ADVENTURES Begins Here AT McKEE PRE-K

FIRST CLASS

McKee Pre-K

M

First Class

OUR MOTTO

Tiny Paws, Giant Possibilities,
Growing Minds,
One Panda Step at a Time

Dr. Jennifer Lewis, Principal

PARENT & STUDENT HANDBOOK

2026-2027

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Welcome Aboard, McKee Pre-K Families!

Adventure Begins Here at McKee Pre-K First Class
"Tiny Paws, Giant Possibilities, Growing Minds, One Panda Step at a Time!"

Dear McKee Pre-K Families,

Welcome to an exciting new school year! We are thrilled that your family has chosen McKee Pre-K Center to begin your child's educational journey. Every great adventure starts with a single step, and we are honored to be your child's first destination on a lifelong journey of learning, discovery, and growth.

This year, our classrooms will become passports to the world as we explore new places, cultures, stories, and experiences together. Just like our adventurous panda friends, our students will travel through imagination, creativity, and hands-on learning while building the skills they need to become confident, curious learners.

At McKee Pre-K, we believe that every child is unique and capable of amazing things. Through play, exploration, music, literacy, science, art, and meaningful relationships, we will nurture growing minds and encourage children to ask questions, solve problems, and discover the joy of learning.

Our theme, **"Adventure Begins Here,"** reminds us that every day is an opportunity to explore something new. Whether we're discovering the animals of Africa, visiting famous landmarks across the globe, learning about different traditions, or making new friends, each experience helps our little explorers grow in confidence, kindness, and independence.

As parents and families, you are our most important travel partners. Together, we will create a safe, loving, and encouraging environment where your child feels valued, celebrated, and inspired to reach new heights. Your involvement, support, and partnership make all the difference, and we look forward to sharing this incredible journey with you throughout the year.

As we prepare for takeoff, remember that every smile shared, every story read, every question asked, and every milestone celebrated is another stamp in your child's passport of success.

Thank you for trusting us with your most precious travelers. We cannot wait to learn, laugh, explore, and make unforgettable memories together.

Fasten your seatbelts... **our adventure is just beginning!**

With gratitude and Panda Pride,

Dr. Jennifer Lewis
Principal, McKee Pre-K

Motto

“Tiny Paws, Giant Possibilities, Growing Minds, One Panda Step at a Time”

Vision

“To prepare confident, compassionate, and lifelong learners for future success.”

Mission

“To deliver high-quality, developmentally appropriate instruction that builds essential readiness skills, supports the whole child, and partners with families to ensure kindergarten readiness.”

Our Panda Adventure Theme 🌍🐼

At McKee Pre-K, every hallway is an adventure, and every classroom is a destination for learning. Students explore different cultures, countries, languages, traditions, and experiences while developing foundational academic and social-emotional skills.

Our classrooms are designed to:

- Inspire curiosity
- Build confidence
- Encourage creativity
- Develop independence
- Foster kindness and collaboration
- Prepare students for kindergarten success

Our Adventure Promise

At McKee Pre-K, every child will be encouraged to:

- 🌍 Explore the world with curiosity.
- 🐼 Learn with confidence and joy.
- ❤️ Grow through kindness and friendship.

- ⭐ Discover their unique talents.
- ✈️ Begin a lifelong love of learning—one adventure at a time.

Welcome to McKee Pre-K... Where Every Child's Adventure Begins Here!

Montgomery Public Schools Vision Statement

“MPS is a place where every student develops a love of learning, cultivates intellectual curiosity and dreams of a future full of amazing possibilities.”

Montgomery Public Schools Mission Statement

“We will engage, educate and inspire our students to succeed in college, career, and beyond.”

Meet Our Crew



Meet Our Learning Pods

Choose Your Destination... Your Adventure Awaits!

Welcome aboard, little explorers! Every great journey begins with a destination, and at McKee Pre-K, each classroom is a special **Learning Pod** where exciting adventures take flight.

Our Learning Pods are inspired by incredible places around the world, giving every child the opportunity to explore new cultures, discover amazing landmarks, and develop a love for learning while building friendships that will last a lifetime.

Whether your adventure takes you across the castles of Europe or on an exciting safari through Africa, every destination is filled with opportunities to **Explore, Learn, Grow, and Achieve!**

🌍 Red & Yellow Pods

Destination: Europe

Pack your passport and prepare for an unforgettable journey across Europe! Our explorers will discover magnificent castles, famous landmarks, beautiful artwork, delicious traditions, and fascinating cultures while developing important early learning skills.

✈️ Your European Destinations

🇮🇹 **Italy**
- Thomas / Shoates

🇨🇭 **Switzerland**
- Waddles / Bryant

🇳🇱 **Netherlands**
- Parks / Mays

🇪🇸 **Spain**
- Lord

🇫🇷 **France**
- Thigpen / R. Johnson

🇩🇪 **Germany**
- Coon / Armstrong

Adventure Highlight: From climbing the Leaning Tower of Pisa to visiting the Eiffel Tower and exploring colorful tulip fields, every day brings a new discovery!

🦒 Green Pod

Destination: Africa

Welcome to the wonders of Africa! Our young adventurers will experience breathtaking landscapes, incredible wildlife, vibrant traditions, and rich cultures while learning through hands-on exploration and imaginative play.

🌍 Your African Destinations

🇲🇦 **Morocco**

- McCrary / J. Thomas

🇰🇪 **Kenya**

- Sevier / Crawford

🐪 **Sahara Desert**

- Carr / A. Johnson

🇮🇳 **India**

- King / Barnes

(Although India is in Asia, it serves as an exciting cultural destination on our adventure map, allowing children to explore one of the world's most fascinating countries.)

Adventure Highlight: From exciting safaris and towering giraffes to bustling marketplaces and breathtaking architecture, our explorers will discover that learning has no borders.

🐼 Every Learning Pod Includes

No matter which destination your child joins, every McKee Pre-K classroom is filled with:

✈️ Hands-on learning experiences

📚 Early literacy and language development

🎨 Creative expression through art and music

🧩 STEM exploration and problem-solving

🤝 Social-emotional learning and friendship

🌱 Opportunities to grow confidence and independence

❤️ Caring teachers who inspire every child to shine

🌟 One School. Many Adventures.

While each Learning Pod has its own unique destination, every classroom shares the same mission:

To inspire curious minds, encourage kind hearts, and prepare confident learners for kindergarten and beyond.

Together, we'll explore the world, celebrate diverse cultures, build meaningful friendships, and create unforgettable memories—one panda step at a time.

✈️ Ready for Departure?

Destination: McKee Pre-K First Class

Mission: Explore • Learn • Grow • Achieve

Travel Companions: Amazing Teachers, Curious Friends, and Supportive Families

Final Destination: A lifelong love of learning!

Adventure Begins Here! 🐼🌎✨

Daily Learning Adventures

Our daily schedule includes structured play, hands-on learning, literacy instruction, math exploration, music, movement, rest time, and social-emotional learning.

A Day in Pre-K

- Arrival
- Morning Meeting
- Instructional Activities

- Breakfast
- Whole Group Learning
- Read Aloud
- Learning Centers
- Small Group Instruction
- Outdoor/Gross Motor Play
- Lunch
- Rest Time
- Music and Movement
- Dismissal

Our curriculum focuses on:

- Early literacy skills
- Foundational math skills
- Social-emotional growth
- Creative arts
- Science exploration
- Technology experiences
- Physical development

Attendance Expectations

Daily attendance is important for student success and kindergarten readiness.

Attendance Guidelines

- Written excuses must be submitted within 3 days of an absence.
- Families may submit up to 8 parent-written excuses.
- Additional absences require doctor documentation.
- Excessive absences, tardiness, or early checkouts may jeopardize enrollment.
-

Helping Every Panda Grow

When students attend school consistently:

🌱 Learning grows
🌱 Friendships develop
🌱 Confidence increases
🌱 School readiness improves

Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Arrival

- Arrival begins at 7:15 a.m.
- Students are tardy after 8:00 a.m.
- Students arriving late must check in at the Kiosk.

Dismissal

- Dismissal begins at 2:00 p.m.
- Parents should remain in vehicles during car line.
- All students should be off campus by 2:30 p.m.

Check-Out Procedures

- Photo identification is required.
- Only approved adults may pick up students.
- No checkouts after 1:30 p.m.

Positive Behavior and Guidance 🌱

At McKee Pre-K, we believe children grow best in positive and nurturing environments.

We use:

- Positive reinforcement
- Gentle redirection
- Social-emotional learning strategies
- Family collaboration
- Consistent routines

Our Three-Step Guidance Process

1. Teacher Redirection

Teachers guide students using positive language and calming strategies.

2. Parent Notification

Families are contacted if concerns continue.

3. Collaborative Support Plan

Families and staff work together to support student growth and success.

We are committed to helping every child become confident, respectful, and emotionally prepared learners.

Health and Medical Procedures

For the safety of all students:

- Students with fever, vomiting, or contagious illness should remain home.
- Medication must be prescribed and accompanied by appropriate forms.
- Emergency contact information must remain updated.
- Doctor documentation may be required before returning to school.

Parents should notify the school regarding:

- Allergies
- Medical conditions
- Dietary restrictions
- Emergency changes

Child Nutrition Program 🍎

McKee Pre-K participates in the Montgomery Public Schools Child Nutrition Program.

Healthy Choices Encouraged

Students are encouraged to bring nutritious meals and snacks.

Approved Snack Ideas

- Fruit
- Crackers
- Yogurt
- Juice
- Water
- Cheese

- Healthy chips/snacks

Not Allowed

- Fast food
- Soda
- Energy drinks
- Excessive candy

Healthy bodies help growing minds learn and thrive!

Dress Code Expectations

Uniform Expectations

Students should wear:

- White, light blue, or black collared shirts
    - Collared shirts can be monogramed (this is optional)
        - Monogramming Information:
            Southern School Uniforms
            1721 Eastern Blvd
            334-215-0000
- Khaki pants, shorts, skirts, or jumpers
- Closed-toe shoes
- Clear bookbags

Notes

- **Theme Shirts:**
  Students may wear their theme T-shirt each Friday with school-appropriate blue jeans.

- **Field Trip Attire:**
  Field trip shirts and lanyards must be worn on all field trips.

Not Allowed

- Crocs
- Flip-flops
- Bedroom slippers
- Open-toe shoes
- Clothing with inappropriate images or language

Students should arrive dressed for learning, movement, and adventure.

Parent and Family Engagement

Parents are an important part of our Panda family.

Families are encouraged to:

- Attend parent meetings
- Volunteer during school activities
- Participate in field trips
- Support learning at home
- Maintain communication with teachers

Parent Volunteer Requirement

Families are expected to complete 12 volunteer hours during the school year.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- Parent meetings
- Classroom activities
- Field trips
- School events

Visitor Policy and Campus Safety

1. Parents/guardians are asked to plan a scheduled visit and arrive at the beginning of classes. The purpose of the visit is to observe. Therefore, parents/guardians should not interact with their child, other students, and/or attempt to have a conference with the teacher during instructional time. The school may have a designated area in the classroom for visitors. All visitors are required to present a valid form of identification, which will be processed through the District's visitor management system to screen for safety and security purposes. Upon approval, visitors will be issued a visitor badge that must be worn and visible at all times while on campus.

2. The principal and school administration will reserve the right to limit the number of visitors to a classroom. More than one visitor or a parent with other children could distract students and hinder the learning process. The principal must approve the visit and set the maximum time period for the visit.

3. Students on suspension from any school are not allowed on any MPS campus or to attend any MPS functions, and will be considered trespassing.

4. Students from other schools will be allowed on campus only with the permission of school administration.

5. Parent/guardian conferences with the teacher and/or principal must be scheduled in advance and concluded in a timely manner. The parent or guardian must be present in order for a conference to take place.

a. Mutual courtesy and respect should be shown during the conference. Visits may be prohibited at certain times such as: the first and last week of school, immediately before or after vacations and other breaks, and while standardized testing or other assessments are being conducted.

b. Conferences can only be held with a parent/guardian. Parents/guardians may invite the participation of an attorney or other advocate. Please note that an attorney representing the school system may attend as well. The principal must be notified in advance if they are requesting that additional persons attend. The principal will have the final decision whether or not additional persons may attend conferences. If special accommodations are needed for a conference, call the school to make arrangements prior to the visit.

6. **Disruptive Visitors** — Montgomery Public Schools expects mutual respect, civility and orderly conduct from all individuals on school property or at school-sponsored activities, no matter his or her status or the purpose of his or her presence. Any person who becomes physically or verbally disruptive on school property may be subject to criminal prosecution as well as termination of visiting privileges. Disruptive conduct includes, but is not limited to, using a raised voice, using profanity, uttering verbal or written threats or employing threatening gestures or otherwise engaging in an action deemed inappropriate by the building administrator. In the event a person visiting school property is deemed to be disruptive, the person will be instructed to leave school property and law enforcement may be called for assistance, if necessary. **The superintendent or designee may issue a No Trespassing (Ban) Letter to any person who is deemed to have created a disruption while on school property or at a school-sponsored event**. The No Trespassing (Ban) Letter shall be enforced until such time as the superintendent deems appropriate to lift that order. Once security asks the visitor to leave, and they refuse, it becomes a trespassing charge.

7. All visitors' cell phone calls should be completed prior to entering the building. All electronic devices should be turned off. Visitors should follow all school rules regarding telecommunication devices for students. Any electronic devices should be left in their car or placed in designated magnetic pouches. No airpods are permitted. Any electronics that can record are prohibited to include META Glasses.

(8)To maintain a safe and healthy school environment, MPS requests that all visitors adhere to a standard of dress that is appropriate and non-offensive. Clothing that has profanity, sexual content or any negative message displayed, reveals body parts, sleepwear, and/or underclothing will not be allowed. This guideline will apply on all MPS properties and at MPS-sponsored events.

9. In order to protect the safety of all students, parents, guardians or visitors should refrain from including other students in pictures that are taken at any school-sponsored events (on or off campus). Furthermore, parents, guardians or visitors are prohibited from posting pictures of any other student on any non-MPS media platform. This includes any live videos.

Communication and Conferences

Strong communication between home and school supports student success.

Parents may communicate with teachers through:

- Phone calls
- Email
- Parent conferences
- School events
- Classroom communication apps

Please schedule conferences in advance whenever possible.

Student Creed

I Believe in Myself

I believe in myself.
I am somebody.
I can do anything when I try.
I respect myself and others.
I do my best every day.
I am somebody.
I believe in myself!

Parent Agreement and Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the McKee Pre-K Parent & Student Handbook. I understand the expectations, procedures, and policies outlined within this handbook and agree to support my child's success throughout the school year.

Student Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

🌱 Adventure Begins Here 🌍

Tiny Paws, Giant Possibilities, Growing Minds, One Panda Step at a Time 🐼

Appendix A

MONTGOMERY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BE PRESENT. PREPARED. PRODUCTIVE. EVERY DAY COUNTS.

VACATION PLANNER

2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Consistent attendance leads to success. Please plan family trips around the school calendar.

LABOR DAY	3 DAY OPPORTUNITY SATURDAY 9/5/26 - MONDAY 9/7/26 STUDENTS RETURN ON 9/8/26
OCTOBER	3 DAY OPPORTUNITY SATURDAY 10/10/26-MONDAY 10/12/26 STUDENTS RETURN ON 10/13/26
THANKSGIVING	9 DAY OPPORTUNITY SATURDAY 11/21/26- SUNDAY 11/29/26 STUDENTS RETURN ON 11/30/26
WINTER BREAK	17 DAY OPPORTUNITY SATURDAY 12/19/26- MONDAY 1/4/27 STUDENTS RETURN ON 1/5/27
MLK DAY	3 DAY OPPORTUNITY SATURDAY 1/16/27- MONDAY 1/18/27 STUDENTS RETURN ON 1/19/27
PRESIDENT'S DAY	3 DAY OPPORTUNITY SATURDAY 2/13/27- MONDAY 2/15/27 STUDENTS RETURN ON 2/16/27
SPRING BREAK	9 DAY OPPORTUNITY SATURDAY 3/27/27 SUNDAY 4/4/27 STUDENTS RETURN ON 4/5/27

Appendix B


2026 - 2027
ACADEMIC CALENDAR
JULY
AUGUST SD: 16 TD: 20
SEPTEMBER SD: 21 TD: 21
OCTOBER SD: 20 TD: 21
NOVEMBER SD: 15 TD: 15
DECEMBER SD: 14 TD: 14
JANUARY SD: 18 TD: 19
FEBRUARY SD: 19 TD: 19
MARCH SD: 20 TD: 20
APRIL SD: 20 TD: 20
MAY SD: 17 TD: 18
JUNE
AUGUST 4-7 TEACHER PD DAYS
AUGUST 10 MPS STUDENTS RETURN
SEPTEMBER 7 LABOR DAY
SEPTEMBER 18 ASYNCHRONOUS DAY
OCTOBER 12 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/COLUMBUS DAY
OCTOBER 30 PD DAY FOR TEACHERS (NO LEARNERS)
NOVEMBER 11 VETERANS DAY
NOVEMBER 23-27 THANKSGIVING BREAK
DECEMBER 21-JAN. 4 WINTER BREAK (STUDENTS)
DECEMBER 21-JAN. 1 WINTER BREAK (TEACHERS)
JANUARY 4 PD DAY FOR TEACHERS
JANUARY 5 MPS STUDENTS RETURN
JANUARY 18 MLK DAY
FEBRUARY 12 ASYNCHRONOUS DAY
FEBRUARY 15 PRESIDENTS' DAY
MARCH 26 ASYNCHRONOUS DAY
MARCH 29-APRIL 2 SPRING BREAK
APRIL 30 ASYNCHRONOUS DAY
MAY 25 LAST DAY FOR MPS STUDENTS
MAY 26 LAST DAY FOR TEACHERS
STUDENT DAYS
HOLIDAYS
TEACHER DAYS
ASYNCHRONOUS DAYS
Total:
Student Days (SD): 180
Teacher Days (TD): 187
MONTGOMERY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Appendix C


MONTGOMERY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2026-2027 VIRTUAL LEARNING DAYS
SEPTEMBER 18, 2026
OCTOBER 30, 2026*
FEBRUARY 12, 2027
MARCH 26, 2027
APRIL 30, 2027
SCHOLARS WILL NOT REPORT TO SCHOOL ON THE DATES LISTED ABOVE. THEY ARE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE THE LEARNING PACKETS AND ASSIGNMENTS PROVIDED BY THEIR SCHOOL.
*OCTOBER 30TH IS A TEACHER IN-SERVICE DAY


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4595 Neese Drive,
Montgomery, AL. 36116
334-851-4783
Follow-us on Facebook!
https://www.facebook.com/share/1625dSS3yQU/?mibextid=wwXIfr
THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF OUR ADVENTURE!
WE CAN'T WAIT TO EXPLORE, LEARN,
AND GROW TOGETHER THIS YEAR!
Where Every Child's Adventure Begins!