



Harbor Country Day School

Embracing the extraordinary in every child.

Dear Early Childhood Families,

Welcome to a new school year at Harbor Country Day School! It gives me great pleasure that I will be leading the early childhood division for a second year. I am thrilled to be working and partnering with you throughout your journey in early childhood. There are many of you whom I have known for some time and others whom I will meet for the first time this September. I welcome you all and I am looking forward to getting to know and work with you throughout this school year!

I hope you are enjoying your summer and have spent some time creating special memories with your families. This year has been especially memorable for both me and my husband, as we purchased our first home in June! Together we are learning the joys of homeownership and tackling new projects such as sheetrocking and installing new floors all on our own. While appreciating my new fixer-upper home, I couldn't help but think of how excited I am to be starting my seventh year at Harbor Country Day School. Now realizing that summer vacation is coming to a close, and before we know it, school will begin and we will be seeing your happy children excited to be at Harbor. I am eager to meet our new students and greet our returning students. One of my favorite times of the day will be spending time in the classrooms and watching our students' active exploration on a variety of topics and skills.

As a teacher, and division head, I firmly believe that children learn best when actively involved in their learning. Our early childhood curriculum is one that supports that idea. In each of our early childhood classrooms, the students are exploring, discovering, and learning using a hands-on approach. As the early childhood principal and leading the early childhood division team for the second year in a row, one of the highlights of my day is walking into each classroom and being greeted by students who are happy to show me what they are learning. The



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smiles on their faces when they proudly share their knowledge and understanding is always so heartwarming. At Harbor Country Day School, we take pride in the fact that our students love to be at school.

Each year we grow both as a community and as a school to make sure our students are receiving the best education possible. For instance, our Teachers College (TC) Reading and Writing approach continues to become stronger in kindergarten. Our teachers invested their time at the end of the school year by participating in a summer workshop with Lauren Kolbeck, a local TC developer. Lauren has helped to further develop this program based upon our school's needs. We are looking forward to continuing our work with Lauren as we strive to reach our academic goals this school year.

A new school year brings new experiences for both you and your child. Starting this school year, our kindergarten families will have an opportunity to sit down with our kindergarten teachers during the first week of school. The goal of this beginning of the year parent teacher conference is for Harbor families to make a connection with our teachers early in the school year, to set the stage for an open and ongoing line of communication, and to give you, the parents, an opportunity to discuss your hopes for your children. For our preschool families, you will have the time to meet with your child's teacher during their August home visit. You will be hearing from your preschool teacher shortly to set up an appointment, where your child will have the opportunity to meet his/her teacher and for our teachers to learn about his or her most favorite things. These conferences for both preschool and kindergarten will be replacing the mid-semester progress reports, but will offer our teachers much insight into the individuality of your child as we prepare for an exciting new school year.

As a reminder, please check the website for your child's school supply and uniform requirements, if applicable. This information can be found under the



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parent section in the Harbor Backpack at

<https://www.hcdsny.org/harbor-community/parents/harbor-backpack>.

I look forward to meeting you at Back to School Night on September 5th and at the All School BBQ on September 8th. Please check the calendar for upcoming Parent Coffees dates for the school year to keep you informed of what is happening in our early childhood classrooms. Also, I encourage you to read the Weekly Update you will receive via email every Tuesday evening for important calendar dates and other information. Finally, please take a moment to download the free Harbor mobile app from iTunes or the Google app store. We will be using the app in many of our school-parent communication efforts.

I am very eager to begin a wonderful year of working with you, your child, and his or her teacher. The early childhood team firmly believes in the partnership between home and school and we will all work together throughout the year to develop a close working relationship. If you have any questions or concerns now or throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. My email address is: kgallo@hcdsny.org. Wishing you all a wonderful rest of your summer vacation!

Best Regards,

Krystina Gallo

Principal of Early Childhood

Preschool 3s Teacher