Join us for our online SFC Family Discussion:
KINDERGARTEN READINESS & TRANSITION

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9
12:00pm – 1:00pm via Zoom
*Zoom link will be sent at a later date; this discussion will also be recorded and made available afterwards

We will discuss:
- Eligibility and readiness for kindergarten
- Overview of district screening and enrollment processes
- What to do at home to support/prepare for kindergarten transition
- Registration processes and school choice in Columbus City Schools

We are encouraging families with kindergarten-bound children for the 2021-2020 school year to attend but all families are welcome! The beginning of the presentation will focus more on eligibility and readiness for kindergarten, and the latter part of the discussion will be specifically around registration for Columbus City Schools.

Important information for families with a child entering kindergarten in Columbus City Schools

The Columbus City Schools (CCS) Virtual School Choice Fair will be on Wednesday, February 17 from 11:30am-1:00pm -OR- 6:00–7:30pm. Columbus’ School Choice Lottery is available until March 31. Learn more at the CCS website (www.ccsoh.us) or by clicking here.

UPCOMING CLOSURES
Mark your calendars for the upcoming days when the A. Sophie Rogers School will be closed. You can also find these dates on our events calendar.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
Monday, February 15

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
Monday, March 15

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
Friday, April 23

MEMORIAL DAY
Monday, May 31

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY
Friday, June 18

INDEPENDENCE DAY
Monday, July 5

classroom corner: featured project

Our newest featured project was designed to help children practice important skills that will help them when they transition to kindergarten. Our teachers organized a group project where children could practice social-emotional skills, conflict resolution, and persistence. This project also covered a range of Ohio’s early learning standard domains. You can also find this project anytime by going to our Classroom Corner webpage.
Return of the Kass Family Book Club at the Schoenbaum Family Center (SFC)

All SFC Families received a book in their child’s mailbox in the lobby this week. Prior to the pandemic, SFC provided families monthly gifts of high-quality children’s literature through the Kass Family Book Club. We are happy to resume this tradition and this month’s selections are *The World Collector* by Peter H. Reynolds and *Future Engineer* by Lori Alexander. Take a moment to examine the book stickers included in the selections which feature evidenced-based practices and strategies for reading at home. Take-home activities will also be included with the books to support ongoing language and literacy partnership at home and school.

Enjoy story times with SFC teachers at home and celebrate Black History Month!

The A. Sophie Rogers School for Early Learning is proud to support equity, equality, and diversity in early childhood education. To celebrate Black History Month, our teachers have created multiple read-a-long videos for our students and families to enjoy at home. All of the books shared are permanent additions to our classroom libraries and school library; some books will be shared with families as a part of our monthly book club to enjoy at home. The link is shared below where you can access all these videos via our YouTube page. Stay healthy, and happy Black History Month!


COVID-19 symptom list

Thank you to everyone helping to keep our school community healthy! Our enhanced cleaning and safety protocols continue. If there is a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 among our school community, all school members will be informed. If the health department and university determine that quarantining and/or closing a classroom(s) for a period of time is required, the families immediately impacted will be contacted and directed accordingly.

If a family member has confirmed COVID-19 or is in quarantine, young children should quarantine at home as well.

The Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services recently updated state rules and regulations regarding daily health screens and symptoms. We are required to note any of the following symptoms in our daily health screenings and checks of staff and children.

All of our community thanks you for remaining at home when symptomatic and for 24 hours after any of the following symptoms subside:

- Fever over 100°F
- Chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- New onset of severe headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion
- Inability to wake or stay awake
- Bluish lips of face
Weinland Park Elementary School reopens on Monday, February 2

Columbus City Schools' elementary classrooms are scheduled to reopen Monday, February 1. It has been nearly a year since we have shared space with our neighbors at Weinland Park Elementary School (WPES). We have been in conversation with WPES administration as their school plans to welcome students back. We wanted to share tentative operational elementary school plans as the return may impact you coming to the Schoenbaum Family Center, specifically during drop-off and pick-up.

- Half of WPES students will attend on Mondays and Tuesdays; the other half will attend on Thursdays and Fridays. No children will be in attendance on Wednesdays.
- WPES will begin to welcome students at 8:30 am; school begins at 9:00am. Children may arrive anytime in that 30 minutes; some arrive by bus, walking or car drop-off. Traffic may start to back up before 8:30am.
- Car drop-off will be in the turnaround driveway by SFC on 7th Ave; please do not park in the turnaround driveway on 7th Avenue.
- Two WPES staff members will work daily outside by the driveway on 7th Avenue to help children in and out of cars.
- WPES car-drop off should go relatively quickly after a few weeks as children are unloading from cars, but it will occur at the same time as SFC drop-off (8:30–9:00am).
- WPES car-pick up may go more slowly in the afternoon in the driveway on 7th Avenue; cars will approach and staff members will call into classrooms to have children come out to car; this will occur between 3:15 and 3:45pm.
- WPES will not be using any playground equipment.
- WPES parents/guardians are not permitted in the WPES building and will be discouraged from parking and should not be using parking spaces.
- A. Sophie Rogers School families/staff should park in SFC spaces and exit out the second driveway along with WPES families on 7th Avenue. Attempting to exit out of the first driveway will likely block traffic.

As we well know, reopening is a fluid process. Likely during the next week or two, we will encounter hiccups as WPES families and children learn this new process. We are in close communication and can share any feedback. Police officers may be present the first few days or weeks to assist with drop off and pick up traffic. Please consider and allow for parking and traffic pattern changes in your arrival/departures between 8:15 and 9:00am and 3:00 and 4:00pm. As we have all learned during the pandemic, often regular routines take longer or have additional steps. We appreciate everyone's support as our young neighbors head back to in-person learning for the first time since last March!

Prioritizing vaccines for early childhood educators

In a break from the majority of states, Gov. DeWine announced the beginning phases of vaccine roll-out for educators, with early child care providers noticeably excluded from this priority group. In Ohio, there are currently 30,000-35,000 early childhood educators who are not yet prioritized for vaccines. This points to glaring differences in how early care providers are valued compared to their K-12 counterparts, and there are clear issues of equity – in terms of race and socioeconomics – that must be discussed. Our executive director Dr. Laura Justice and associate director of policy Jamie O’Leary co-wrote a piece for the 74 Million advocating for this to change. You can read it here.