

July 11, 2018

Dear New and Returning Parents,

I hope you are able to enjoy the relaxed schedules that summer brings. The staff, board, and committee chairs are making plans for another great year at the 'Hive! Please sync your calendar with ours, and know that great learning adventures are on the horizon 😊

SUMMER HOURS

Camp Beehive was a whirlwind of fun! We welcomed new friends and enjoyed several of our repeat campers from other schools. Bayou City Summer Club has moved into our space during July and early August, so the office will be closed. If you should have updates to your enrollment status or roster changes over the summer, please email me at admin@beehivecoop.org.

STAFF

Beehive is blessed to have such creative, inspiring, fun and nurturing teachers! Mary-o Yeager returns for her third year at Beehive and will be leading our Pre-Kindergarten Class. Elizabeth Jammer returns for her fourth year and will be leading our Preschool Class. Natasha Euler, two-time Beehive mom, will be supporting the Preschool extended day children Tuesdays-Thursdays and will also head up our Friday Enrichment Classes. Brooke Bailey will be offering her "SunBee Circle" program on Friday mornings for our Preschool and Pre-K classes, and Elisabeth Swim will join her on Friday mornings offering her Brain Friendly Music & Moves. Julie Miller, former Beehive mom and Board member, will offer her signature "Sparkle School" to our Pre-K Class on Tuesday afternoons, and Arts Alive will continue to offer their program for our Pre-K Class on Wednesday afternoons. Kids' yoga will continue to be led on Tuesday mornings by another Beehive mom, Tara Maguire.

ENRICHMENT CLASSES

The optional Friday enrichment class with Ms. Bailey and Ms. Swim requires additional paperwork which can be found on our parent website page. This class will hold 20 children on a first come, first served basis, and it needs a **minimum of 12 students** to maintain. We will open enrollment to non-Beehive students, also, so please let me know ASAP if you're planning to register. www.beehivecoop.org.

We are also partnering with Hope Stone this fall to offer a Wednesday afternoon multi-generational dance class after Beehive hours. It sounds like beautiful opportunity, and you can find out more about their group at <http://hopestoneinc.org/> . Registration information is on our parent website page.

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum has always been and will always be play-based and child-focused, as we intend to offer a developmentally appropriate, healthy balance of child-directed

and teacher-directed learning opportunities. We've gradually moved away from "theme" orientation and have been exploring a more relationship based and project-based learning model. You'll see elements of Montessori, Reggio Emilia, and NAEYC inspired learning environments in each of our classrooms and outdoor learning centers.

PARENT COMMITTEES & PARENT ORIENTATION

One parent from each family is required to serve on a curriculum committee and will receive a mentor parent to facilitate clarity, connection, and belonging. At our orientation meetings, we will discuss Beehive Curriculum in greater detail AND walk new parents through workday setup routines. Being a part of our cooperative learning community is very different from typical preschool entry. Our job as the adults is to create an environment that supports optimum learning, and the rewards in healthy brain/body/heart development these children receive is immeasurable compared to traditional learning models. The love and contribution you bring to the experience is significant and valued!

Committee placements are made according to parent preferences and interests. Attending orientation is one of the most important commitments you'll make this year, as you will leave feeling more comfortable about your role as parent volunteer and facilitator of fun and learning 😊

BEEHIVE UNIVERSITY

We are pleased to be taking our next step with parent education offerings at Beehive and will be piloting a curriculum, structure and online format called "Beehive University" or "BeeU". The curriculum is inspired by a grant proposal we submitted to the Greater Good Foundation at Berkeley and will be holistic in nature. In our first year, it will be available to current Beehive families exclusively, and it is our intention to make it as user friendly and easy to follow as possible. Look for info

ROSTERS

Class Rosters will be posted on our parent website page by mid-August.

NEW STUDENT TRANSITION PLAN

After successfully transitioning many children from home to preschool, we've learned what works best for most! A good rule of thumb is to plan to be accessible the first week of school in case your child needs you. The teachers and I will explain the logistics, how to set expectations and useful words/phrases at orientation. However, if you have any concerns you'd like to address before then, please reach out. Experience has taught me that letting go is typically harder for us parents than it is for our children! Amy Tiemann is a Stanford neuroscientist who's explored this extensively, and you can find her book "Courageous Parents, Confident Kids: Letting Go So You Both Can Grow" here:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0976498030/ref=oh_aui_detailpage_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1

FACEBOOK PAGE

We maintain private FB pages for current Beehive parents only and each individual curriculum committee. Please find me there and send a friend request so I can add you to these in August, as we like to share photos and family ideas there. This has worked well for us the past two years, though it's not a perfect platform. The intention is to find or create something different in the future, as we realize FaceBook and other social media are uncomfortable for some.

FUNDRAISING

As many of you know, Beehive is a 501(c)3 non-profit parent cooperative. One of the reasons we're able to provide such quality programming with affordable tuition costs is due to our annual fundraising efforts. This year, we plan to have our large event during the fall semester and another smaller one in the spring. Dates and other details will be determined by the Beehive Board before school begins, so please be on the lookout for information 😊

Have a blessed summer and we look forward to seeing you all in late August!

In-Joy,

Lisa Isabella Gale
Director