While it’s bittersweet to close out our first year of the ELA, we are extremely excited for great things to come in the 2024-25 school year. We would like to welcome many new students and families to our program. We are working to plan an even better school year that includes enriching opportunities for our students and more parent engagement. Thank you for trusting in us and supporting us!

CALENDAR
AUGUST 26 - 30 - SCHOOL CLEANING/FALL PREP, SCHOOL CLOSED
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 2 - LABOR DAY, SCHOOL CLOSED
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3 - NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 - POPSICLE PLAYGROUND PLAYDATE

2024-2025 ELA CALENDAR
School Highlights and Features

New this School Year to help with Drop Off and Pick Up Transitions:

**Kiss and Drop at the Classroom Door**
In order to foster independent self help skills and develop age appropriate separation from caretakers, we are asking that you:

- Stop at the classroom door where the teacher will greet you and your child and guide them through the morning routine of hanging up their bag and washing hands.
- Establish a good-bye routine with your child that you will keep consistent and perform each school day (a big hug or a high five or kisses).
- If your child struggles to say goodbye, continue with your routine and allow the teacher to gently guide your child into the room.
- Remind yourself that you are helping your child develop independence and confidence! If you have a difficult drop off, we will always message you as soon as we can to ensure you that all is good!

**Story Suggestions:**
- The Kissing Hand
- The Night before Preschool

**High Five Goodbye**
We hope your child loves school and us! We recognize that leaving is hard! When you come for pick up please be as quick as possible- this helps other students stay engaged in their school day and other parents that may be waiting for a parking spot! We will be placing a High Five Goodbye button at the front door of the school and encourage you to remind your child that it’s time to hit the High Five Goodbye button. Each day there will be a new message for students to hear as they leave school.

- Come into your child’s classroom
- Get your child’s items
- Leave with your child quickly
- Push the High Five Goodbye button at the front door!
School Highlights and Features continued...

BACK TO SCHOOL TASKS TO COMPLETE
Please take a moment to complete the following 2024-2025 documents in your child’s Brightwheel account:
* Enrollment Agreement
* Family Handbook
* Student Profile Updates
* Fall Schedule

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF BRIGHTWHEEL
Within the Paperwork tab on your mobile app or the Documents tab on the web page of Brightwheel, you can find additional information including our monthly Menus, school year calendar, and Staff Favorites. The Parent Directory is also under the Parent Profile section.

For more information, take a look at this collection of brightwheel informational articles

POPSICLE PLAYDATE

Join us at the Early Learning Academy playground for a Popsicle Playdate and meet ELA families and ELA staff
Wednesday, September 18
4:30-5:30PM
Staff Spotlight

We are happy to welcome Claire Johnson to the ELA staff as the Innovators teacher.

Claire found her passion for teaching and working with children when she began babysitting and teaching dance in high school and college. Claire attended Marymount University and received her Bachelor of Arts in History and a Minor in Education. Throughout her time at Marymount, Claire was a member of the Dance Team for four years, serving as captain her senior year. While in her senior year at Marymount, Claire had the opportunity to intern at the Early Learning Academy, where she benefited from the experience of working alongside her colleagues to teach young children, further highlighting her love for education.

Claire grew up near Baltimore, Maryland, and attended The Catholic High School of Baltimore. She currently resides in Arlington, Virginia. In her free time, Claire enjoys spending time with her friends, volunteering at the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Center, exploring Virginia and DC, and supporting her hometown, Baltimore Ravens and Orioles. Claire looks forward to working alongside her class and leaving her students wanting to learn something new every day!

For information on other ELA staff members, please see our website.