



January 11, 2023

Dear Willow School Community,

Hello and Happy New Year! We are off to a good start for the second half of the school year! Our goal for this year was to fully embrace the vision and mission of the school and bring the Willow School around to its full potential after a couple of devastating years. We have accomplished so much since August and are well on our way to that goal!

Since the beginning of the school year in August we have:

- restructured the leadership team to provide stronger support for families
- maintained a full staff of amazing teachers and support staff
- increased salaries
- implemented a successful 4-day work week for staff
- reopened the atelier and created an amazing body of work from our initial school color project
- executed a schedule for pedagogical and curriculum support for teachers
- began the process of becoming Quality Rated
- expanded our music program
- established creative ways to involve families in the daily life of the school
- and, most importantly, welcomed children into a vibrant, nurturing, and exciting learning environment

We've been busy, but we're not finished yet! We are planning for the next half of the school year and for the new 2023-24 school year. Stayed tuned!

Below is information about enrollment for the new school year, summer and much more...

### **Current Family Re-enrollment**

We will soon begin enrollment for the 2023-24 school year. Families that are currently enrolled in the school have priority over new families for available spots. **Current family re-enrollment will begin after the MLK, Jr. holiday, January 17 and go through January 27, 2023.** All families that wish to remain enrolled at the school for the next school year (starting August 1, 2023) must complete the following:

1. Fill out the Enrollment Application, which will be sent out via Brightwheel and posted on the school's website.

2. After receiving your enrollment application, you will be billed for the \$300 registration fee through Brightwheel. This fee must be paid in order to hold your spot for August.

**A Note About Siblings:** Siblings have priority enrollment along with currently enrolled children. To secure a spot for a sibling entering any class please complete the above steps for that child during the re-enrollment period.

**GA Lottery Pre-K Class:** If your child will be entering the GA Lottery Pre-k class, you do not have to pay the \$300 registration fee. However, you must complete the enrollment application so that we can reserve your spot for that class.

Beginning January 30, 2023, enrollment will be open to new families and families currently on the wait list.

## **TUITION FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR**

The monthly school-day tuition rates will increase by 5% for the 2023-24 school year. Aftercare, school age after school and all other fees will remain the same. The increase will go into effect as of August 1, 2023 and will primarily cover increased costs of salaries and facilities. The new rate sheet can be found on our website (<https://willowschoolga.com/parents/resources/>).

## **SUMMER SESSION/SCHOOL-AGE SUMMER CAMP**

We are open during the summer months of June and July. Generally, summer is filled with fun summer activities, field trips, water and outdoor play and lots of celebrations and dance parties!

**Summer Session:** If your child is currently enrolled in any class other than the GA Lottery pre-k class and will be younger than 5-years-old on June 1, they will continue in their current class and current schedule as usual. **If you wish to take advantage of the 10-month schedule and will not be attending school for June and July, please let us know by March 1.**

**School-Age Summer Camp:** If your child is currently in the GA Lottery pre-k class or is turning 5-years-old before June 1, the Willow School offers eight, 1-week sessions for summer camp. School-age summer camp is for children 4- through 10-years old (currently in pre-k through 5<sup>th</sup> grade). Siblings are welcome!! Each week has a theme, but also includes outdoor time, free and creative play and water play during the week.

Registration for summer camp is first come, first served. If you would like to secure exciting summer fun for your elementary age children, please find the application and descriptions for each week on our website (<https://willowschoolga.com/programs/camps/>)!!

## **TAX TIME**

It's a new year and that means that it's also time to get tax returns together. If you need to pull a payment report for childcare it is very easy to do from your parent Brightwheel account. If you need help, this link explains how to pull a detailed statement of payments for any date range that you wish: <https://help.mybrightwheel.com/en/articles/3673759-tax-season-reporting-student-transaction-summary-for-payers#transaction-summary-for-parents>.

## **COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS**

Community conversations are casual zoom meetings for the whole Willow School community. During these conversations we will discuss a relevant topic and I will answer any questions that you may have regarding this topic or any other. The following are dates for conversations. A zoom link will be sent out via Brightwheel the day before each date.

- January 18, 2023, 6:30-7:30 pm – Conversation about the Reggio Emilia approach
- March 8, 2023, 6:30-7:30 pm – Conversation TBD
- April 26, 2023, 6:30-7:30 pm – Conversation TBD

## **PARENT CAFE**

In order to strengthen our relationships and connections with each other, we will host age-level Parent Cafes over the course of the rest of the school year. We hope that parents will get to know each other, and that Keli and I can get to know parents as well. We will have some information to share relevant to the age group and have time to answer your questions and share a cup of coffee and a snack with you.

Please join us on the following dates according to your child's classroom:

- Infant and Toddler Classrooms – January 26, 2023, 9:00-10:00 am
- Twos Classrooms – February 23, 2023, 9:00-10:00 am
- Early Preschool and Preschool Classrooms – March 23, 2023, 9:00-10:00 am
- Pre-k and Forest Classrooms – April 20, 2023, 9:00-10:00 am

## **REMINDERS...**

Please give attention to the following so that we can have a smooth school day.

- Please arrive during morning carpool by 8:45 if possible. Most classes have morning meeting at the beginning of the day and having all friends present creates a great start to the day.
- If you are not signed up for aftercare, but need to use it on a certain day, please let us know 24 hours in advance so that we can make necessary arrangements.
- Aftercare begins at 3:15 for the pre-k class and 3:45 for all other classes. If your child is not picked up by these times they will be checked into aftercare and charged for the afternoon.
- Aftercare ends at 5:30. Please pick up no later than that time. Late fees apply for late pick up.

- If you need to be late to school because of an appointment, please let your child's teachers know. If you will be after 10:00 you must bring a note from the appointment. There will be no admittance to school after the beginning of your child's lunch time.
- Staff and children 3+ are still wearing masks. We hope to eliminate masks for children very soon. In the meantime, we have a limited supply of children's masks on hand. If you could send your child with one in the morning, we would appreciate it.

If you have any questions, please refer to the Family Handbook, which can be found on our website (<https://willowschoolga.com/parents/resources/>).

## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

Please make note of the following dates coming up.

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| January 16, 2023     | MLK, Jr. Holiday – School Closed  |
| February 13-17, 2023 | GA Lottery Pre-K Class Closed for Winter Break (all other classes are open) |
| March 9, 2023        | Early Closure at 3:30 (no aftercare) for whole staff meeting                |
| April 3-7, 2023      | Spring Break – School Closed  |
| May 26, 2023         | Last Day for 10-month students; Pre-K Graduation                            |
| May 29-31, 2023      | Memorial Day Holiday – School Closed<br>(May 31 – all staff workday)        |
| June 1, 2023         | Summer Session Starts   |
| June 19, 2023        | Juneteenth Holiday – School Closed  |
| July 4, 2023         | Independence Day Holiday – School Closed                                    |
| July 24-31, 2023     | Preplanning for all Staff - School Closed                                   |
| August 1, 2023       | First day of 2023-24 School Year  |

## **FOLLOW US**

You can find the Willow School on social media. Come check us out!

- Willow School Parents Private Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/willowschoolparents>
- Willow School on Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/willowschoolga>
- Willow School on Instagram - @willowschoolga

Thank you so much for being a part of this amazing community! We appreciate each one of you, adore your children, and are so inspired to be a part of your family's early learning journey!

Teresa Cole  
Founder/Executive Director