

Dear 105 Families,

Every morning your child begins the day in a Morning Meeting. It's a great way to build community, set a positive tone, increase excitement about learning, and improve academic and social skills.

Morning Meeting usually takes about 20 minutes. After the children transition into the classroom by signing in, voting, and reading quietly, the children and I gather in a circle on the rug. We begin by singing songs and greeting each other. Every day, your child hears his or her name spoken by a classmate in a friendly and cheerful manner.

Next, a few students share some interesting news followed by a conversation with the class. This helps students listen carefully, think about what they heard, formulate good questions, and learn about each other. When children share, they have a chance to feel that their ideas are valued and that the other children care.

After sharing, there is an activity for the whole class. We practice our math skills by counting up the tally marks that go with the question of the day. We also might recite a poem or play a game. The activity time helps the class feel united as a group, reinforce academic skills, and helps the children learn how to cooperate and solve problems.

Finally, we read the message (news and announcements), which helps students think about the day ahead. I guide the children in reading along with me as a group so that they experience the rhythms and pacing of reading. Sometimes, I use this time to review and practice the letter of the week, introduce new vocabulary, and eventually will introduce other reading, writing, or math skills later as the year progresses.

Every day, Morning Meeting lets children know that school is a safe place where all children's feelings and ideas are important. I just wanted to share this information with you so that you have a better idea on how we start our day of learning.

Sincerely,