



## WELCOME TO THE 2024 - 2025 SCHOOL YEAR!

Welcome Knowledge House families! We are so excited that you are joining us this year! We're looking forward to it being a great one! Below is our yearly letter with general school information for the start of the new school year. More information can be found in the Parent Handbook which is available to download on the school website. Please let us know if you have any questions and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Ms. Valerie, Mr. Mark, Mr. Will & Ms. Olivia

### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Optional Fall Open House: Saturday, August 10th from 10 am-noon.
- First day of school: Tuesday, September 3rd. 9am - 12pm
- Last day of school: Thursday June 12th.

### **Scheduled holidays/closures:**

- October 14: Indigenous Peoples Day
- October 21-24 Fall Conferences held 9am - noon.
- Nov 11: Veterans Day
- Nov 27-28: Thanksgiving Break
- Dec 23-Jan 2: Winter Break
- Jan 20: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Feb 17-20: Mid-Winter Break.
- April 7-10 Spring Conferences held 9am - noon.
- April 14-17: Spring Break.
- May 26: Memorial Day
- June 12: Last Day of School

### **2024-2025 NEW SCHOOL YEAR OPEN HOUSE: Friday, August 10th 2024. 10:00 AM - NOON**

There will be an informal Open House for children and their families to stop by the school one more time before their first day. If you know of prospective parents who may be interested they are welcome to attend!

Come anytime between 10 am and noon and have a look around, meet teachers and drop off school shoes/slippers in your child's shoe cubby. This is not a required event but a chance to get reacquainted with the school. If you are not able to attend, we will look forward to seeing you on your child's first day of school :)

## **INFORMATION FOR THE FIRST DAYS OF SCHOOL.**

- Class time is from 9 am-noon. Doors open at 9am. Pick up is between 11:45 - 12:00 pm.
- There is a Knowledge House calendar on the school website and in the HiMama app indicating scheduled school days and closures. We follow the South Kitsap School District calendar for most school closures and follow their lead for inclement weather closures. If they are closed or have a half day due to weather, we will be closed.

## **GATE & PARKING LOT SAFETY RULES**

- Always close gates behind you and make sure they latch.
- While we encourage independence, for safety around the parking areas children are not allowed to open gates to allow themselves out of the yard at any time.
- Please come all the way into the yard and close the gate behind you while waiting for your child to be ready to go and make sure only your children go through the gate with you.
- Please keep your children close at hand and DRIVE SLOWLY!

## **DROP OFF AND PICK UP**

The front and back parking areas are available to park in.

Most children really enjoy being trusted and allowed to walk up to the door alone or with a friend and enter as independently as possible. It may take some time for younger or new students to be ready to try it but it's a fun goal to have. Parents are responsible for making sure their child has entered the school before leaving the parking area.

- We encourage children to enter school as independently as possible. A teacher will help your child with the next steps of taking off their coat, shoes, putting on school shoes, and starting their day. We discourage parents from entering the school at drop-off time. It not only causes congestion at the door but we have experienced that the children have a harder time adjusting to school after their parent has left. You are more than welcome to enter the school with your child at the end of the day and have them show you around.
- When dropping off your child, please be sure to watch them until they enter the school.
- At pick-up time, we will be indoors. Please come to the front door to pick up your child.

## **SEPARATION ANXIETY**

Sometimes parents and children have trouble separating at first. It helps to talk briefly and matter-of-factly with your child about what will happen at drop-off time. ("We'll hug and say goodbye after getting out of the car...then you'll go into your school and have fun playing and learning. Then I'll pick you up later and we'll have lunch..."). If your child senses your anxiety, they may pick up on it and become anxious as well.

Please don't be afraid to leave if your child appears to be upset when you drop them off. Our experience has been that the sooner parents are able to leave, the less the child will be upset. The longer a child cries with their parent present, trying to fix it, the harder it is for them to calm down later. Most children who come in crying, calm down and start playing within a few minutes of their parents leaving. Rest assured that we will call you if your child is very upset or not adjusting well. If your child is upset at drop-off time and you are not ready to leave them, please take them outside while you talk with them so as not to upset others in the class.

## OUTDOOR PLAY RULES

We consider our outdoor areas to be an extension of our classroom as opposed to a public playground or park. During our outdoor time, we encourage thoughtful imaginative play, exploration, cooperation, and learning activities and discourage typical behaviors that accompany a playground or park such as yelling, pushing, chasing, wrestling, rough-play... Please help us to enforce this when you are in the yard with your children.

## SNACK

Children are encouraged to bring a healthy snack to eat during class. Send a water bottle daily. Please, no fruit juices or sugary sweets.

## WHAT TO BRING

- Please send a change of extra clothing with your child if they are at all likely to have an accident. This can be left at school in case they need it or sent daily in their backpack. If you want us to store it at school, send clothes in a large Ziploc bag with your child's name on it.
- Backpack or bag.
- School shoes/slippers to wear inside and leave at school. (no big or bulky slippers please)
- Healthy snack.
- Children don't always recognize their things...Please LABEL slippers/shoes, clothes, backpacks, snack containers, etc. with your child's name or initials.
- We provide all school materials.

## HIMAMA/LILLIO WEBSITE/APP: Tuition Invoices & Parent Communication

We send photos of class activities a few times a month. You can access all activity entries and share them with friends and family. Invoices and billing info can all be accessed through the app or website. Occasionally, the messaging feature of the app sends delayed messages. Email is the more reliable and faster option.

## FAMILY HANDBOOK

Please review your Family Handbook available on the school [website](#) for more information about the school. As always, please don't hesitate to let us know if you have any questions.

While we will be closed for much of August we are still reachable via email if you have a question or concern.

[NaturesKnowledgeHouse@GMAIL.com](mailto:NaturesKnowledgeHouse@GMAIL.com) or [KnowledgeHouseMontessori@gmail.com](mailto:KnowledgeHouseMontessori@gmail.com)

**Thanks for being a part of the Knowledge House family :)**

