



October 18, 2022

Dear Families and Caregivers,

Thank you to all of you who attended our Open House last month. It was wonderful to see everyone in person, introduce you to your child's team, and welcome you to your child's classroom. For those who missed it, you can view my "Welcome Back" presentation [here](#).

### **Student illness**

As the weather turns cooler and cold and flu season begins, I want to remind you that from time to time, our school nurse may call you to pick up your child from school. These situations are outlined in our Sick Policy. We will call you if your child demonstrates symptoms of respiratory or gastrointestinal infections, such as cough, fever, sore throat, vomiting, or diarrhea, as per the guidelines outlined in [our letter](#) sent on September 6.

I urge you to please keep your child home if they aren't feeling well. Our nurses are highly trained medical professionals and may need to make judgment calls based on the information they have. Our leadership team supports our nursing staff; please let your child's unit director know if you have any concerns or questions about our policy or a decision to send your child home. We are aware that these calls can place a hardship on families and caregivers, however, our primary goal is to keep students and staff healthy and safe.

### **Staffing and Staff Development Day**

With many Summit Academy staff in new positions, newly hired staff still learning the clinical components of our program, and significant staff shortages, Summit Academy is facing some growing pains. We recognize the challenges ahead of us – not the least of which is a nationwide teacher shortage impacting both public and private schools. Summit Academy's leadership team is committed to addressing these issues and providing your child with the highest quality education possible.

We are planning our upcoming Staff Development Day on Wednesday, November 2, with a goal of strengthening our existing team and improving staff retention. Several professional training sessions are planned for teachers, classroom staff, related service providers, and our behavior support team as we tackle some of the issues and continue to strive for excellence. Topics will include a leadership talk from our CEO, Dr. Steve Anderson; promoting student and staff safety in classrooms; implementing instructional standards; and supervision and coaching content for our school's leaders and teachers.

### **School Age student drop off**

For our families and caregivers that transport their **school age children**, we want to share a couple gentle reminders about safety in the parking lot on the Millersport side of the building at our Central location. *Please do not pass any cars that are unloading students.* Please remain in your car and our staff will assist your child. If you need to get out of your vehicle, please talk to the staff outside about moving into an available spot. As a reminder, we unload students from the right-hand side of the car, closest to the building. Finally, please remember that drop off ends at 9:15 a.m.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher, members of our leadership team, or me.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

*Mary Bennett*

Mary Bennett, M.S.Ed., SBL, SDL  
Principal, Summit Academy

P.S.: Please mark your calendars:

- Fri. October 28: 11:30 a.m. dismissal for full day students. AM and PM preschool classes are in session.
- Mon. October 31: Halloween – You will receive information from your child's teacher
- Wed. November 2: Staff Development Day. No school for all students
- Fri. November 11: Veterans Day. No school for all students.
- November 24-25: Thanksgiving recess. No school for all students.