Dear Families,

Welcome to the John M. Marshall Elementary School family! We are looking forward to having your child be a part of our school this coming fall. We would like to share some important dates that will happen in August.

**August Mailing -**
You can expect to receive a packet from our school mid August with forms and information about the upcoming school year. In this packet, you will also learn the name of your child’s teacher.

**Pre K Parent Orientation Meeting - Wednesday, August 28th at 6:30pm**
At this meeting we will share an overview of our school and our Pre K program. We hope you can attend to learn more about our program. This meeting is intended for parents.

**Pre K Students Classroom Visit and Meet the Teacher**
**Thursday, August 29 12:00pm -2:00pm**
This will be an opportunity for you and your child to visit his/her classroom and meet his/her teacher. We encourage you to stop by and check out the classroom to help with your child’s transition to school. You are not expected to stay the entire time, just visit for as long as your child might need.

**First Day of School -** Our first day of school will be **Wednesday, September 4th.** The students will have a full day beginning at **8:30am and ending at 2:16pm.**

Project Most will be available to start on Monday, September 9, 2019 at 2:16pm for Pre K students registered to this program.

We have included some helpful tips for preparing your child for Pre K. We hope this information has been helpful and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Beth Doyle,
Principal
A Parent’s Guide to preparing your child for preschool

Starting preschool is such an exciting and momentous occasion! When children turn 3-years-old, they are no longer toddlers. They are “big kids” who may be ready to start preschool. As parents, we can help our children prepare for this next big step by doing these 5 things.

**READ**

1. If we were only allowed to give one piece of advice to parents it would be, “Read to your child.” Read every day. Have books in every room, in your purse, and in the car. Read favorite books so often that you and your child have them memorized. Visit the library often.

**TALK**

2. Developing your child’s oral language skills is a crucial part of preparing her for preschool. Turn off the movie in the car and engage your child in a discussion about the world around her. Ask questions. Talk about nature, and colors, and letters, and feelings. Put down your phone and listen when your child talks to you. Encourage your child to make eye contact and greet others with a “Hello” and a “Good Bye.”

**PLAY**

3. Spend time every day on the floor playing with your child. Encourage pretend play and role playing. Get messy! Laugh and have fun together. Offer your child time to play by herself, giving her the opportunity to decide what to do.

**ENCOURAGE INDEPENDENCE**

4. Children who are able to take care of some of their personal needs do better at the beginning of preschool than children who rely on adults for everything. Make sure your child has shoes that she can put on herself. Allow extra time before you need to leave the house each day so that your child can put on her own shoes. Support your child in taking care of her own bathroom needs. If she asks help with her pants, or with wiping, try talking her through it rather than doing it all for her. Teach her to wash her own hands and flush the toilet. It’s not glamorous, but these are important skills in preschool!

**PRACTICE**

5. Give your child time away from you. Practice separating and giving your child a little bit of space. Invite other children over for play dates and allow your child to go on short play dates as well.