



## MANISTEE AREA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### Manistee Early Childhood Center

515 Bryant Ave. | Manistee, MI 49660

P: (231) 723-9285 | F: (231) 398-2021

[www.manistee-mariners.org](http://www.manistee-mariners.org)

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Dear MAPS Families,

Today, we are providing an update on the status of the Manistee Early Childhood Center programs. It is our hope to be able to clear up any confusion there may be and to assure that all families have the information and support needed to prepare their students for the upcoming school year.

#### When does school start?

Your Kindergarten teacher will be calling to invite you to a Kindergarten Welcome session. During your scheduled time on Aug 25th or 26th, teachers meet with just a few families at time to get to know your youngster better.

Kindergarten also has a special first-day of school event starting at 7:50am on Tuesday, Sept 2nd where families meet the teachers outdoors for photos before children enter the building for their first day.

Mini/Rising Mariners: Age 3 and 4 PreK programming begins the week of Sept 8th.

GSRP (Great Start Readiness Program): Begins Tuesday Sept 16th.

#### Does my student need to be registered for transportation?

Yes. Please use this link to provide information about your student's transportation needs: [LINK](#)

#### Are the Mini Mariners and Rising Mariners programs different from the MAPS tuition based preschool option offered previously?

The Mini Mariners (3-year-old) and Rising Mariners (4-year-old) PreK programs are tuition based preschooling programs as we have offered in the past. However, this programming differs from our previous offerings in that they offer flexibility with 2-day per week full-day programs, which allow families to decide upon their own pick-up and drop-off times without needing before and after care. **Full-time daycare remains an option** for families needing 5-day per week care in addition to PreK. Additionally, the programming will be focused on kindergarten readiness using Creative Curriculum to monitor children's learning progress. You can learn more about this program on our website at: [LINK](#)

#### Is Begindergarten still being offered this year?

Our Early Childhood staff has been reaching out to eligible families to discuss the Begindergarten option. Many families have chosen other programming options available at the Manistee Early Childhood Center, such as GSRP, Rising Mariners and Kindergarten. Placement will always be based upon the individual student's needs. We believe Begindergarten is a great addition to our programming and will continue to have this option available on our website. Our data from previous years indicates that we should still see several enrollments in the coming weeks with higher numbers of students that may not have had a Pre-K experience that could benefit from this option. Ultimately, decisions about program placement will be made collaboratively by our teaching staff.

#### How many Kindergarten and Preschool for All (GSRP) classrooms will MAPS have this year?

Based upon current enrollment, we are moving forward with 4 Kindergarten classrooms and 3 Preschool for All (GSRP) classrooms. Classroom assignments were sent out August 8 & 9, and Kindergarten teachers are calling families to set up welcome appointments.

MAPS is hiring educators within the new ZN endorsement band (Birth-Kindergarten) which supports the future of MECC programming. We are focused on providing a continuum of learning based on a child's needs. We have hired one Kindergarten teacher, bringing our current team to 4, and have twice as many candidates for the open postings than the positions we have available. Hiring decisions for GSRP 3 will be made shortly.

We have included our Manistee Early Childhood Center program guide. Please reach out with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Julia Raddatz, Principal  
Manistee Early Childhood Center