

# ST. CHRISTOPHER'S SCHOOL

ADVANCED ACCREDITED

15 LISBON PLACE

STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK 10306

TEL: (718) 351-0902 FAX: (718) 351-0975

August 2019

Dear UPK Parents and/or Guardians,

We hope you are having an enjoyable summer. It's hard to believe, but the beginning of a new school year will be here before we know it!! We would like to take this opportunity to welcome your family to our **UPK Program** at St. Christopher's School. This letter is to inform you about our first day of school and orientation. We are looking forward to meeting with you to discuss our exciting early childhood program and school procedures. At this time you may have heard that Ms. Jen DeGirolamo and Mrs. Lori Moore have left to pursue other educational avenues. I know you join me in wishing them all the best. That being said, we enthusiastically welcome Ms. Diane Rozas and Ms. Maria Pacheco to our St. Christopher family! They are experienced teachers and are a welcome addition to our faculty.

**Orientation will take place on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>. Please bring your child to the Bedford Avenue entrance at 10:00 a.m.** The children will be brought to the classroom for their first session, and the parents and guardians will proceed outside the building and around to the lobby entrance on Lisbon Place for orientation in the auditorium. You will meet with your child at 11:00 at the Bedford Ave. entrance and your child will be dismissed to you at this time. **On Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, our UPK students will have an abridged schedule. You will drop your child off at the Bedford Ave. doors at their regular time, 8:15; however, they will be dismissed at the same doors at 11:15. All students will begin to follow their regular schedule on Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, from 8:15 A.M.- 2:35 P.M.**

The following are some points of information you will find useful to have before the beginning of school:

- ❖ The only school supply the children need to bring to school is a backpack large enough to fit a full-sized folder. **Please label your child's backpack clearly with his/her full name across the front.** All other supplies are provided in school.
- ❖ Snacks and lunch will be provided in school. *Nucci's* will continue to provide hot (and cold) lunch for our children each day. September's menu will be posted on the school website ([www.stchristophersi.com](http://www.stchristophersi.com)) along with the September calendar for your review. Thereafter, we will provide the menu on the back of the monthly calendar that will be distributed to your child.
- ❖ Students will need extra clothing. Please put these in a large, zip-lock bag labeled with your child's name. **It is important that everything you send to school be labeled with your child's name** (ex. jackets, backpacks, sweaters, lunch bags, etc.).
- ❖ Please keep in mind when shopping for school clothing that Pre-K is fun, messy work! The children are very active and should be in play wear so that they are able to participate fully and comfortably in all of our activities. The children usually "sit like a pretzel" in our circle so if they wear a skirt, the girls are more comfortable with leggings or shorts underneath.
- ❖ A favorite part of our day for the children is "Big Moving Time." We use the gym and/or schoolyard almost every day with a variety of materials such as balls, chalk, hoops, etc. **For safety purposes, the only acceptable footwear for the students is sneakers. Any style is permitted – regular laces or velcro, slip-ons, MaryJanes, etc.**
- ❖ **Your child will be given a mat for his/her rest time; please note these will be sent home periodically for you to wash and then return for your child.**

A word about separation - it takes time for some children to make the adjustment at the beginning of a new school year! This is true even of children who have previously attended school. The best thing you can do to encourage your child is give him/her a confident and happy smile at the door. Children usually stop crying and become engaged in an activity soon after entering the classroom – it's usually much worse for the parent than for the child!

As a reminder, if you have not yet submitted an updated health form, please have the one enclosed completed by your doctor and sent to school prior to **Monday, August 19, 2019.**

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. We look forward to seeing you in September!!

Sincerely,



Catherine Falabella, Principal