked for 10 days. Testing is encouraged on Day 3 and Day 5. Any symptomatic exposed children need to remain out of school for 5 days and follow the above policy on child experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- If a household member of a child tests positive for COVID-19, the child may attend school in a well-fitted mask as long as the child present no symptoms. The child must test negative on Day 3 and Day 5. The child must remain masked for 10 days. Please call the school if there is a household infection.

- COVID test can be from a healthcare provider's office, reputable pharmacy or a home test.
- Copy of negative test.

## 23. Accidents and Injuries

Every precaution is taken to avoid accidents & injuries. First Aid kits are available, and the staff is trained. Parents will be notified of any head injury immediately and will be informed the day of an injury no matter how minor. For smaller bumps and bruises, teachers will clean the area if necessary, with soap and water and apply a band aid or ice pack if the child requires it. If accident is more serious, the teachers will inform the parents and complete any required paperwork for the NY State Office of Children and Family Services.

In the case of a serious injury, the head teacher will attend to the child, the assistant teachers will attend to the class and inform the Director and/or front office to contact the parent. The Director and/or front office will act as the decision maker in the absence of the parent or until medical help arrives.

## 24. Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Prevention

The most common food allergies in infants and children are eggs, milk, peanuts, tree nuts, soy, wheat, fish and shellfish. Other common allergies include insect bites, dogs, cats, medications and latex. Children with allergies may develop symptoms, such as hives and shortness of breath, when they encounter an allergen. An allergen is anything that can cause an allergic reaction. Take all allergic symptoms seriously because both mild and severe symptoms can lead to a serious allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a multi-symptom allergic reaction that must be treated right away to prevent potentially life-threatening complications.

Accidental exposure to an allergen for a child with a known allergy is a great risk. However, there are many young children who are not aware of an allergy until they are exposed to it and have a reaction. Therefore, the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) requires detailed plans for avoiding accidental exposure to allergens for children with identified allergies and recognizing and treating allergic reactions and anaphylaxis in all children. Parents with children who have identified allergies must check in with Francie to complete all necessary paperwork.

## 25. Administering Medications

Medication cannot be administered to children by teachers or staff with the exception of Benadryl or Epinephrine in cases of severe allergic reaction. All of those medicines are properly labeled and stored; along with health/consent forms signed by the pediatrician and parents in the school office.

## 26. Snack Suggestions

Our wish is to provide healthy snacks for our children - low sugar (except for birthday cupcakes) and non-allergenic. Avoid chocolates, artificial coloring and flavoring. In some children, sugar and artificial ingredients cause hyperactivity. Allergic reactions to peanuts, peanut butter and nuts tend to be severe therefore we avoid these products as well as high risk choke foods in our school - NO PEANUT BUTTER or NUTS or POPCORN or CANDY of any kind. High risk choke foods for toddlers include bagels, grapes, carrot sticks and celery. For playgroups, please remove pits from all fruit, skin from fresh apples and inner skin from oranges. For now, we are asking participating families to provide a pre-packaged snack. If our policy should change, please refer to the below for non-packaged ideas.

Some Suggestions for varying daily snacks:

### Fruits and Vegetables

Apple slices (or sauce)

Banana slices

Celery and Cream cheese (or dip)

Cucumbers

Blueberries

Raisins or other dried fruit

Melons - cut up

Orange slices

Strawberries— cut up

Grapes – cut up length wise (for 3s & 4s only)

### Crackers

Pretzels

Whole Wheat

Rye

Graham

Goldfish

### Breads

White

Whole Wheat

Rye

Pumpnickel

Oatmeal

### Spreads/dairy

Jelly

Butter or Margarine

Cheese

Mozzarella

American

Cheese  
Saltines  
Matzos  
other:  
Cheerios

Zucchini  
Pumpkin  
Cinnamon Raisin  
Mini Bagels

Swiss  
Cream cheese  
Cottage cheese  
Cheese sticks  
Yogurt

## 27. Parking

The village granted us permission to use the pool parking lot for pick-up and delivery of children. Parking in the pool area relieves crowding in the front parking area and is a safer situation for the children.

Please remember there should be no playing or running on the hill in the pool parking lot. Use your good judgment and be cognizant of moving vehicles.

## 28. Emergency Evacuation & Disaster Plan

The director or business manager will notify the staff of an emergency. School will be in contact with local authorities and OCFS. Communication to parents will be via the One Call Now System **OR** via text from the class parent. Please remember that parents are responsible for alerting caregivers who pick up the children of changes to pick up.

The school will retain responsibility for all children on premises until they are released to a parent, guardian or other designated person, or until they have been transported to an official evacuation center, in which case selected staff will remain with the children until all have been reunited with their families. The evacuation center for GCNS is the tennis facility at the Garden City Community Park or the GCUFSD Bus Garage. Teachers will take their attendance clipboard and emergency folders to the evacuation center. Attendance will be taken upon arrival.

All **employees** will remain on the premises as service workers, as designated by law. Such employees will be subject to whatever tasks are assigned by the person or persons in charge, and may not leave the premises until the same person or persons give them official permission to go.

**Parents** should listen to the public reports (media, local authorities) for progress reports on whatever disaster is taking place and follow official instructions as relayed by officials. If parents are able to reach the school or designated evacuation center without danger to themselves or without interference with disaster workers, they should come to pick up their children. Children will be released only to parents, guardians, or other designated persons known to them and on the Emergency Contact and Child Release Form.

## 29. Shelter In Place Policy

Shelter in place provides refuge for children/adults/staff during an emergency when evacuation would put people at risk (i.e. tornado, environmental hazard, blocked evacuation route). As long as the structural integrity of the building has not been compromised, the shelter-in place option is the safest choice in the protection of children, adults and staff members.

Local authorities, such as Garden City Fire Dept., Garden City Police Dept., and Red Cross may also issue orders for shelter-in-place. Once an order for shelter-in-place has been issued, no one may leave the facility until the school receives notification that the danger has passed.

1. Director (or Chain of Command) determines the reason for sheltering in place and directs staff accordingly.
2. All children, adults and staff must come in from outdoors and follow directions for sheltering in place. Carry on calmly with class routine.
3. All outdoor ventilation is closed.
4. All windows and exterior doors are closed.
5. Stay in the classroom.
6. Keep air as clean as possible (seal door).
7. If directed to move to a previously identified indoor safe area (Community Park Club House), staff will take attendance records with them; upon arriving at safe area, attendance is re-taken.
8. Communication to parents will be via the One Call Now System or text from the class parent.

## 30. Lock Down Procedure

If an incident occurs that requires the school to be secured, or if local authorities direct a lockdown, the following lockdown procedures will be implemented. These procedures may be called for when there is a threat outside the building and/or threat or hostile intruder inside the building.

1. Director (or Chain of Command) will order and announce "Lockdown"
2. All children/adults/staff who are outside will immediately return to their classroom.
3. Designated staff member will check all doors to outside to ensure that they are locked.
4. Gather children in the center of room away from windows.
5. Barricade the doors with tables pushed onto side.
6. Control all movement but continue regular programming. Movement throughout the building occurs only when specifically indicated by Director (or Chain of Command).
7. No one may be admitted to the building.
8. Director (or Chain of Command) will announce "all clear" when the center is able to return to normal operations.

### Hostile Intruder

Although we have locked doors and limited access to our school, it is a possibility that an unwelcome, hostile visitor will gain access to the building. It is also possible that a known member of our school can become disgruntled and hostile.

In these cases, the following procedure will be followed:

1. The Director (or Chair of Command) will be summoned.
2. The Director (or Chain of Command) will immediately assess the situation and attempt to resolve any issues amicably. The hostile person will be asked to leave the premises voluntarily. If the individual becomes hostile or a threat is perceived, the Director (or Chain of Command) will push the Panic Button to Central Station and the Garden City Police will be notified. If the Director (or Chain of Command) determines that a direct call to 911 is a better choice, the call will be made to inform the police that there is a hostile intruder and we need help immediately.
3. The person who summoned the police will alert each classroom.
4. The alert will cue staff that there is a hostile intruder in the building and not to allow anyone access to their classrooms or to release children to any individuals until further notice. Doors would be secured from the inside of the classroom and all children will be kept away from windows and doors to the best of the staff's ability.
5. When the situation has been resolved, classrooms will be notified with an announcement of "all clear" and they may resume normal operations. An incident report will be filed and further actions regarding the individual and the family involved will be considered on an individual basis.

### Kidnapping

Any staff member who observes a kidnapping should go immediately to the nearest phone and call 911. Important information (license plate numbers, descriptions, etc.) should be written down as soon as possible.

### Hostage Taking

Should a staff member become aware of a hostage taking, they should contact the Center Director immediately.

1. 911 will be contacted.
2. Director (or Chair of Command) will determine whether there will be a silent evacuation of the building using routes established for fire drills or whether staff will be directed to secure classrooms and shelter in place.

## 31. Fund Raising Policies

Fundraising is a vital aspect of a cooperative school. The positive values of fundraising, aside from the money raised, far outweigh any "nuisance" aspects. Fundraising projects involve parents more actively in the school, increase interest and develop leadership. They offer an opportunity for parents to get to know each other while working together. The events themselves offer opportunities for social interchange, which makes for good morale and a more cohesive group.

1. Plans and budgets for various fundraising and social events must be submitted to the board of trustees for approval of expenses, raffles, etc.
2. The fundraising vice president, the president, director and business manager must be notified of all meetings of committees and subcommittees. For reasons of continuity, it is important that the president, fundraising vice president(s) and director attend the first meeting of all events committees, social and fundraising.
3. Individual members may be required to sell tickets, raffles or the like. Availability may be advertised in notices.

4. Letters of solicitation of any kind must be approved by the fundraising vice president, the president, director and business manager.
5. Raffles must be approved by the Board of Trustees. Raffles may be offered during the school year, with no requirement of purchase. (see #4 above).
6. Raffles may be solicited at the Pot Luck Supper. General requests for raffle prizes may be made in the newsletter or at meetings.
7. Contributions or assistance for events may be asked from:
  - a) Other committee members working on a defined subcommittee.
  - b) Board members.
  - c) General request in the newsletter or school lobby.
8. Any family unable to complete committee participation on an assigned committee may fulfill the obligation by aiding another committee, or by attending extra maintenance sessions, or by paying a fee of \$325.

## **32. Financial Policies and Procedures**

The nursery school receives its financial support from: tuition, fundraising and donations.

Tuition: Yearly tuition payment covers the majority of our operating expenses.

Fundraising: Activities are run by the parents and monies raised supplement the overall budget. Funds raised over budget are put into a contingency account for special programs, capital improvements and emergencies.

Donations: Made by our parents or friends in appreciation of services rendered (monetary and equipment).

This combination of financial support allows our school to operate with stability. Our goal is to maintain low fees and to provide quality services for our children.

### Tuition Payment

1. The tuition for Nursery classes shall be \$2,675 a year, for PreK classes \$4,275 a year, and for playgroup classes \$2,025. All tuition is payable either in full or bi-annual installments. Other tuition arrangements may be made on a case by case basis. All tuition must be paid in full by February 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. Delinquency: If tuition is not paid when due, a late penalty of \$20.00 per month may be charged to the tuition bill.
3. Returned Check: The Garden City Nursery School will charge \$20.00 for each check returned for insufficient funds. Returned check fines will appear on your next bill.
4. Tuition Reimbursement Policy: If a family withdraws after the first tuition payment has been made, there will be:

Full Reimbursement-if the withdrawal is on or before July 1<sup>st</sup>

50% Reimbursement-if the withdrawal is on or before Aug. 1<sup>st</sup>

No Reimbursement after August 1st. Each case will be considered individually.

If a different program is recommended by our educational staff, a prorated refund will be granted. Four weeks' notice is required and the family is responsible for tuition through the end of the last month in attendance.

5. Refunds: No refunds can be made for long or short absences.
6. Nothing contained in the financial policies of the Garden City Nursery School shall be deemed to preclude the President and Treasurers, by a unanimous vote upon the joint recommendation of the President, the Director, and the Business Manager, from waiving the payment of the full or partial tuition and/or fees for any member of the Garden City Nursery School. The President, Director and Business Manager may only make such a recommendation in the event of financial hardship, documented to their satisfaction, and the President and Treasurers shall approve such recommendation only if it deems same, by unanimous vote, to be in the interests of the member and not inconsistent with the interests of the Garden City Nursery School.

### Registration Fee

A non-refundable registration fee of \$300.00, in addition to tuition listed above, is payable upon acceptance of the child.

### Registration During the School Year

A non-refundable registration fee of \$300.00 is required for a child entering after the first day of school. Tuition will be prorated for the remaining portion of the school year.

## Helpful Information Section

### Guide for Participating Families

Smooth functioning of the school depends as much upon the efficiency of the participating adult as upon the teachers. You are a member of the teaching staff on duty when it is your participation day. Promptness in arriving is essential if the day is to start well for the children, unhurried and free from confusion. Plan to stay until clean-up is completed. Do not drive a large carpool on your participation day. For the children's safety all handbags must be hung on hooks out of children's reach, cell phones should be turned off, except for pictures, and no hot cups or plastic bags should be in the classroom.

#### Supervision

Supervision is your primary responsibility. Our first concern is for the health and safety of the children.

Supervision is more important than cleaning up, snack preparation, etc. Be ready to drop such tasks at a moment's notice, and only engage in them when you can watch the children at the same time.

1. Choose a strategic position.
2. Be alert to the total situation. Avoid turning your back on the group while helping one child.
3. Alert supervision prevents trouble.
4. Do not immediately jump in to resolve a conflict - allow the children time to work on these skills. Do not immediately intervene if you sense physical danger.
5. Avoid chatting. Two adults together usually mean that some area is unsupervised.
6. One adult always remains free to help the teacher at music or story periods.

#### Guiding the Children

1. Allow all creative initiative to come from the children. Art for them is experimentation or an expression of feeling. Be interested, but do not ask what a child is making. They may not know.
  - a. Clay/play-doh - avoid making models. When sitting with the children, merely manipulate the clay/play-doh.
  - b. Easel painting, crayoning, gluing - refrain from suggestions or questions. Never criticize, but do not overpraise. Say for instance, "You worked hard on that picture," or "You made it all red, didn't you?"
2. Use positive suggestions. Give children a choice only when you will abide by their decision.  
Example: "It's time to wash hands before snack," instead of "Do you want to wash your hands for snack now?" (What if the child says, "No!"?)  
A choice may be given when there are two possibilities, either of which you are willing to accept.  
Example: "We are cleaning up now. Do you want to put away a block or truck?"
3. Avoid the "Don'ts."  
Example: "The sand stays in the sandbox," instead of "Don't dump the sand out of the box." Or, "Walking feet," instead of, "Don't run."
4. Routines: (Outdoors, clean-up, bathroom, hand washing, snack/lunch period): Explain what is expected and then give the child time. Children will usually cooperate if you have an attitude of expectancy.
5. Activities: Children may be encouraged but not forced to join in group activities.
6. Help the children to help themselves. Encourage independence and praise achievement. Never criticize.
7. Ignore annoying behavior as much as possible. Attention rewards and reinforces it.
8. Refrain from unnecessary conversation with the children when they are busy working.
9. Be careful not to discuss a child in their presence.
10. Do not motivate a child by comparing them to another child. To call attention to how nicely Johnny is doing won't make him like Johnny!
11. Assume that the child always means well, that they never intend their mistakes or aggressions. Children are never "bad" or "not nice," only learning. "Children need adults with whom they can comfortably make mistakes."
12. When a problem or conflict occurs:
  - a. Don't be too eager to help. Children may learn more by solving their own problems.
  - b. Step in only when physical danger is involved, when one child is always dominating, or when you know what has happened.
13. Know the rules and be firm but patient in enforcing them.
14. When in doubt, check with the teacher (unless safety is involved.)

REMEMBER: "A child needs Love when he is Least Lovable".

## How to Deal with Separation Anxiety

For some of you, the beginning of the school year is very traumatic. Your children express great fear as they contemplate leaving you, and you, in turn, suffer from great anxiety. We offer some helpful hints!

1. Get in touch with your own feelings - keep your anxiety to yourself. Try to be in control of your behavior and not send off messages to either provoke anxiety or aggravate already existing anxiety.
2. Don't use logic - feelings are not based on logic - so don't use it to try to make the child feel differently. Feelings are more natural than thinking and they are not right or wrong.
3. Acknowledge and accept the child's fears and apprehensions - don't avoid them. Acknowledgment is not agreement.
4. Don't slip away as a way to deal with or avoid the pains of separating. If you are sneaky the child will learn that you cannot be trusted.
5. State in an assured manner that you accept their feelings but that you know they will be fine.
6. WHEN IT IS TIME TO LEAVE - LEAVE!
7. When you stay or return in response to crying, screaming, etc. the message you give the child is that they might be right - that there is something to be afraid of.
8. When in doubt as to what to do, take your cues from the teacher.
9. If the teacher asks you to stay, please be prepared to do so.

Remember: We must realize that they learn to live without us as we learn to live without them!

## Words of Wisdom from Our Founder

### Separate and Safe

Words of wisdom from Coppie, our founder and first director:

Each morning before venturing into the outside world, my cat stands halfway in the doorway, glancing from side to side, eyes and ears alert, testing for safety. It is instinctive self-protection. So with the young child new to the nursery school, it may not ever have occurred to them that mother, father or care giver will ever leave -- ever. They must feel assured that this happy environment is safe and that these new adults will take care of their needs before the child can let their adult go. Trust must be established.

Your trust in us helps, but is not enough.

So, when the three-year-old first asks, "Will you stay with me?" they mean "NOW --- TODAY", and your answer is a simple "Yes". Later it can be "As long as you need me." For a while, like my cat, he/she may need to test for safety each session before allowing mother, father or care giver to leave.

The process cannot be hurried. It varies with each child. Our school's philosophy does not include forced separation with young children (2s and 3s) and only rarely for 4s. We can only sympathize and make suggestions to ease the adjustment. We can tell you that the more patient and understanding the adults, the more quickly it will go.

Trust takes time, but once established, both you and your child will feel secure.

## 2022-2023 School Calendar

September	January
9/9 Parent/Teacher Conferences	1/3 School Reopens
9/10 Maintenance 7:00-10:00am	1/16 School Closed - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
9/12 School Opens - Playgroups & Pre-K (short sessions)	<b>February</b>
9/13 School Opens - Nursery Classes (short sessions)	2/3 School Closed - Professional Development Day
9/26-9/27 School Closed - Rosh Hashanah	TBD General Membership Meeting
9/28 Miss Chocolate Fundraiser begins	2/20-2/24 School Closed - Winter Recess
<b>October</b>	TBD Cabin Fever Party
10/4 Nursery Classes Back to School Night, 7:30pm	<b>March</b>
10/5 School Closed - Yom Kippur	3/8 School Closed - Garden City Public School Professional Development Day
10/10 School Closed - Columbus Day	TBD Parent/Teacher Conferences Nursery/Pre-K
10/15 Maintenance 7:00-10:00am	TBD Maintenance 7:00-10:00am
10/18 Pre-K Back to School Night, 7:30pm	<b>April</b>
10/21 PreK Early Dimissal, 2:15pm	TBD General Membership Meeting
10/21 Fall Potluck, 7:30pm	4/6-4/14 School Closed - Spring Recess
10/28 Nursery Halloween Parade, 9am	4/27 Picture Day - Playgroups & Pre-K West
10/28 Pre-K Halloween Parade, 12pm	4/28 Picture Day - Nursery & Pre-K East
<b>November</b>	TBD Maintenance 7:00-10:00am
11/8 School Closed - Election Day	5/26-5/30 School Closed - Memorial Day Weekend
11/11 School Closed - Veteran's Day	TBD Children's Event
11/23-11/25 School Closed - Thanksgiving Recess	<b>June</b>
<b>December</b>	6/5 Last Day - Playgroups
12/6 Holiday Market	6/6 Graduation - Pre-K East. Nursery no school, PreK West picnic
TBD Maintenance 7:00-9:30am	6/7 Last Day - Nursery
12/21-1/2 School Closed - Holiday Recess	6/9 Graduation - Pre-K West, PreK East picnic
	TBD Spring Cocktail Party

\*The school calendar shall coincide, insofar as possible, with the Garden City Public School calendar except that classes will commence September 12, 2022 and end on June 8, 2023. If the public schools are closed, GCNS will be closed for the day. If the public schools have a delayed opening, all sessions are cancelled. There will be no make-ups for snow days or emergency closures.

### Summer Program 2023 (tentative dates)

June 12<sup>th</sup> through July 28<sup>th</sup>