



**POLICY HANDBOOK
2016- 2017**

Windsor Academy Educational Campus

“Nurturing the spirit of individuality ~ where diversity is our strength”

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**Director/Owner
Rita Epstein**

**Assistant Director
Jennifer Hawkes**





2016-2017

Dear Windsor Academy Families and Friends,

Welcome to our new and revised annual Policy Handbook. This is a unique and perpetual “work in progress”.

Windsor Academy Educational Campus is a non-denominational private school located on the grounds of the old Windsor Estate on Route 94 in New Windsor, New York. The school carries dual certification from the New York State Department of Education as a non-public school and the New York State Office of Children and Family Services as a child care center. It is one of the few private schools in Orange County that is both owned and directed by a licensed educator with almost fifty years’ experience in the field. It also holds the distinction of serving the needs of children from six weeks of age through sixth grade.

Windsor Academy is a Community School and Center for Learning that offers resources and support not only to its students and families but is available to meet the variety of educational needs that may arise in the community in general. We serve as an impartial advisor and resource team for anyone with educational concerns. We also serve as a training center for students from our local high school and we are a site for college fieldwork and student teaching from the surrounding colleges. The director has been a guest lecturer in education classes at Mount Saint Mary College as well.

Windsor Academy is a complete school that nourishes, protects, and celebrates our children's minds, bodies, and spirits.

Responsibility for our children’s total well-being rests collaboratively with our staff and our families. In the spirit of this dedication, we ask that everyone become familiar with all the policies identified in this handbook, which have been painstakingly designed to maintain a healthy and safe environment.

All topics are listed in alphabetical order with a Table of Contents to help locate important information. This handbook is also available on our web site: www.windsoracademy.org.

Thank-you for your support and involvement in your child’s education at Windsor Academy.

To all of our families – we greatly appreciate your support and input. Our door is always open.

Sincerely,

Rita Epstein

Rita Epstein, director/owner

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Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide a child-centered education for all our students with emphasis on appropriate cognitive, physical, social, and emotional development. We celebrate our children's individuality and through a team approach with parents, staff, and a professional support system, we work to meet each student's unique needs. We offer a range of services and expertise to prepare our students for the challenges and excitement of the 21st century, through a meaningful, hands-on, thematically based, integrated curriculum where critical thinking and cooperative learning skills are utilized. We are committed to the total well being of all our children.

Mission Statement – Newburgh Enlarged City School District

Windsor Academy is the longest collaborating agency for the Universal Pre-kindergarten program in Newburgh. We are proud to offer our community the opportunity to have a choice when placing their children in the State supported program. With respect for the public school district we are printing their Mission Statement as well as the Vision Statement and Core Values of the UPK Program:

Mission Statement of the Newburgh Enlarged City School District:

Building a foundation for inspiring students to be tomorrow's leaders beyond Academy Field.

Vision Statement of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten:

Through the work of all we will meet the needs of our youngest learners.

Core Values of the Universal Pre-Kindergarten:

Passionate Responsible Explorers Knowledge

Director/Owner

Rita Epstein brings a background of almost 50 years' experience in the fields of infant care, early childhood, elementary, gifted, and special needs education with training in school administration and business. She is involved in on-going training programs and is an active participant and member in a number of administrative and educational organizations. She has made her vision a reality that includes your children.

Assistant Director

Jennifer Hawkes has been involved in the field of education for 15 years. She continues to enhance her studies and training in all current relevant programs and approaches to bring the highest level of expertise to Windsor Academy.

Staff

Our staff is carefully selected for their sensitivity to the individual needs of the children. Their role includes creating a safe environment that is challenging and invites active exploration and interaction. The teachers are all thoroughly and appropriately trained and certified in their particular fields and bring a wealth of personal backgrounds and experiences to their classrooms. They are a highly diversified group with one common goal – the education of your children.

Parents

Our parents are educated, hard-working, and capable adults who understand the fine points of parenting and the importance of an early education for their children. They are involved in our programs and are a vital and collaborative part of our school.

Students

Our students bring a variety of interests, abilities and backgrounds to our school community. Many of our children are also siblings, friends and relatives who all share this common experience. It is this celebration of diversity that makes Windsor Academy a unique learning experience.

Buildings

The main building at WA was completely renovated a few years ago to include new footing and downspout drainage, new roof, new parking lot with appropriate grading, new heating and air conditioning systems, new carpeting and flooring, and new bathrooms. The Modular buildings were fully renovated to include new energy efficient insulation, heating and cooling systems, vinyl siding, windows and doors, new walls, floors and floor coverings, rewiring and various internal upgrades and anti-bacterial precautions. All of our water was tested for lead and other chemicals in May 2016. We are 100% in compliance. We have remediated and removed our underground oil tank this past year and are now heating with a new furnace and above ground oil tank. We annually upgrade our interiors, we proudly maintain a 100% inspection record with all State and local agencies. We are a healthy site.

Allergies

If your child has any allergies, complete information from your pediatrician including a treatment plan with current medication information, medications, nebulizers, epi-pens and other equipment must all be submitted to the office. A digital photo needs to be sent for your child's action plan. It is the parent's responsibility to maintain updated information and medications. A Confidential Medical Packet for all identified students is maintained in each common area of the building and relevant information is also in each classroom.

Attendance

Please call the school if your child will be absent. **As per Department of Health recommendations, a written note must be sent in when your child returns to school after any absence.** (Please indicate type of illness and medication child is taking if applicable) Excessive absences or tardiness in our Pre-Kindergarten – Sixth Grade can be cause for dismissal at the discretion of the Director.

Bus Procedures – School District

WA Elementary students traveling by school district bus will be dropped off by 8:00 a.m. and will be met by a staff member and sent directly to their classrooms. Pick-up is at 3:30 p.m. Children will be individually walked onto their bus. This service is only available to children in kindergarten through sixth grade who live within a 15-mile radius of the school. Your home district provides the transportation and follows their calendar for transportation. Please contact your district's transportation office if you wish to fill out an application for transportation. All applications need to be annually submitted to your home district no later than April 1 for the upcoming school year.

Public School students who are picked up or dropped off at Windsor Academy during the school year, need to fill out an alternate bus stop form with the district.

Calendar and End of the Year Schedule

The Windsor Academy School Calendar is at the end of this handbook. The Universal Pre-K program follows the Newburgh Enlarged City School District calendar and its revisions during the school year.

Community Service and Interaction

Many of our programs are enhanced through our interaction and utilization of community businesses and services. Time Warner Cable provides the school with access to their Cable in the Classroom programs and staff training, as well as access to the Internet via Road Runner service. The Cornell Cooperative Extension Center, Orange County BOCES, the Childcare Council, and the NYS Office of Children and Family Services provide training and programs for our staff and students. West Point Tours, Inc. coordinates all of our transportation and trips. Student teachers and college students in education programs come to us from local colleges as part of their training and course work. Some of our after school programs are sponsored by local providers. We are also a designated Universal Pre-Kindergarten agency for the Newburgh Enlarged City School District and Rita Epstein, our director, has been the Private School representative for the Newburgh Teacher Center Policy Board. These affiliations allow us to utilize all possible resources from our surrounding public school districts. The Lifetouch Safety card program is offered to our families each year and we participate in the annual State Farm Insurance car seat inspection day as well. Community Service is an important part of our curriculum. Annually our students are involved in Jump-a-thons, Hoop-a-thons, Trike-a-thons, Math-a-thons, Walk-a-thons and food and clothing drives for local charities. We were charter members of the Alpha Club, the first Junior Optimist Club in New York, sponsored by the New Windsor-Cornwall Optimist Club. We are active supporters of the Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra and the Downing Film Center. Our website provides links to a variety of community services connected to our families or service providers.

Concerts, Recitals, and Graduation

Our annual Winter Concert is held in December or January and our Spring Sing/Graduation is held in June for our preschool through Elementary students. These concerts are scheduled off campus in a larger venue with a stage and sound system, on a Friday evening. All families are invited to attend.

Confidentiality and Appropriate Behavior

We can never meet everyone's needs all of the time. If at any point, a family decides to leave WA due to a difference of opinion or approach, we need to remind them that negative discussions regarding specific staff members or the school can easily be interpreted as slander. With the advent of technological communications, everyone needs to be reminded that confidentiality and appropriate behavior regarding WA is always expected. **Facebook, Twitter and other similar activities between staff and parents is discouraged. We also discourage parent –teacher cell phone and texting conversations.**

Contract

This policy handbook is the Windsor Academy annual contract. The handbook is available on line at www.windsoracademy.org and is also distributed to all families each year. When a parent signs the Consent and Release form, as part of the annual registration packet, it indicates acceptance of all Windsor Academy policies and procedures as described in the policy handbook as well as on all forms and supply

lists. This is considered the formal contract for the 2016-2017 school year. **Neither this contract nor any associated documentation may be assigned without the written consent of Windsor Academy.**

Curriculum

Current research confirms our long-standing philosophy that a child's learning begins even before birth. It is with this idea in mind that we implement a curriculum that exposes your young children to a variety of experiences that stimulate the healthy growth and development of not only their bodies, but of their minds and emotional well-being.

Infants: Our infant program takes place in a very nurturing, loving and safe environment. Our specially trained staff consistently adheres to our philosophy of child development. Each personal interaction from mealtime to toileting, to circle time activities that can include music, movement, language, books, art, and self-discovery, establishes the foundation on which your child's continuing education is built. We only hire seasoned professionals. This is their career not their hobby.

Toddlers, Transition, and Pre-School: These programs continue to build on our infant curriculum and include the beginnings of formal academic learning with emphasis on each child's readiness level and individual needs. Socialization skills, peer interaction, following directions, the development of independence, and enjoying the start of a more formal school setting are all part of our curriculum. These are years of tremendous growth and preparation. The children begin making "best friends" and sharing special times together. Their language becomes much more interactive and directed. By the time the children complete this phase of our program, they are prepared for a successful entry into our pre-kindergarten and elementary school programs.

Pre-Kindergarten: Our program is a unique approach to the traditional classroom setting. It is designed to meet the individual needs of children and to stimulate learning in all major developmental areas. Each child is viewed as an individual, with different levels of ability, development, and learning style. Through active exploration and interaction with their surroundings, the children develop Readiness Skills in Math, Reading, and Language, as well as involvement in Sensory and Motor Activities. The development of Organization Skills, Social Skills and appropriate Life Skills is also an important part of our program.

Kindergarten-Sixth Grade: Our program is designed to meet each child's individual learning style and needs. Children learn in a variety of ways. Through the utilization of small class size, competent, imaginative and energetic professionals and support staff, and a curriculum that combines New York State's mandated syllabus with our ability to enrich and enhance all areas of development, we are able to appropriately provide students with the tools they need to become critical thinkers, eager to meet the challenges of a technological and global society.

Common Core Curriculum: We participate in the availability of the Common Core Curriculum but are able to adjust and refine as appropriate for our student population.

Delays, Cancellations, and Early Dismissals

In the event of a school closing or delayed opening due to the weather, the following radio stations will carry the announcements: **WGNY 1220AM/103.1FM, WBNR 1260AM, K104, WHUD 100.7FM** or the following web sites: **www.whud.com www.wgnyfm.com** or **www.windsoracademy.org**. **WHUD also offers text messaging for which families need to register.** In case of a delay, the broadcast or web site will

indicate the time the school will be opening. No student or parent is permitted in the building before that time, even though the security key may still work. If there is an early dismissal due to an emergency weather condition, the same radio stations and web sites will carry the announcements. It is the parent's responsibility to monitor the website or radio stations for updates. WA cannot individually contact our families. **Families must have a back-up plan in case an emergency dismissal is necessary.**

Discipline and Safety

We maintain the policy that a child's behavior must never hurt another person physically, mentally, spiritually or emotionally. Children must never jeopardize their own safety. We emphasize respect and acceptance.

We have a zero tolerance policy for bullying and physical aggression. Immediate suspension and/or dismissal based on inappropriate behavioral issues are at the discretion of the director. We work closely with the parents to ensure the safety and well-being of all of our children. Specific procedures are in place on all grade levels to insure an immediate and appropriate response to all emergencies.

Discrimination

Windsor Academy does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation, or other legally protected status in access to programs provided by the school. Most of the site is handicapped accessible as well.

Dismissal

Children are only released to their parent or other identified and approved adult. A photo ID is required for all adults who are new to the program. The parent or other adult assumes complete responsibility for their child's (children's) safety as soon as the child is released to them. Children must be supervised by the parent on the entire site, including the parking lot at that point.

Dress Code

Windsor Academy does not have a dress code. We do ask, however that common sense and safety prevail. Infant and toddler clothing needs will be established by the classroom teachers. All children in pre-school through sixth grade will be outdoors during the day. It is important that you send in appropriate outside clothing. Feel free to keep a spare pair of gloves, a hat, or even a sweater or sweatshirt in school if it's convenient for you. **We do not permit sandals, dress shoes, crocs and clogs, and prefer closed, tied or velcro play shoes or sneakers. Boots may not be worn in the classroom and parents are required to send in a pair of shoes on days their children wear boots to school. Umbrellas are not permitted in school. Children's jewelry is not permitted. Sunglasses may not be worn at school unless designed specifically with childproof lenses and a safety strap.** Your child's outside activities will be restricted if it is determined that the shoes are unsafe for climbing and running. In addition, shirts with questionable pictures or sayings that may offend are not permitted. We know that many of our girls enjoy wearing skirts or dresses. If tights are not being worn, please have your child wear a pair of shorts or pants under the skirt or dress. This applies to children even in the pre-school room. When the warm weather approaches skimpy shorts and tank tops are not permitted. Please be sure your child's clothing fits easily and covers his/her body when sitting down. Clothing needs to be user friendly for independent toileting. Please also keep in mind that your child's clothing may become soiled during the day with dirt, paint or other materials. We recommend that children wear clothing that is easily washable. **A spare change of seasonal clothing, including socks and underwear must be kept in a labeled Ziploc bag in the classroom.** Our first through sixth graders are not required to leave a change of clothing in school, although many of the students

like to keep an extra shirt in school in case of a weather change or spill. **Personal clothing items must be labeled.** All dress code issues are designed to ensure the safety and comfort of each child. We reserve the right to send home any items mentioned that are not appropriate in the classroom.

Emergency Consent

In the event that the parent or others listed on the emergency contact portion of the registration form are not available, parental permission is understood to be automatically given to the school to provide first aid for the child and to take the appropriate measures including contacting the emergency medical services system and arranging for transportation to the nearest hospital if necessary. The parent signature on the Policy Handbook Consent and Release Form serves as consent for medical treatment as well.

Enrollment

The parent or guardian must provide the following updated forms each year: Registration, Medical and Health, Student Information Forms, Latest Photo IDs, Consent and Release Form, Emergency Forms for Infants and Toddlers. All forms can be located on our website.

Extended Day Program

The extended day program is available for those parents who require additional day care. The school will open at 6:30 a.m. daily and will close promptly at 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. We understand that emergencies do occur and a parent is sometimes delayed past the closing time. **Therefore, we must require that parents, who may experience this problem, designate an alternative method of pick-up for their children on those days.** An additional late fee will be charged, if a child is picked up after hours. This rule will be strictly adhered to. If the problem occurs with frequency, a child may be asked to leave the program.

Fire Drills

Each classroom posts an emergency exit plan with two alternative routes. Drills are held monthly. Infant/Toddler rooms utilize ramps for their exits. State approved evacuation cribs are labeled and used in the Infant and Toddler rooms. Our alarm system is directly connected to the local fire department.

Food

Parents need to send in a **healthy** lunch, two snacks and three drinks each day. Half-day students need to bring in one snack and drink daily. Due to a variety of allergies and dietary preferences and restrictions, we ask that each parent send in food for their child only. **The following items are not permitted: all nuts, chocolate, candy, gum, fruit snacks, soda, red, purple or blue juice.** A teacher will contact a parent if there is a concern about the food being sent in. **No lunch boxes are able to be refrigerated.** Please be sure to include an ice pack if necessary. In the infant and toddler rooms, only bottles, opened jars of food and sippy cups of milk will be refrigerated. All other foods must be kept in your child's lunch bag. **No student's food will be microwaved.** Bottles and jarred food are heated with a bottle warmer. We suggest the use of a non-breakable thermos for hot items. Parents are able to purchase lunch that is prepared off site and delivered each day. Details are distributed at the beginning of the school year. **Please be sure the office and the teacher are aware of any food allergies or restrictions.**

Fundraising

There will be some optional fund-raising activities during the year. They will usually be sponsored by one of our parents. All profits are used to supplement the cost of our special subject programs.

Gifts

Gifts from our families to their children's teachers are permitted.

Health Check

Upon a child's arrival, our staff is required to do a daily visual health check to identify any existing medical issues. If a child is sleeping, he/she must be awakened before the parent leaves the classroom.

Identification, Security and Safety

All staff is required to ask for ID or office approval before dismissing any child to an adult not known to that staff member. If someone is picking up a child who may not be known to the staff, he/she must bring a photo ID into the building. All adults new to the building must stop at the main office first. If a child is being picked up by someone who does not usually come, or who is not on the pick-up list, the parent must notify the school first (by note or telephone), or the child will not be released. If you do not know the staff member who is releasing your child to you and if you are not asked for identification, please notify the director immediately. All visitors to the building who are not directly connected to our students will be asked to sign in at the office and wear a visitor's identification pass while in the building. All parents are required to pay a deposit for a security entry key to our building. No parent is permitted entry without a key. **We ask that parents do not allow someone who is unknown to them to enter the building at any time.** Students are also instructed to never open the front door without an adult present. All doors to our Modular buildings are locked, but can be opened from the inside at any time. All staff members wear keys to open the doors. The back door of the main building has a keypad lock that is accessible only to staff. All visitors and parents need to enter from the front door only. Our security cameras monitor front and back doors plus all perimeter emergency exit gates. In addition all utility closets and the furnace room are always locked. All cleansers are kept behind locked cabinets and out of children's view or reach.

Illness

We do not provide day care for sick children. We ask that if your child is ill, he/she be kept at home. If a child develops a fever of over 99.9° or exhibits other signs of illness during the school day, we will call you and ask that someone come to pick him/her up. A child needs to be fever-free for at least the following school day before returning to school. A child with diarrhea or vomiting must be kept home for at least a full school day, symptom free, before being allowed to return to school. A child with conjunctivitis (pink-eye) needs to be on medication for a full 24 hours before returning to school. In addition, rashes, heavy coughing, heavy congestion and colds need to be addressed by the family pediatrician. If a child has a persistent runny nose that is not clear, a rash that is not identified, or a persistent cough, it will be assumed that there is an infection present and the child will not be allowed to return to school until well. **A doctor's note indicating that the child has been seen, the diagnosis, the medication information, and when the child can return to school is now required in order to return to school. However, the final decision rests with the director. Even if the doctor indicates that a child can return before the full day at home policy is met, he/she will not be permitted to return.** If your child develops a contagious disease at home, we ask that you call the school so that other parents may be notified. It is imperative that these procedures be adhered to in order to protect the health of our other students and staff. We are sympathetic with the difficulties that working parents have when they need to keep their child home due to illness. Windsor Academy cannot be held responsible for time parents lose from work when a decision is made to send a sick child home. **Families need a back-up plan.**

Injuries

Our staff is regularly trained in First Aid and CPR. In addition, first aid supplies are kept in each classroom as well as in the main office and near the playground. All personnel treating an injury wear disposable gloves and practice strict sanitary procedures when cleaning and dressing a wound. If there is an injury that is considered more severe by the staff, the parent will be called immediately. Otherwise, the parent will be notified with an injury form or on the daily log sheet. The injury will be recorded in the Injury and Illness Log kept in the Main Office or individual classroom. Windsor Academy and its employees will not be held responsible for injuries incurred during the school day under reasonable and appropriate circumstances.

Instructional Day

The instructional day schedule varies based on the program selected. Infants and Toddlers: flexible
Preschool: 8:30-11:30 or 9:00-12:00 and full day available/Pre-K: we have 4 pre-kindergarten classrooms and they each have a slightly different schedule to allow for traffic flow in our parking lot. Please call for more details. Elementary program: 8:30-3:30. Extended day coverage is also available.

Any student arriving after the scheduled times, must be brought to the office to avoid disrupting the classroom activities. If a child arrives while a special is being given, he/she will not be permitted to enter the room and will need to wait in another class until the session is over. If a class is in session, parents are asked not to engage the teacher in private discussions. Attendance will be taken and lateness will be indicated. It will be up to the discretion of the director as to what action will be taken if there is continual abuse of this policy.

Lost and Found

Personal items must be labeled. Staff will use an indelible marker if necessary to help in identification. Items not claimed after a reasonable amount of time will be donated.

Medications

All over-the-counter medications can be applied or administered with the signed Consent and Release form that each parent is required to submit in our Preschool through Elementary program. **No prescription medication will be administered without a written doctor's authorization.** All medication and ointments must be in the original container, be current, and have the child's name on it. Parents of our infants and toddlers will need to see the director regarding administration of any medications other than topical ointments and sun screen. **NO EXCEPTIONS CAN BE MADE TO THIS POLICY.** No medicine may be left with the classroom teacher or left in your child's book bag. All medicine and the appropriate doctor's note must be given to the director. All medicine will be kept in the office, refrigerated if necessary and a notation will be made in the central Medication Log. No child may carry an inhaler with him/her. It must be kept in the office as well. At the discretion of the director, certain medications will be kept with the classroom teacher, but still must be checked in with the office first. Please see the director if your child uses a nebulizer or epi-pen to discuss protocol. Even though allergies are indicated on your child's registration form, please be sure to confirm them with the office and classroom teacher as well. Please be sure your child's teacher knows if he/she is taking any new medicines at home. This could affect behavior, attention span, or activity level. Windsor Academy will not be held responsible for any adverse reactions, which may be caused by the appropriate administration of any medication.

Morning Procedures

All children in both modulars (Infant-Toddler Center/Rooms 9 and 10) are brought directly to their classrooms each day. Parents need to enter through the front door of the main building using a security key and under camera surveillance and exit at the back door to reach the modulars. It is prohibited to enter through "EXIT ONLY" gates or to allow someone to enter as you are leaving. Students, whose classrooms are in our main building go to the designated early arrival room (1) in the main building. The classroom teachers will pick up the children between 7:30 and 8:30 depending on the class. If your child's classroom is in the main building, the parent is asked to leave the student's coat, book bag, lunch box, etc. in or near the classroom as instructed by the classroom teacher and bring the child into the assigned morning room. We ask parents to leave enough time in their schedule to bring their children's belongings to their rooms and to fill in the Daily Log Sheet in the Infant and Toddler rooms and check parent notices. **Older siblings are not permitted in the Infant and Toddler rooms and need to be dropped off first and picked up last.** No child will be permitted to travel to his/her classroom unsupervised during the morning period. If a parent spends some time with their child before leaving him/her, please be sensitive to the other children and classroom management issues. No visitor is permitted to pick-up, discipline or feed another child in the classroom.

Organization of Parents and Teachers

We have had a very active organization in the past, which met monthly to plan school events, fund raising activities and discuss pertinent issues. We encourage all parents and staff members to participate in activities and to attend meetings. In addition, two volunteer parents from each class will be needed to help the teacher disseminate information and coordinate class parties and trips. Without this group, many of the special programs at Windsor Academy would not be possible.

Parent Communications

One of the advantages of a private school is that parents see their children's teachers every day. Each classroom has a parent bulletin board which needs to be read on a daily basis. Information about upcoming events and other important matters are always posted. In addition, notices are posted on our front door and need to be read. The Infant and Toddler programs provide parents with a carbonless copy of their children's Daily Log. Parents are required to fill out a form upon arrival and to sign out at the end of the day and take the second copy with them. The director can always be reached at windsoracd@aol.com or by telephone. We also communicate via e-mail. Please be sure we have a current e-mail address on file. Each classroom has a Shutterfly website which is only accessible to the families in that class. Photographs, videos, announcements, worksheets and other forms are available on the site. We ask that all parents have a Shutterfly account. Classroom teachers will send home additional information.

Parking Lot

We must insist that all parents park in a parking spot with the front of their car pointing towards the center grass area, or along the side parking spaces. **No cars are permitted to park parallel to the building, in front of the dumpster, or in the reserved parking area.** Windshield reminder stickers will be placed on cars that are parked illegally. School buses and emergency vehicles must have room to maneuver at all times. **No cars can be left running once parked.** No child is permitted to walk through the parking lot without an adult. Please do not park on the grass or in the parking lots of our neighbors across the street. **Cars must proceed with extreme caution and move very slowly in the parking lot. Children need to wear their seatbelts and be in the appropriate car seats. As mandated reporters, staff and parents are required to alert Child Protective Services if an unsafe situation is observed.**

There are two reserved parking spots in the lot for Rita and Jenn. Please respect the signage.

Parties

All holiday celebrations, including birthdays will be celebrated simply with a healthy snack. Iced cupcakes, donuts, chips, candy and other similar foods are NOT permitted. Parents cannot buy pizza, ice cream or similar foods for parties. **“Goodie Bags” and balloons of any kind are prohibited. Birthday party hats and favors cannot be sent in.** Parents are also asked not to plan entertainment for their child’s birthday celebration during class time. The teachers will send home a list of suggested foods. Holidays such as Halloween are not celebrated in the traditional manner and details are provided in September regarding costumes, decorations and food. Prior to a class party, the teacher may post a food donation list for parents. Please do not send anything in that is not on the list. **Please do not attach candy or toys to holiday greeting cards that your child may be distributing.** If you are inviting your child’s class to a private birthday party, invitations may be distributed in class only if every child is included.

Photos

A professional photographer offers individual, sibling and class portraits during the fall and spring. Parents have the opportunity to purchase packages at a reasonable cost and will be notified of the schedule ahead of time. In addition, candid photos are taken during the school year and could be used in local newspapers or on our website (without names). If you do not want your child’s picture used in this manner, indicate it on our consent and release form.

Pick-up Procedures

When a parent picks up his/her child at the end of their day, he/she becomes immediately responsible for the child at that point. Parents are asked to supervise their children while on school property. They are also reminded that they are not permitted to physically interact with other children (carrying, hugging, and playing) beyond an appropriate greeting.

Playgrounds

WA has five secured and age appropriate outdoor playgrounds. There is a black-topped area for basketball and related activities, an elementary playground, a preschool/pre-kindergarten playground, a black topped area with ride on toys and a separate infant/toddler playground. Age groups are not intermingled and all fencing is 6 feet high with adult height safety latches. All playgrounds are monitored on our security cameras and the three emergency perimeter gates are designed for exiting only. All equipment is ASTM approved for commercial use and is regularly inspected and maintained.

Policy Handbook

For the school year 2016-2017, every family at Windsor Academy will receive this handbook containing pertinent information about school policies and procedures. When a parent signs our Consent and Release Form, this indicates contractual acceptance of all policies for the year. WA reserves the right to amend policies if appropriate. It is also available on our website.

Public School Students

We offer a before and after school program for public school children, as well as our Universal Pre-K students. The district bus picks the public school children up at our school instead of their homes and

returns them in the afternoon to our school. Public school students and UPK students can be accommodated when the district is closed.

Report Cards, Evaluations and Parent Conferences

Report Cards are issued four times a year for the Elementary Program. Pre-Kindergarten students receive three assessments a year. All Pre-K students are formally assessed at the beginning and end of the school year. Parent conferences are scheduled during the first half of the year, but are encouraged at any time. Meet-the-Teacher Night is held in September. Different nights are scheduled for different age groups so that families with more than one child enrolled at WA will be able to attend all programs. Babysitting is provided as needed.

Risk Management

We are part of the Orange County Risk Management and Homeland Security Systems, including its communication and training programs. We are also under the auspices of the Newburgh Enlarged City School District. Any information, security and weather alerts or changes are sent directly to us.

Sanitation and Cleanliness

WA employs a nightly commercial, green cleaning service. In addition, antibacterial gel dispensers, antibacterial wipe dispensers and e-motion paper towel dispensers are in all classrooms and public areas, as well as wall mounted soap dispensers and enclosed toilet paper dispensers are in all bathrooms. Teachers also maintain a clean and sanitary environment during the school day. Our carpet and annually painted walls are hospital grade and approved for their antibacterial and child-safe qualities.

Special Services, Screenings and Evaluations

Early Intervention, Committee for Preschool Education and Committee for Special Education programs are available for all eligible children. We are often able to provide extended care services for classified students. WA maintains an exceptionally high level of identification and support for children who qualify for services. County approved therapists work with classified children in their classrooms or in our specially designated Therapy Room. The Early Link Intervention Program and Minds in Motion contracts with WA and offers a variety of evaluation and intervention services on site. In addition, academically gifted programming begins in our preschool and continues through our elementary school. Children receive an enhanced classroom experience and curriculum commensurate with their abilities and styles of learning.

Special Subjects taught by Specialists throughout the year

Music with Recorders – Pre-kindergarten through Elementary

Music –Toddlers through Pre-Kindergarten

Computer Technology – Preschool through Elementary (optional for some classes)

Physical Education – Toddlers through Elementary

Library Program – Toddlers through Elementary

Dance – optional – Preschool through Elementary

Theater, Cooking, Gymnastics (Tumble Bus), Violin, Hobby Quest – availability varies each year – some programs are fee-based and optional

Spanish – some pre-k and elementary classes

Summer Programs

We are open twelve months a year and offer a variety of options during the summer months.

Supplies

A complete list of required supplies and materials is posted on our website before school begins. Each teacher has spent a great deal of time preparing a list that is suitable for the curriculum and requirements of the specific program. We appreciate your cooperation in providing your child with the necessary items. **EVERYTHING MUST BE LABELED.** Every child in pre-school through elementary must have a book bag with his/her name written clearly on the outside. **Backpacks with wheels are prohibited.** Every child in the transition class through sixth grade must also have a separate and appropriate sized **lunch box clearly labeled on the outside as well. Staff will use a black marker and label any item that is not easily identifiable.** Infants and Toddlers must have either a book bag or diaper bag daily. Toddlers, Transition, Pre-school and Pre-Kindergarten students are required to keep their nap items in a green, canvas Windsor Academy bag that can be purchased at the school. Elementary students are asked to carry a small blanket in a green, canvas Windsor Academy bag which will be used in case of an in school emergency. Windsor Academy is not responsible for misplaced items. Please be sure your child leaves with all of his/her belongings daily.

Telephone

Each modular has a direct telephone number. The main building also has a separate number. In addition, parents are all given the director's personal cell phone number. If a parent cannot reach a staff member through the main line, they are instructed to call a secondary modular number to speak to someone immediately. **Parents are asked not to call a teacher's cell phone or text a staff member at any time or to call the modular classroom during naptime.**

Toys/Personal Belongings

Students are prohibited from bringing in toys and personal belongings from home. Please be sure to check with the teacher regarding "show and tell" activities and a stuffed toy for nap. No toy weapons may be brought to school. **No electronic games, cell phones, iPods, tablets and other related items are permitted unless as part of a classroom activity.** Windsor Academy reserves the right to hold any unacceptable items for parent pick-up and accepts no responsibility for the loss of any item. Please use good judgment and do not send anything in that is valuable or can be easily damaged.

Trips

Class trips will be scheduled during the year. There will be an additional cost for transportation and the actual trip for all students including our UPK. In order to eliminate travel time and expenses whenever possible, a number of "in-house" field trips will also be scheduled. Permission slips must always be signed and chaperones will need to ride on the school buses. Siblings are not permitted on any of our class trips and parents are asked to adhere to the trip procedures established by the director and staff.

Tuition and Fees

Detailed tuition policy information is included at the end of this handbook.

Updated Records and Forms

All records must be updated if there is a change in information. **A complete set of all forms is required upon registration or at the beginning of each school year.** All forms are on our website.

Visitors

Visitors are not permitted to enter or move throughout the building without a staff member escorting them to the main office to register. They must be asked to wait outside until the director or her representative is contacted.

Web Site

Our web site at www.windsoracademy.org provides online information about upcoming programs and school closings. In addition, this entire handbook, class supply lists, faculty biographies, all required forms and additional curriculum information are included.

“To err is human; to forgive, divine.”

We apologize in advance if there are any grammatical or spelling errors in this handbook. We respectfully request that all errors or questions be brought to the director’s attention for correction in next year’s handbook.

Thank-you!



Windsor Academy Tuition Information for 2016-2017

Philosophy:

Less time spent on tuition processing = more time spent on your child's education.

General Information:

Every attempt has been made to maintain the high educational and environmental standards of Windsor Academy, while being sensitive to our families' personal financial situations.

Windsor Academy and the director reserve the right to amend tuition policy statements if needed.

Tuition payments are due on the 25th of each month for the upcoming month.

The grace period runs through the 27th of the month. **Fees are paid monthly.**

If the 25th falls on a day WA is closed, tuition is due on the day before.

The late fee after the 27th is \$50.00 the 1st time, \$75.00 thereafter.

The returned check fee is \$50.00 – the check cannot be resubmitted - payment needs to be made in cash the following day. If payment for a returned check is not made the following day - the late fee of \$50.00 is added to the payment (creating an additional \$100.00 fee for a returned payment if not paid the following day). Post-dated checks are considered late and the late fee will be included.

Tuition is not refundable or applied as a credit. If you choose to end your child's enrollment after the tuition has been paid for the month, the tuition or remaining portion is not refunded or credited for later use. Tuition credit is not transferrable to another family.

There are no reduced or adjusted fees for family vacations, illness, etc.

Just as you still pay your personal bills at home, even when on vacation, you need to make that same commitment to WA. The monthly fee is 1/10 or 1/12 of an annual tuition (depending on whether your child attends 10 or 12 months during the school year).

A late fee of \$5.00 per child for every 20-minute period or portion thereof will be collected at the time of pick-up based on your child's schedule. The fee will have to be paid no later than the next day to allow your child to return to school.

School Year Dates - The school year begins on Thursday, September 1, 2016 and ends on Friday, June 23, 2017. UPK follows the school district calendar and the first day of school is Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Due to the unusual nature of the district calendar this year and the Labor Day weekend, formal programs will officially begin on Tuesday, September 6 although we will open on September 1 for childcare. The summer program runs from Monday, June 26 – Friday, August 25, 2017.

Tuition payments remain the same for each month regardless of how many weeks, days, holidays, or emergency closures are in that particular month. Summer programs are billed separately. If a student misses a scheduled day because it falls on a holiday or emergency closure, the day cannot automatically be moved to another day in the week due to staffing responsibilities.

Miscellaneous Fees:

Magnetic Corby Security Key System - \$25.00 per key deposit (refunded on last day child attends WA – no refund after the last enrollment day)

Required Canvas Bag for all students (infants – optional) - \$25.00

Every child needs to keep the WA canvas bag with a blanket in it at school. For the younger children – it is used during nap time. For the older children – emergency use.

Registration fees and information:

The annual non-refundable registration fee is \$175.00, payable no later than August 25. No child will be permitted to begin school in September if fees are not up to date. Any family who chooses to pay the registration fee by July 1 will receive a discounted rate of \$125.00 per child. The annual non-refundable registration fee for our extended day programs for public school and UPK students is \$100.00, payable no later than August 25. Any family who chooses to pay the registration fee by July 1 will receive a discounted rate of \$75.00 per child. This fee covers the morning, afternoon or a combination of both programs. No child will be permitted to begin school in September if fees are not up to date.

Tuition Discounts

(all tuition paid in advance is Non-refundable):

Prepayment – 3 months – 5% discount on the total amount

Prepayment - 5 months - 10% discount on the total amount.

Prepayment - 10 months -11% discount on the total amount.

Siblings (2) - \$75.00 credit applied to the total monthly tuition payment.

Siblings (3 or more) – 10% discount on total monthly tuition

Sibling discounts are applied first to prepayment discounts.

Daily Rate

\$75.00 – full day

\$45.00 – half day (until noon)

After the fee is paid, credit for missed days can only be applied during the same month.

The hourly rate is no longer available for any programs.

Traditionally, children move to the next program each September. A change in age mid-year does not place a child in a new room. All exceptions are at the discretion of the director and must be in the child's best educational, emotional and social interests.

Full day programs: Monday-Friday - 6:30 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. - **all fees are per month**

Infants/toddlers – Rooms 11 and 12

5 days - \$1095.00	4 days - \$995.00	3 days - \$895.00
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Preschool – born in 2014

5 days - \$1025.00	4 days - \$975.00	3 days - \$875.00
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Preschool - born in 2013

5 days - \$990.00	4 days - \$900.00	3 days - \$800.00
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Pre-Kindergarten

5 days - \$875.00	4 days - \$775.00	3 days - \$695.00
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Universal Pre-K: a Newburgh School District subsidized 6 ½ hour program (child needs to be a Newburgh District resident and be 4 years old on or before December 1, 2016) – limited availability – no charge to parents

Elementary: \$650.00/month – 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m

The elementary program (8:30-3:30 class instruction) includes after-school homework and special subject programs. Some of the special programs are optional and fee based. After school program available: 4:30-6:00 p.m. program-\$50/month additional fee. The Elementary program is not in session during the Winter and Spring public school vacations and the monthly tuition does not cover these days. Care is available at an additional fee if WA is open.

A.M. programs: The A.M. day program for preschool and pre-kindergarten is 3 hours long and runs from 8:30-11:30 a.m. or 9:00-12:00 (includes lunch time)

Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten: (minimum is 3 a.m. days/week)

5 days - \$450.00

4 days - \$375.00

3 days - \$300.00

Extended Day programs: These programs are designed for students who attend public school and WA elementary students who stay past 4:30 p.m. The morning program is relaxed and gentle. The children are supervised by a classroom teacher. **All school buses pull directly up to the front door where students board. Children do not wait outside or walk through the parking lot.** After school, the district buses bring the children to the front door of WA and do not release them until a staff member receives them. The afternoon program includes homework supervision by NYS certified teachers, craft projects, use of our library and computer lab, free time and good conversation. Homework is done in a quiet location. There is a designated classroom for all public school programs in Room 1 – facilitating efficient bus and classroom management. In good weather, the full playground is also used. The enrollment is very limited and at the discretion of the director. Inappropriate behavior is not tolerated and is proactively addressed. These programs are supervised by trained WA staff members. The WA standard is maintained with all children at all times.

A.M. extended day program for public school: 6:30 a.m. to bus pick-up: **\$250.00/month**

We realize that some families have occasional need for the a.m. extended day program. As long as a bus is already coming to WA for your child's school, you may use the program on a customized basis. **Fee is: \$15.00 per morning.** Child must be fully registered with WA (forms and fees)

P.M. extended day program for public school Bus drop-off to 6:00 p.m.: **\$300.00/month**

If there is an early dismissal– there is an additional cost for the extra coverage. We realize that some families have occasional need for the p.m. extended day program. As long as a bus is already coming to WA from your child's school, you may use the program on a customized basis. The parent is responsible for notifying the child's school to change the drop-off location for that day as well as notifying WA. If your child is not getting off the bus on a scheduled day – WA must be notified earlier in the day. **Fee is: \$15.00 per afternoon.** Child must be fully registered with WA (forms and fees)

A.M. and P.M. extended day combination – \$500.00/month

If the Newburgh School District is closed (scheduled calendar closing or early dismissal) and WA is open - public school students can be accommodated for an additional fee (monthly tuition no longer covers any portion of these days). **We are no longer offering an hourly rate.**

Full Day - \$75.00

Half-Day - \$45.00

If there is a delayed opening for the public schools and WA is open, public school children are supervised at no additional cost.

NEW - Extended Day Program for UPK students:

The district free UPK program is 6.5 hours. If a child needs coverage before and after class and during the time the district is closed and Windsor Academy is open – the following fees apply:

A.M. and P.M. extended care (6:30 a.m. to start of class and until 6:00 p.m. plus the 27 days when Newburgh is closed and we are open: **\$375.00/month**

Alternate Option: a.m. extended day only - \$250.00/month p.m. extended day only - \$300.00/month

27 days only that Newburgh is closed and Windsor Academy is open - \$130.00/month (covers only 6.5 hours for full day closures and 3.5 hours for half day closures)

There are currently 19 full days and 8 half days this year (latest Newburgh District calendar which is subject to changes throughout the year) for public school students when Windsor Academy is open and able to provide child care. There are unexpected weather related delays and early dismissals when WA is open. During the last week of public school in June – there are potentially half days as well when WA is open and Newburgh is closed.

We are offering 2 payment options for this care:

Pay-as-you-go Option: Parents pay for each day as needed no later than that day.

Note: if you were to use all 27 possible days – the annual fee would be: $19 \times \$75 + 8 \times \$45 = \$1785.00$.

When Newburgh has an unexpected Early Dismissal – there will be an additional charge of \$15.00/occurrence payable on the same day at pick-up, if you choose to have your child remain at WA.

Monthly Option: **A fee of \$130.00 per month** is added to the monthly extended day fee. (total for year is an additional \$1300.00). **This will cover all the days that the Newburgh District is closed and we are open, including additional changes in their calendar as well as unexpected early dismissals due to weather related/emergency conditions.**

There will continue to be no charge for District delayed openings when WA is open with either option. This is included in the A.M. extended day coverage monthly fee.

Both a Newburgh School District calendar and a Windsor Academy calendar for 2016-2017 are attached. The days referenced (District closed/WA open) are highlighted.

Please spend some time reviewing your options for your public school children and let WA know what your plan will be.



Windsor Academy 2016-2017 Calendar

2016

September 1	Open House – drop off supplies/see classroom/meet teacher – 9:00-12:00 Childcare available with prior notice – No UPK
September 2	Open House – drop off supplies/see classroom/meet teacher – 9:00-12:00 Childcare available with prior notice – No UPK
September 5	Labor Day – WA Closed
September 6	School begins for all students
Mid-September	Meet the Teacher Nights – dates will be announced
October 3	No UPK – Newburgh closed
October 10	No UPK – Newburgh closed
October 12	No UPK - Newburgh closed
November 8	No UPK – Newburgh closed
November 11	No UPK – Newburgh closed
November 23	No UPK – Newburgh closed
November 24-25	Thanksgiving Holiday – WA Closed
December 14	½ day UPK - Newburgh has ½ day
December 23-30	No UPK – Newburgh is closed
December 23/26	Winter Holiday – WA Closed
December 27-29	WA Open
December 30	New Year’s Holiday – WA Closed

2017

January 2	New Year’s Holiday – WA Closed
January 3	UPK returns after holiday
January 16	No UPK – Newburgh closed
February 8	½ day UPK - Newburgh has ½ day
February 20	No UPK – Newburgh closed
March 8	½ day UPK - Newburgh closed
March 15	½ day UPK – Newburgh is closed
April 10-17	No UPK – Newburgh is closed
May 16	½ day UPK - Newburgh has ½ day
May 29	Memorial Day – WA Closed
June 19-23	UPK schedule tbd based on Newburgh’s calendar – ½ days tbd
June 23	Last day of School Year
June 26	Summer Program Begins
July 3-4	Holiday Weekend – WA Closed
August 23	Last Day of Summer Program
August 24-31	WA Closed for all students (staff development)
September 4	Labor Day – WA Closed
September 5	WA School Year Begins (UPK start date tbd)

UPK students will follow the Newburgh Calendar (see next page)

Windsor Academy is open except where indicated in Green.

WA is closed on Labor Day, Memorial Day, July 3-4 and 2 days for Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s.

WA will offers a fee based program during Newburgh closures.

Please see tuition schedule and details for all fees.

WA reserves the right to amend the calendar due to weather, an emergency or policy change.