



LOWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Cardinal O'Connell Early Childhood Center
21 Carter Street
Lowell, Massachusetts 01852

Lisa Van Thiel,
Early Childhood Coordinator
978-674-2051

Phone: 978-446-7000
Fax: 978-937-7656

Laurie Carney
Clerk

August 18, 2023

Welcome,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome your family and child to the Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center. We look forward to a marvelous school year. We are excited about getting to know you and your child. We feel honored to have the opportunity to support you in your role as your child's first teachers. This letter contains dates and other information to aid your family in a smooth transition this fall.

Enclosed/Attached you will find the following three forms that **MUST** be returned to the Cardinal prior to the start of school.

- Emergency Information Form
- Family Survey
- Nurse Emergency Form

The District School Calendar is enclosed. Below is a list of important dates specific to the Cardinal O'Connell Early Learning Center:

August 23, 2023 – Virtual Open House 6:00 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85276906071?pwd=YXR3VGp6QWtNaEV1V20xTGZvaXdFZz09>

Meeting ID: 852 7690 6071

Passcode: 303276

August 28, 2023 – Open House for full-day Classroom for Students with Autism (CSA) students from 2:30-3:30 PM

August 29, 2023 – First Day for full-day CSA students only

August 30, 2023 – Open House for all students 10:00-11:00 AM or 1:00- 2:00 PM

September 5, 2023 -First Day for ALL Preschool Children

September 28, 2023 – Family Coffee from 10:00 AM to 10:30 AM or 5:00 PM – 5:30 PM

October 17, 2023 – Pumpkin Palooza 4:00 -6:00 PM Coordinated Family and Community Engagement

October 18, 2023 – Curriculum Night 5:00 -6:00 PM

March 20, 2024 – Celebration of Learning “We all have Ideas” 4:00-6:00 PM

June 6, 2024 – BBQ and Curious Creatures

Drop Off and Pick-up:

All families will receive a name card to place on the dashboard of their car. This card assists staff in identifying families' vehicles during car pool.

- *Full-day Preschool* drop off is at 9:10 AM in the morning and pick up at 3:15 PM.
- *Morning Preschool* drop off is at 9:10 AM and pick up at 11:30.
- *Afternoon Preschool* drop off at 1:00 PM and pick up at 3:15 PM



Your child's teacher and I will be reaching out to you with an invitation to Join CLASS DOJO. This platform provides us with a way to directly communicate with through an online platform. We post our newsletters and announcements regularly on this platform. Please accept our invitation to join. If you need assistance in join DOJO, please don't hesitate to ask any of us for assistance. If you have additional questions or would like to stop in prior to school opening, please call 978-674-2051, to schedule a time. We are looking forward to the fall and the opportunity to support your child's growth and development.

In July, my position as Early Childhood Coordinator and Principal was decoupled. We are in the process of interviewing candidates and will be making a hiring recommendation to the Superintendent over the next several weeks. It has been a pleasure to serve the staff, families, and children at the Cardinal over the last five years, however, fulfilling the responsibilities of both role has been challenging. It is with a heavy heart that I will pass on the leadership role of daily operations of the school to a new leader sometime this fall. I intend to stay involved and present at the Cardinal while working with community partners and other school leaders to ensure preschool and intervening services are included and visible as a critical intervention to close the achievement gaps in Lowell. My plan is to work hand and hand with the new leaders to support our goals set forth in our 2023-24 Quality Improvement Plan. The day-to-day operations will be turned over to the leader once appointed and families will have the opportunity for a meet and greet once the hire is finalized.

Sincerely,
Lisa Van Thiel
Principal and Early Childhood Coordinator