



MARYMOUNT HOSTS GRAND OPENING EVENT FOR EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY

by Nick Munson



Recently, Marymount University celebrated the grand opening of its Early Learning Academy through a ribbon-cutting event attended by Virginia Secretary of Education Aimee Rogstad Guidera, Marymount Board of Trustees Chair Peter Converse, University administrators and staff, families and officials such as Virginia Senator Barbara Favola and Arlington County Board Member Matt de Ferranti. The occasion marked a significant milestone for the institution as it unveiled a state-of-the-art facility designed to cater to the educational needs of young children.

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Launched in Fall 2023, the Early Learning Academy aims to address the growing demand for quality early childhood education while providing a nurturing environment for children's development. Preschoolers are exposed to learning through imagination, creativity and individualized opportunities and interventions while allowing the next generation of educators to observe, apply and research best practices in early childhood education.



Forty-seven students are currently enrolled in the Academy's first-ever class, and more students will join in April.

"Our Early Learning Academy infuses all the available campus resources of a nationally ranked university into supporting young minds," said Dr. Irma Becerra, President of Marymount University. "With our lab school model, children can explore literacy and language, STEM, the arts, music, movement, nature and more in a safe and caring environment that fosters cognitive, emotional, physical and social growth."

President Becerra also expressed excitement about the Academy's integration into the overall University community, highlighting Marymount's commitment to providing an exceptional early childhood learning curriculum and the importance of play-based education in fostering holistic development.

Secretary Guidera echoed those sentiments, stressing the significance of laying a strong foundation for children's education during their formative years so they are kindergarten-ready and prepared for a thriving future.

"Marymount University is doing just that through an innovative education experience that is truly unique. It is our goal in Virginia to be the nation's top leader in lab school development, and it's with a lab school-focus that the Early Learning Academy incorporates evidence-based research from Marymount faculty experts in areas such as psychology, health sciences, nursing, counseling and, of course, education," Sec. Guidera explained. "The Early Learning Academy is a great example of what can result from community engagement in enhancing the overall learning experience for young children."

The grand opening event also featured a facility tour, allowing attendees to witness the cutting-edge learning environment designed to stimulate children's curiosity and creativity.





School Highlights and Features



NAEYC Week of the Young Child

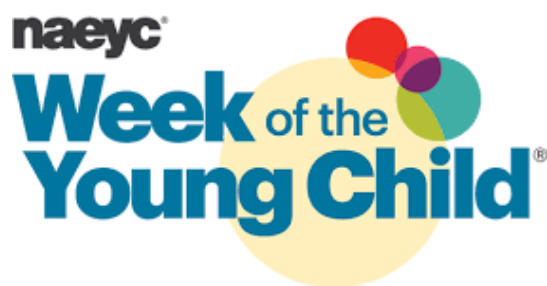


The Week of the Young Child® is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), the world's largest early childhood education association. The purpose of the Week of the Young Child® is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs (taken from NAEYC.org).

ELA will celebrate April 8-12 with the following themes in the classroom:

- Music Monday, Tasty Tuesday, Work Together Wednesday
- Artsy Thursday, & Family Friday

On **Family Friday (April 12)**, we invite ELA parents to come in and assist their child in making a quick craft that we hope to display outside.



SAVE THE DATE - SUMMER'S COMING CELEBRATION

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 23

JOIN US OUTSIDE FOR CLASS SING A LONG AND
A TIME TO STAY AND PLAY



Supporting the Family

We hope you find the attached article useful as we partner with you to teach Self-Help Skills for Preschoolers





ELA Information



Picture Day



We have scheduled a Marymount photographer to take class photos for us on **Thursday, April 25th, at 10am**. If your child attends school on MWF, we would like to invite you to bring them for this photo -so please mark your calendar for this date, avoid appointments and send big smiles!! Hopefully, we will be able to give each child a class picture as a memory of our first year together!



PLEASE HELP!

As we continue to grow, we need your help!

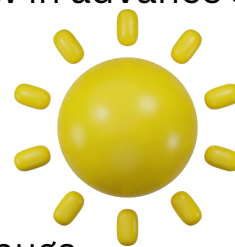
1. Please try to minimize drop off and pick up times. With limited parking, we want to be sure we get cars in and out quickly.
2. We need staff to be engaged with students during drop off time, so please try not to use this time for lengthy discussions.
3. We are also working to foster independence among all students so a quick goodbye and allowing them to manage their coat, water bottle, etc is helpful!
4. Please be very cognizant of your 9 hour schedule at school and try to stick to your set schedule so that we are staffed appropriately. If you know you need to drop off earlier or pick up later than your set schedule, please let us know in advance so we can be sure to be staffed for our student/teacher ratios.

Thank you for your continued support!



Sunscreen/Bug Spray

Spring is here and so comes the sunshine and a few bugs.



For Sunscreen: We ask that you put sunscreen on your child at home. We will have opportunities to provide sunscreen in the afternoon (you signed off on accepting sunscreen that ELA provides in the Brightwheel App).

For Bug Spray: ELA has the playground sprayed for bugs, but we suggest that you put bug repellent on your child before school if your child is particularly susceptible to bug bites. Bug repellent bracelets are also acceptable for your child to wear.



At Home Fun and Learning

Ms. Kimberly shares some of her favorite books and activity.

April reading list

Don't Let the Pigeon Stay up Late

Written by Mo Willems

[Amazon](#)

[Youtube](#)

The Napping House

Written by Audrey Wood

[Amazon](#)

[Youtube](#)

Bear Snores On

Written by Jane Chapman and Karma Wilson

[Amazon](#)

[Youtube](#)



Activity for home

Snowstorm in a Jar

Staff Spotlight

Asseel Saleh Dirgham - Assistant Teacher

Favorite food: Indian food!

Favorite hobby: painting

Favorite Preschool book: A Bad Case of Stripes

Favorite color: green

Favorite place to visit: Egypt



For more information on Ms. Asseel and other ELA staff members, please see our [website](#).

Play
with purpose

