

# SMARTY PANTS NEWS

## “WELCOME EDITION”

### 2019-2020

#### SMARTY PANTS NEWS

This is the monthly newsletter that you will receive at the end of the month, for the next month. This is a much larger edition than usual, going over all the procedures, but it is VERY important that you read it in its entirety every month. There is a lot of information written in here that will keep you apprised of everything going on at Smarty Pants.

#### WELCOME TO SMARTY PANTS!

WELCOME! We are so glad you have chosen to entrust your child’s education to us. We are sure your child will grow academically, socially and emotionally over the next several months. We hope you are pleased with his/her learning experiences and the opportunities offered at Smarty Pants.

#### LET’S GET STARTED!

Smarty Pants will open on Tuesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>! Please be sure to get us all paperwork and supplies before August 16<sup>th</sup>.

#### SAVE THE DATE!

This year's SP Welcome Dinner will be Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 5-7-pm.

Bring a side dish or dessert... RSVP will be sent via email soon! We will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, drinks, etc.

RSVP (EVITE) ONLINE:

<http://evite.me/hw1hzvCAe3>

#### MANDATORY PARENT MEETING

We will be having a MANDATORY PARENT MEETING to go over all the SP policies and answer any questions you may have.

Please do NOT bring children to this meeting, thank you.

Sunday, August 25 7pm  
MANDATORY Parent Meeting

RSVP ONLINE (EVITE) AT:

<http://evite.me/nFjvbkwcS7>



Don't Forget to  
**RSVP!**

**“BACK TO SCHOOL” OPEN HOUSE DATES!**

August 29	10am	or	11am
or			
August 30	10am	or	11am



Please choose the best time and date for YOU, but we really need you to come to ONE of the dates!

This year we will limit the amount of families at each open house... SO PLEASE RSVP early!

It will be the perfect time to meet the staff, see cubbies, see the classroom, meet some other kids/parents and go through the routine.

You can also bring your supplies and drop them off. Your child WILL attend this!

**RSVP ONLINE (EVITE) AT:**

- 8/29 RSVP - <http://evite.me/kT2TrKaeff>
- 8/30 RSVP - <http://evite.me/62z4jE1vDC>

**SMARTY PANTS CALENDAR**

We have attached the entire year calendar which includes all CLOSED dates for Smarty Pants. We will be following the FCPS calendar closely, but NOT exactly!

This calendar has all the important dates for the entire school year. Please keep it handy!

**IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS**

- Please be sure to have all your SMARTY PANTS documents **to Smarty Pants BEFORE AUGUST 16<sup>th</sup>!**
- It does not matter if you are NEW or RETURNING; EVERYONE needs to complete ALL of the FORMS!
- You can find ALL the forms attached to the SUMMER email and on the website!
- Your child will not be able to attend until we have ALL of these forms.

**DIAPERS, WIPES AND CUPS... OH MY!**

We have attached a supply list to help you shop for needed items and pack for the first day! You can bring most of these items to the OPEN HOUSE, so that you will not have to worry about so many things on the FIRST DAY!

If you have any concerns about these suggestions, please feel free to let me know.

**SPECIAL TOYS AT SMARTY PANTS**

Please do not bring in toys from home. UNLESS IT IS THEIR DAY TO SHARE, and they are SMARTY PANTS OF THE DAY! In years past, we have had trouble with inappropriate items being brought in (game boys, guns, swords, movies, etc) but for the most part it is a distraction and a “sharing” issue.

It can also be troublesome to keep your items separate from Smarty Pants items... and we would not want any of your things to get damaged.

So, please do your best to leave your child=s toys/games/stuffed animals/videos/DVDs at home. We assure you... they will not get bored with the items here!

**PAYMENT POLICY**

- If you have not gotten an EMAIL with your ONLINE PAYMENT ACCOUNT information, you will very shortly!
- All payments will be made ONLINE through BRIGHTWHEEL. You will be billed for the entire month, in advance. Payment is DUE on the first of each month.
- If you do not pay by the first... you will be charged \$5.00 for every day you are late.
- If you have not received your ONLINE payment info... please let me know. If you are returning... the info is the same!

**OUTDOOR PLAY**

Smarty Pants students will have TWO outdoor play times every school day, weather permitting. We will begin our day with outdoor time. This will allow the students to get a little energy burned off and be ready to “jump” right into circle time. This will also help with late arrivers missing portions of the circle time.

Also, remember we do go outside even when it rains. We will not go out if it is a thunder storm but every other rainy day... we will! You will notice that on the supply list we are asking for RAIN BOOTS AND A RAIN SUIT! **“There is no BAD weather, just BAD clothing!”**

**COMMUNICATION**

You can always use the MAIN NUMBER 240-315-6069 or send a message through the BRIGHTWHEEL APP!

Remember to use the “ALL SMARTY PANTS” Email account. Please send all email correspondence to [smartypantspreschoolmd@gmail.com](mailto:smartypantspreschoolmd@gmail.com).

This email is checked and answered daily by staff. You can ALWAYS send an email about a planned absence, vacation days, or any questions regarding your child.

**INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY**

- We will STILL close when FCPS closes due to inclement weather.
- If FCPS has a 2 hour delayed opening, due to inclement weather, we will also open 2 hours late!
- Again, this means that if there is ANY WEATHER RELATED DELAYED OPENING FOR FCPS (one hour or two hour delay), Smarty Pants will open at 11am.
- There will be NO REDUCTION OF TUITION.

**PLAYGROUND USE AFTER SCHOOL HOURS**

You are welcome to play on the playground after school hours but please be sure to clean up after yourselves. The mud kitchen items all need to be put back into the mud kitchen storage box, all of the fairy garden items need to be kept IN the fairy garden, all of the sand toy items need to be kept in the sand box, etc.

**PICK UP AND DROP OFF TIMES**

DROP OFF: 8:50 – 9:00

PICK UP: 2:50- 3:00

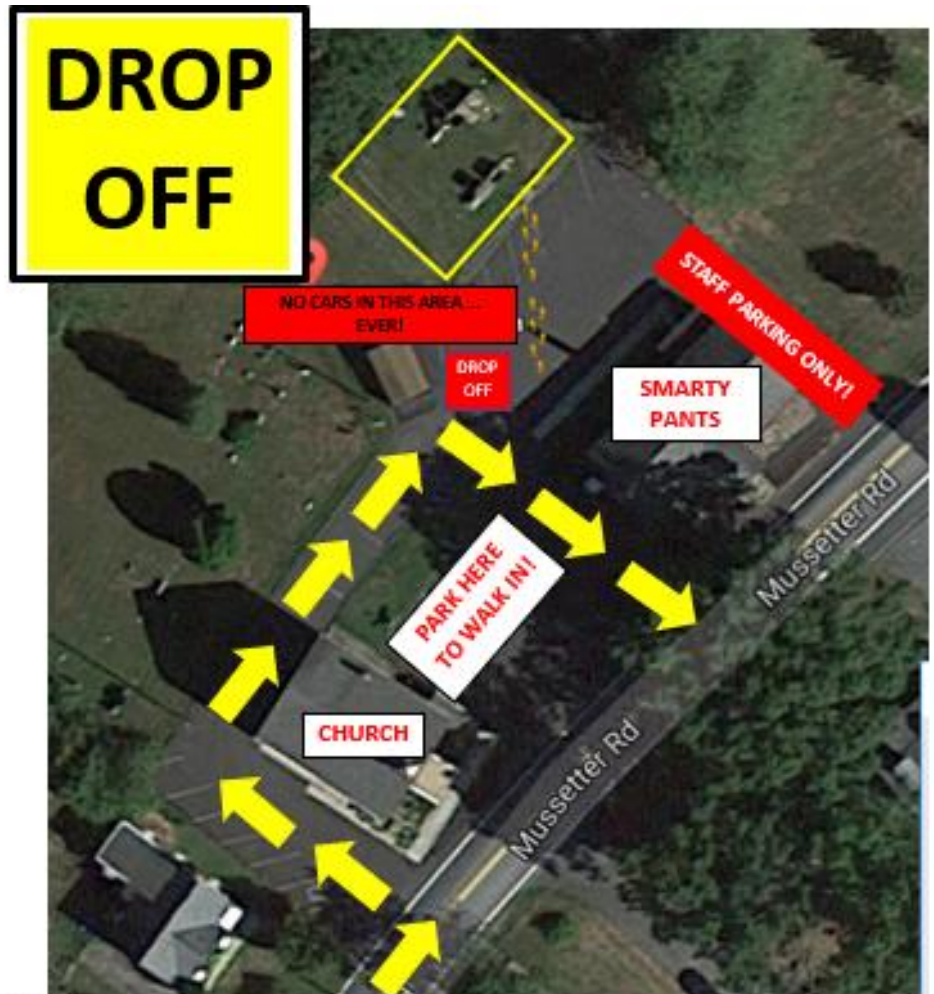
Please do your best to adhere to these times. Our staff has important places to be after work and lots of preparation to do before the students arrive. This time without students is a very critical part of our planning and preparation time.

**DROPPING OFF**

We have a drop off loop. To drop your child off at the playground in person, you will need to park in designated areas.

To drop off in the “loop” please follow directions, attached!

- Follow yellow arrows for “LOOP” drop off.
- Stop and let child out at RED square area.
- Do not let child out without the help of a staff member.
- Be patient!
- The students will go to playground.
- School bag/lunch will go into basket
- If you choose to walk your child in, please park in designated spot (be careful of traffic) and walk your child to playground and drop your child’s bag/lunch in basket.
- NEVER drive in front of entry door and playground area.
- DO NOT BLOCK TRAFFIC ON MUSSETTER!
- Be careful, Mussetter is a busy road!



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**PICKING UP**

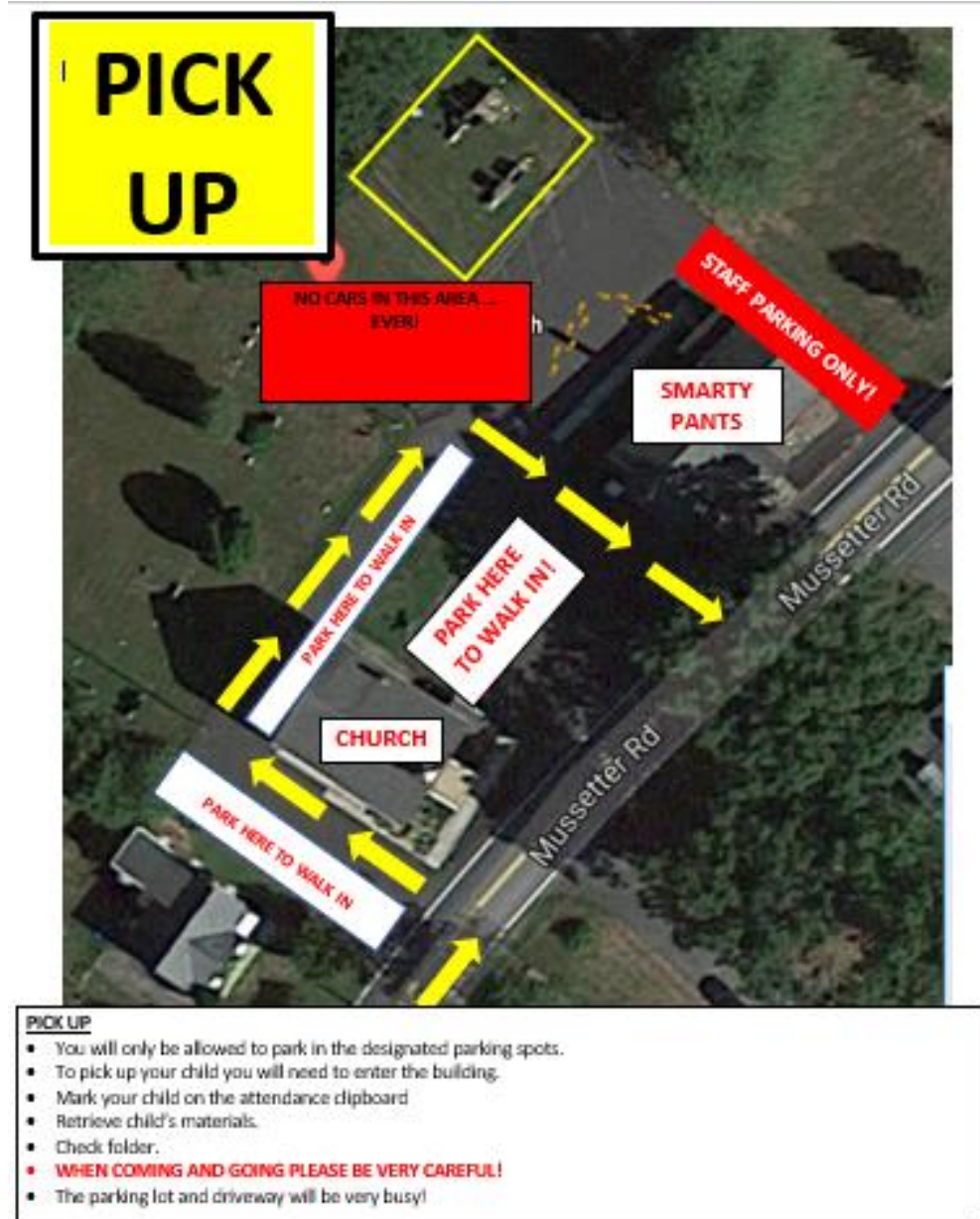
We will be modifying our pick up process this year to make it easier on you and the children during pick up time.

Please park in the designated parking spots.

We will be “staging” the students near the exit door with them already packed up and shoes changed. The staff and students will finish up snack and start the packing up process.

Starting at 2:50, there will be a teacher stationed at the door looking for parents arriving. Please wait at the bottom of the steps for the teacher to send your child out to you. If there is a person in front of you, please wait your turn. Your child will come out with their tote bag/lunch box and personal belongings.

If you need to speak to a staff member about any details, please call ahead or email to let the staff know that you need a little “chat time.” And be forewarned that it will be the staff’s priority to dismiss the other students in a timely manner. If you need to speak to the staff at the need of the day, please try to arrive by 2:30 to give ample time to talk.



**NAP TIME BEDDING**

Please remember to bring in a regular size crib sheet, a small blanket, a small pillow (with removable case) and a quiet sleeping animal/buddy (if necessary).

Please place these items in a reusable shopping bag with your child's name on it, we will send the bedding back in forth in this bag!

Your child's bedding items will be sent home for laundering about once a month... depending on how often they come to SP.

You will need to bring the bedding back (clean) the next time they come!

**SMARTY PANTS OF THE DAY!**

You will receive the SEPTEMBER Calendar at the open house!

Please note your child's SP of the DAY date! For the first month, our SP's will be our Kindergarten bound friends! Everyone will be on the October calendar.

As SPOD, your child gets to be the helper, line leader and gets to share an item from home! SHOW and TELL! It can be a book, a special toy, a photo, really anything!

**SMARTY PANTS OF THE DAY- CELEBRATE!**

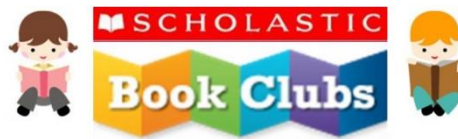
You child will get to be SPOD on the date closest to their birthday! On this special day, we will celebrate his/her birthday! You can bring in a special treat to share at snack... cupcakes, cookies, etc. **Please remember NO NUTS...** for any snack that will be shared!

**SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS**

Online Ordering Information

Web address: [scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://scholastic.com/bookclubs)

Class Activation Code: GK7B9



You will receive a BOOK CLUB FLYER EACH MONTH, first one will come in SEPTEMBER!

Now it's easier than ever to find the perfect books for your child -- shop our NEW online Book Clubs Web site. Choose from a much-wider selection of books than in the printed flyer. Plus, you can send your orders directly to me online and use your credit card to pay. Best of all, we earn a FREE book for the classroom library every time a parent places an order online.

It's so simple! Here's how it works:

- SIGN UP at [www.scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://www.scholastic.com/bookclubs). On the parent page, click the "Register" button in the "First Time Here?" section. Register for your own user name and password. When prompted, enter the one-time Class Activation Code shown above. This unique code ensures that your order is sent to me.
- SELECT the books you'd like to order -- choose from thousands of titles -- many more than in our monthly flyers.
- SEND your order to me online by the due date and your child's books will be delivered directly to my classroom.

Ordering online is fast, easy, and secure.

**BRIGHTWHEEL**

We recently started using brightwheel, a tool that significantly helps teachers & administrators manage their classrooms, observe & track the children, communicate with you, take attendance, send invoices, and offer online payments.



Soon you will be receiving an invite to join brightwheel. To create a brightwheel account all you need to do is create a parent account through either the web or mobile app. Here is a quick video (<https://youtu.be/jnc3aHyc1Ts>) walking through how to sign-up for a parent account.

After creating your account please click here to set up your payment information through your online brightwheel account-- <https://schools.mybrightwheel.com/payments/settings>.

Once you create an account with the same email address that the school has on file, you should see your child's profile. Shortly thereafter you will begin receiving daily updates along with invoices for your child's tuition and fees.

[Download the app!](#)

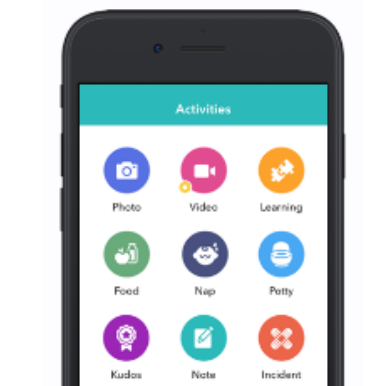
Great features like daily check-in, photos, activities, messages, and calendar are only found in the mobile apps.

Parents can:

- Receive photos videos, notes by email
- Download or share photos and videos of your children
- Receive emergency alerts by text message
- View your children's portfolio using our mobile application
- Mark your child out sick or on vacation using our mobile application
- Make tuition payments

Teachers will be able to:

- Share photos, videos, notes to parents throughout the day
- Record meals, activities, naps, and more to daily reports
- Prepare lesson plans up to 4 weeks in advance
- Take attendance
- Record classroom visitations
- Mark children sick or on vacation
- View medical and birthday reminders
- View child allergy and emergency information
- View guardian and medical information
- Invoice tuition



**NATURE TRAIL**

We are so excited to have an amazing Nature Exploration space for our students.

We have an outdoor classroom/gathering area complete with "natural seats" for everyone!

We have a locking/water proof box to keep tools and supplies in for our nature adventures. It contains binoculars, magnifying glasses, garden gloves, rakes, and shovels.

This space is utilized for free choice exploration and for planned activities and lessons. We will often read books in our outdoor classroom and take our science experiments and learning time outdoors.

We are so lucky to have this beautiful natural area to explore and learn in. The kids and staff are enjoying every minute of their time in the additional learning space and Smarty Pants is so proud to be offering a one of kind preschool experience, one that we have dreamed to offer for many years!

Please be sure to return your waiver with all the other paperwork. The property is not owned by myself or the church. The private owners have allowed us to adapt the space for our needs and use it freely if we get our families to sign a waiver.

**"IN HOUSE" FIELD TRIPS**

We offer "in house" field trips on normal school days. We will plan programs that will be held at the Smarty Pants and everyone will be invited to attend. If it's your child's typical day to attend, they attend. If the program is held on a day when your child does not typically attend they are invited to come for the program. Be on the lookout for these programs and events.

