



Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in Turtle Creek Learning Academy. This is our twenty-third year of operation. Turtle Creek was founded by Virginia McDonald, a teacher of gifted and talented in the Marlboro School District for more than 30 years. She has assembled the finest preschool teaching staff in the area. A formidable combination of master teachers and low student to teacher ratio create the perfect environment that will encourage your child to flourish in all developmental areas.

Enclosed you will find a complete enrollment packet for the upcoming school year. Our mission statement, parent handbook and schedules are contained on the left side, and all the forms which need to be completed and returned to us are on the right side of the packet. In order to be enrolled for next year, please complete the Enrollment Form and submit a deposit of one month's tuition, which will go towards June's tuition along with a \$50 registration fee (for new students only). We also need all the other forms, including the Universal Health form and yellow immunization card, completed and submitted as soon as possible. Your child must be current with the required immunization before entering school. It is also extremely important that we are alerted in writing of any allergy or health concern before your child enters in September. If your child's allergies are so severe that he/she may require an epi-pen injection by one of our trained staff, you must submit to us a protocol for administration of the epi-pen signed by you and your physician. We need this ASAP so we have time to review and practice.

We host a parent/child orientation prior to the first day of school; we'll inform you of the exact time for your group in our summer mailing. All of our parents are asked to submit a \$100 activity fee at the beginning of the year to be used towards monthly school entertainment, field trips, buses, guest speakers, a t-shirt and graduation.

Kindly review all of our documents and visit our website www.tclacenter.com for further information. We look forward to serving your child at TCLA Preschool and Enrichment Center where young minds flourish!

Please call if you have any further questions. We'd love to have you join our family.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Virginia McDonald'.

Founder, TCLA Enrichment

2022-2023 School Year

	2 Year Olds	Yearly Tuition	Monthly
Two half days	9:00am – 11:30am	\$3,250	\$325
Two mini days	9:00am – 1:00pm	\$4,350	\$435
Three half days	9:00am – 11:30pm	\$4,300	\$430
Three mini days	9:00am – 1:00pm	\$5,560	\$556
Five mini days	9:00am – 1:00pm	\$6,950	\$695
Five full days	9:00am – 3:00pm	\$10,280	\$1,028

	3 Year Olds	Yearly Tuition	Monthly
Two mini days	9:00am – 1:00pm	\$5,020	\$502
Two full days	9:00am – 3:00pm	\$5,930	\$593
Three mini days	9:00am – 1:00pm	\$6,850	\$685
Three full days	9:00am – 3:00pm	\$7,720	\$772
Five mini days	9:00am – 1:00pm	\$7,980	\$798
Five full days	9:00am – 3:00pm	\$10,280	\$1,028

	Pre-Kindergarten	Yearly Tuition	Monthly
Three full days	9:00am – 3:00pm	\$8,050	\$805
Five full days	9:00am – 3:00pm	\$10,280	\$1,028

Kindergarten	9:00am – 3:15 pm	\$10,280	\$1,028
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- At the time of enrollment, a non-refundable \$50 registration fee is required along with a deposit, which is held and applied for June's tuition.
- All tuition payments are payable on or before the first day of each month (Sept-May). A late fee of \$25 will be assessed for payments submitted after the 15th of the month.
- There is a 5% discount for a second child.
- 50% of the deposit is refundable until June 1st (prior to the start of the school year). After June 1st, the deposit is non-refundable.
- An activity fee of \$100 is due in September.
- We reserve the right to cancel any class if the enrollment is below 8 students.
- Other program options are available upon request.

Mission Statement

The mission of Turtle Creek Learning Academy is to provide an exceptional education for the pre-school child in a loving, nurturing environment. This is accomplished through the efforts of a professional, caring and dedicated staff who inspire children, involve parents and support colleagues so that all children successfully achieve a love of learning, confidence in themselves and respect for others.

Philosophy

The philosophy of Turtle Creek Learning Academy is based on the values and beliefs of what constitutes a quality child development program. A quality child development program provides a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment which facilitates the physical, social, emotional and cognitive development of young children. It also responds to the needs of student families and served and creates a sense of belonging and responsibility among parents, children, staff and community resources to support, respect and cherish the development of each child that the program serves.

This is accomplished through a program, which incorporates play/socialization and skill reinforcement through multidisciplinary thematic approach within a developmental framework. Teachers facilitate and maintain an environment, which provides a variety of experiences, materials, and activities consistent with a developmental approach to a child's growth. Teachers plan with an understanding that children learn by playing. Children have opportunities throughout the day to freely select activities from stimulating high-interest centers and to participate in monitored play where teachers actively engage children in discussion, posing questions and ideas to enhance thinking and problem solving skills. When teachers introduce skills/concepts (i.e. math and reading readiness, science), the activities honor the playfulness and innate curiosity of children who learn best "by doing." Teachers also promote literacy through a language rich environment which is achieved through carefully planned quality literature, interesting reading and writing centers, and open communication which is valued and encouraged. Hands-on-activities, music, movement and art experiences help children to progress along the developmental continuum. New Jersey's Common Core Standards for Preschools and Kindergarten are consulted for content expectations, thematic ideas, and valuable assessments.

Finally, staff understands that the best atmosphere for optimum learning and happiness is created by building a welcoming and loving sense of community within the classroom, the school and among families. Staff creates opportunities and structures activities for children that encourage empowerment, confidence, cooperation and respect for self and others, particularly in light of the increasing diversity in today's classrooms.

Staff is sensitive to the challenges facing parents and works in tandem with them. All staff understands that conducting themselves with utmost professionalism is the key to creating a community of teachers who deeply value each other. Staff shares, cares and supports each other in their continued professional development. All teachers and administrators conduct themselves with an understanding that the initial learning and school experiences create attitudes in children and families about learning, about themselves and about school, which can last a lifetime.

Goals:

At Turtle Creek Learning Academy, children will:

- Develop socially, emotionally, physically, and cognitively
- Develop critical thinking and problem solving skills
- Learn to become a responsible member of a group and relate to others
- Learn to appreciate individual differences and value diversity
- Develop self-control and independence
- Develop a positive self-concept and self-identity
- Develop self-expression and creative expression
- Develop mutual respect and build community in the classroom
- Develop social interaction skills
- Develop communication skills and the ability to express thoughts, ideas and feelings
- Develop an ability, on their level, to understand spoken and written symbolic representations (i.e. number and letter systems)
- Develop an interest in books and stories
- Feel a sense of love and belonging

Two-Year Old Program

Our 2-year old program is focused on learning through new experiences to develop a sense of independence and self-regulation.

In our 2-year old program, students will be encouraged to take part in activities which will include stories and finger plays, music and movement, dramatic play, art and manipulatives. This class is designed to help guide and encourage the toddler to make a happy and secure transition to our three-year old class.

Each day's activities are designed to foster language acquisition, cognitive development, motor skills (fine and gross,) visual perception, socialization, confidence and independence.

Three-Year Old Program

Our three-year old program addresses the social and emotional needs of the three year-old. We provide a safe, stimulating and playful environment where children develop the behavioral and language skills to successfully interact with their classmates and teachers and the self-esteem to confidently explore their world. The curriculum is focused on the development of readiness skills with a concentration on early language and literacy development as well as mathematical concepts of numbers, counting and shapes. Art and music are often utilized to develop gross and fine motor skills as well as academic concepts.

Our teacher to student ratio is approximately 1:7 assuring loving, nurturing, individualized care and supervision. We require that children entering our program are potty trained. We offer a half day, mini-day and full day program.

Pre-Kindergarten

Our pre-kindergarten program builds upon the social, emotional, motor, and academic skills acquired in our three-year-old program. The classroom continues to be structured to provide a safe, stimulating, and nurturing environment where children participate in developmentally appropriate direct instruction in the readiness areas of math and reading. Teachers understand that a strong literacy and phonics foundation is key to further successful reading in kindergarten.

Various and inviting learning centers are created for a twofold purpose: for students to independently explore during self-selected time and for teachers to facilitate students' acquisition of concepts, ideas, and problem solving skills in these well-defined and developed areas.

The four year-old is beginning to understand the symbolic representation of letters and numbers; letters have associated sounds and numerals are related to number concepts. This is a very exciting time for children as their brains continue to grow exponentially. Hence, the curriculum is organized around the introduction of weekly letters and broad integrated themes.

Our teacher to student ratio is approximately 1:7 assuring that your child will be given the individual attention to move him/her along the developmental continuum with great expertise and love. We recommend the 5 full day program in order to adequately prepare your child for Kindergarten.

Kindergarten Program

Our Kindergarten program is designed for both those students who miss the public school cut- off date for entrance into kindergarten and who are ready for a more rigorous program than what is offered in a p-K program. It is also designed for those students who will be better served in a small classroom setting with a low teacher to student ratio. Children are assured of more individual attention in this type of classroom setting.

Our exceptional Kindergarten program provides a stimulating curriculum, which prepares our students for full day kindergarten or first grade. It respects this stage of childhood where children continue to eagerly explore as they come to the realization that the understanding of their world is integrally connected to the ability to read. Teachers support children's reading skills through well- selected literature while delving deeper into comprehension and decoding.

Children build on the math skills acquired in preschool and use manipulatives to understand number, time, measurement, and geometric concepts as well as graphing and patterning. Problem solving, which helps to develop critical reasoning skills, is emphasized. Logic thinking is introduced through classic logic problems i.e. Sudoku, matrix logic.

Science appeals to children's natural curiosity about their world. The scientific method is introduced so students are exposed to the process of hypothesizing and careful observation. Children have opportunities to explore broad, high-interest themes such as the ocean and the rainforest. STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) are woven into the core curriculum. Social studies, which expand students' knowledge of the world, is presented through making and understanding maps and learning about other cultures and countries. Nonfiction is integrated into the curriculum in these areas.

Students continue to explore the arts (music, movement, art and dramatic play) to assimilate learning in other content areas or to simply enrich their lives and experiences. Creative thinking is not just apparent in the arts but also developed through other content areas. Children not only play games but they create games. Brainstorming activities and idea generation help students to think outside of the box. All of these

activities create habit of mind to help our students expand their thinking and to view themselves as creative critical thinkers.

Teachers create a supportive environment where children are encouraged to become resourceful, independent learners, which in turn help to develop confidence and self-esteem.

Our teacher to student ratio is approximately 1:8 assuring that our teachers will provide individualized attention to your child and differentiated instruction when appropriate and necessary. Children graduate from our program with a love of learning and school and the mastery of readiness skills, which leads to continued academic success.

Before Care and After Care

We provide before and after care for our students. Parents can drop off their children at 7:30 am and pick them up by 6:00 pm. Our Turtle Creek staff supervises the children during these hours. The cost is an additional \$10.00 per hour but discounts are available to our full time five-day-a- week students.

After School Fun Clubs

Fun clubs, for the 2-6 year-old, productively extends the school day. A different content area is offered every day: music, literature, math, science and art are some examples. We plan to continue to develop these clubs based on the interests of our students. Both our experienced Turtle Creek teachers and visiting instructors provide the instruction for this hands-on, fun extension of the school day. The clubs are held from 3:30-4:30 every day. They are available to students enrolled in Turtle Creek as well as students in the community. The group size is kept small in order to provide quality instruction. Children may participate in as many clubs that interest them. Call for a complete schedule of the different club offering

Summer Camp – Camp Turtle Creek

Our summer camp program is specifically designed for the 2-6 year-old. We have created high-interest, fun-filled themes which children eagerly explore through quality literature, math manipulatives, art, music, and dramatic play. The playground and the beautiful shaded nature trail behind the school are used for outdoor play and exploration. Weather permitting, the students engage in outdoor water play every day. On Fridays, our students are transported to the YMCA for swimming lessons.

Our summer camp is particularly appropriate for parents who want a safe, small-group, highly supervised program taught by certified teachers who can continue to provide instruction in ways that delight and engage our children. The camp also provides an easy transition for our three-year- olds who will be starting our first year program in the fall. Most importantly, your children will have a lot of fun with the hands-on- activities by our energetic teachers. There is nothing better than learning and having fun!

Camp Turtle Creek runs throughout the summer. Full days and mini days are available. Call for a brochure and up-to-date summer schedule.

Nut Allergy Statement

Dear Parents:

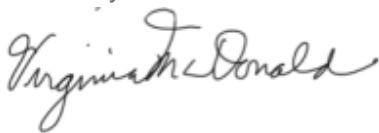
Turtle Creek is sensitive to the significant nut allergies among our children today. Nut allergies are so severe that they can be life threatening. Therefore, Turtle Creek Learning Academy has designated itself a nut free school. For the safety of our children and peace of mind for parents who have allergic children, we are requesting that you pack a lunch and/or snack for your child that does not include any peanuts or nuts.

Please be very careful of cross contamination. If your child has a peanut butter sandwich before they leave for school, he/she must wash his/her hands and mouth so peanut oil cannot be carried into our school. Likewise, please read ingredients in all snacks that you send in, to assure that there are no traces of nuts in the product or that they have not been processed at a plant that also produces peanuts. Some candies may specify made on a machine where nuts are processed, i.e. Gummy Bears. These candies are absolutely restricted.

If you are in doubt about the ingredients in a snack, please don't send it in with your child. If you are bringing in birthday snacks, please consult the classroom teacher as to your choice of food. Children with nut allergies are often sensitive to chocolate since many contain almond extract. Our snack and birthday policies encourage other ways to celebrate your child's birthday other than food. We recommend fruit and vegetable platters.

Schools are places where we all need to build and support a place of community. These children, in our school, need your help. Thanks in advance for your understanding and support of our peanut and nut free policy. If you have any question, please speak to us about your concerns.

Sincerely



Virginia McDonald,
Executive Director



TCLA School Closings

Turtle Creek Learning Academy follows the school closings/delayed openings of the Marlboro Township Public School District. If bad weather forces school to close, you can check the radio/ television stations listed below or call the school (732-780-9656) to hear a message regarding a closing or delayed opening. In the event snow begins during school hours and causes concern with accumulation before pick-up, we will call you regarding early dismissal. If you are not at home, please be sure to keep your cell phone accessible. Thank you.

Radio Stations

1410 AM, 106.3 FM, 94.3 FM

Television Station

Channel 77

ALL classes will eat lunch in school on delayed openings, so remember to pack a lunch.

Delayed Opening Schedule:

- Full Day Kindergarten 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Full Day Pre-Kindergarten 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
- Three-Year-Old Mini Day 11:00 am – 1:00pm
- Three Year Old Full Day 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
- Two-Year-Old Half/Mini Day 11:00 am – 1:00 pm
- Two Year Old Full Day 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

One Session Day Schedule:

One Session day will be held during scheduled conference days

Kindergarten	12:00 dismissal	no lunch in school
Full Day Pre- K	12:00 dismissal	no lunch in school
Three Year Olds	11:30 dismissal	no lunch in school
Two & Half Year Olds	11:30 dismissal	no lunch in school

Three school closings due to bad weather are built into the calendar and will not be made up. Our school calendar will be adjusted for days taken thereafter. Our executive director will determine when these days will be rescheduled depending on the programs and students affected.