Welcome
Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year at the Shirley G. Moore Laboratory School! We are excited to get the year started and look forward to meeting all of you.

Staff met this week to assign children to classrooms and your child's teacher will contact you soon to arrange a time for a beginning-year visit via Zoom or on the playground. This individual visit greatly helps children make a good initial adjustment to school. In the meantime, if you have any questions about starting school please contact Lab School Director, Sheila Williams Ridge at will0342@umn.edu or Program Specialist Amy Pieren at piere001@umn.edu.

School opens on Wednesday, September 9, 2020. Please see the [Lab School Family Calendar](http://lab-school.umn.edu/parent-center) for additional dates.

Lead teachers will staff the classrooms as follows:
- Multi-age morning classes: Amy Betz and Alyssa Wilt
- Multi-age afternoon class: Marie Lister
- Two-year old 2- & 3-mornings classes: Ayuko Boomer

Our website also has much helpful information. If you have not had a chance to check it out, please do so at [http://lab-school.umn.edu/parent-center](http://lab-school.umn.edu/parent-center). Each teacher also has a classroom blog where they post lesson plans, announcements, updates, and small group news. These pages are updated weekly after school begins. You can access the class blogs by clicking on the ‘Classroom Pages’ link.

We look forward to a wonderful school year working with you and your child!

Parent Meeting
You are invited to a Zoom meeting on Thursday, September 3 at 8:00 p.m. Teachers, student teachers, administrators, and family members will have the opportunity to meet and greet one another and ask any questions you may have. Login information is below. We hope to see you there!

Online: [umn.zoom.us/j/92440654739?pwd=Qz...](http://umn.zoom.us/j/92440654739?pwd=Qz...) (ID: 92440654739, password: N5rnYD)

Join using SIP: [92440654739@zoomcrc.com](mailto:92440654739@zoomcrc.com) (passcode: 671546)
The PALS

All parents are encouraged to join the Parent Association of the Lab School (PALS). The purpose of PALS is to advise and assist in the functioning of programs and activities of the Shirley G. Moore Laboratory School.

PALS:

● serves as mutual support for staff and parents;
● stimulates communication between the parents and the staff;
● represents parent concerns from each classroom;
● advises on the establishment of priorities and the resource needs of the school; and
● supports the enriching social and educational experiences in the school to help all children develop their physical, mental, and social potentials.

To join the PALS committee or contribute to the Family COVID-19 Commitment draft document please click here

Gearing up for Fall

This school year we have the opportunity to enjoy many beautiful educational moments outside! We are excited for a year of exploration and joy. We know that preparing for an outdoor-focused school year will include a little more gear, laundry, packing of extra clothing, and probably cleaning of your car that has to happen when children so thoroughly explore their environment. We truly appreciate your time and support.

As we prepare for the cooler fall and winter weather, please send your child with the appropriate clothing to venture outside each day and please remember layering is important for flexibility as the weather changes throughout the day. Please remember to label outdoor gear and their extra clothing so we can be sure to get it back to you at the end of the day. We are also asking that each family send a labeled water bottle for their child each day.

There are several wonderful places to get your family ready for the adventure. Oakiwear has wonderful rain and fall gear http://oakiwear.com/ You can also find gear locally at Midwest Mountaineering located in Minneapolis, REI, or other outdoor-focused retailers and even Goodwill, however sometimes finding very small sizes of high-quality gear can be challenging. Polarn O. Pyret is a leading brand in the children’s outerwear space and they offer parents enrolled in an outdoor program like ours this fall, with a standing 20% off discount on their entire range of full-priced outerwear from wool socks to snow and rain suits and everything else in between! Once you sign up at the below link you just need to be logged into your shopping account for the discount to apply. They also have a fall gear list on their website www.polarnopyretusa.com. Sign up link: https://www.polarnopyretusa.com/outdoor-schools-savings-program/. They also have a store in Edina.

After you find the perfect gear to keep your child warm and comfortable year-round, please be sure to label everything as getting all of the gear to the right person at the end of the day can be a challenge. If you have black gear we recommend a silver permanent marker to make the name clearly visible.

If you have any questions about weather or gear, please contact Sheila at will0342@umn.edu. Thank you for all that you do in support of this level of engagement with learning and exploration.

Parent Aware Rating

The Lab School has once again earned a 4-star rating, the highest possible rating from Parent Aware. This rating demonstrates a commitment to providing quality early care and education. The star ratings help families identify programs using research-based practices that prepare children for school and life. In addition to our NAEYC accreditation, this
program assessment recognizes the commitment of the families, staff, and community to provide the best possible experiences for the Lab School children. For more information about Parent Aware please visit their website here.

**Drop-Off/Pick-Up & Parking at School**

The lack of parking spaces for families is an ongoing challenge and it is important that all families become familiar with these procedures and follow them. We appreciate your cooperation in making the best of this situation!

Curbside drop-off and pick-up are offered for those who want to use it. If you plan on spending more than 15 minutes at the school please use the angled spaces in front of the building, the metered parking lot across from the building, the 4th Street Ramp or Church Street parking garage, or metered parking spaces in Dinkytown within a fifteen-minute walk of the building.

- **Curbside Drop-off:** Drop-off time for morning classes is 8:30 – 8:45 a.m. and for afternoon classes is 12:30 – 12:45 p.m. Teachers will be waiting at the curb during the drop-off period. Remain in your car and a teacher will meet your child and walk them to the group meeting space. If you arrive before drop-off time, you and your child may wait in your car along the curb for a teacher; however do not leave your car unattended on the curb. If a parent leaves their vehicle parked along the curb this adversely affects everyone else waiting in line.

- **Curbside Pick-up:** At the end of the day, teachers will bring children to the driveway curb as parents arrive. Pick-up time for morning classes is 11:15 – 11:30 a.m. or 12:45 - 1:00 p.m. and pick-up time for the afternoon classes is 3:15 – 3:30. Please pull up to the curb and remain in your car while you wait for the teacher to bring your child to you.

- **Late Pick-up:** If you are picking up your child late, you will need to park at a public parking space and come to the school doors. Children will be waiting with a staff member. A late fee is assessed if a child is picked up after the designated pick-up time. (See the Lab School Handbook for more information on this policy.)

- Unfortunately the Laboratory School building will not be open for families. University protocol in the sunrise plan encourages us to limit the number of people in any of our buildings.

**Frequently Asked Questions for Fall 2020**

Our FAQ has been updated. Want to know more about our philosophy and practices during the pandemic? Check it out here!

**Additional Resources for Families**

- Tips for helping children wear a face covering: https://news.cehd.umn.edu/tips-for-helping-children-wear-a-face-covering/
- A California collective makes the case for more outdoor schooling (PBS)
- Daniel Tiger Special: https://mailchi.mp/stvincent/a-love-of-learning-vq97y1gh-657214?e=a506773b0
- COVID-19: Straight Answers from Top Epidemiologist Who Predicted the Pandemic
- Here is a great article written by a pediatrician discussing the spread of COVID-19 among children.
- Here is a great blog post by Tim Gill citing many international studies around children contracting COVID-19
Here is another worthy blog written by Alasdair Munro where he covers all of the relevant scientific studies around COVID-19.