

# Welcome to Pre-K!





Dear Pre-K Families,

Welcome to Echo Horizon School! We are so excited to get to know you and your child as we enter into the Pre-K journey together. Pre-K is a year filled with discovery and exploration and our entire Echo Horizon community is enthusiastically anticipating the arrival of our youngest scholars.

As we approach the beginning of this adventure, we find ourselves embarking upon a very important transition that will not look exactly as we had anticipated during the admissions process. While we will not be starting the year in person on the Echo Horizon School campus, we will be starting the process of growing and nurturing your child as a learner and as a very important member of our community.

The transition into a new school and new classroom community is a special one and we believe that we can partner to ensure that each child feels comfortable and known as they build important relationships with their teachers, their classmates and other important members of the community. As we make our plans to support our new families, our DHH families and our returning families, we are committed to being in close contact and available to support all of you. While we must wait a little while longer to build these connections in person, we are excited to spend time with you and your families during the series of events we have planned to open the school year (see the “Ease into Echo Horizon” flyer for more information).

As we launch our online learning platform this fall, we will be building in opportunities for students to connect with their teachers and their classmates, as well.

*“Getting to Know You Conferences” - Your teachers will be connecting with your family during one on one “Getting to Know You” conferences during the opening weeks of school. During this online meeting, the teachers will have a chance to learn more about your child, your family and your child’s needs as we enter into the school year.*

*One on One Weeklies - As we continue in our online learning platform, the teachers will be making appointments with your child to spend time one on one on a weekly basis. This special time will be especially helpful as teachers begin to build a meaningful relationship with your child.*

*Online Recess - Whether online or in person, recess and playtime is incredibly important to the social emotional learning of our youngest students. Pre-K and K students will have the option of*

*joining a playful recess online where they can interact with each other during facilitated activities and build relationships, as they would begin to do on the playground and in their classrooms.*

*Activities Block - As we move from our SEL focused opening into our online learning schedule, an activities block will be added as an option for our youngest students to join online activities on a weekly basis such as dance parties, global music, word games or yoga. In these optional activities, students will have a chance to meet others with similar interests and to play together while at home.*

*Pre-K/5th Grade Buddies Program - A signature program for building relationships at Echo Horizon School is matching our Pre-K students with buddies in the 5th grade. We will be continuing this important tradition online!*

As new Echo Horizon students and families, we are incredibly excited to welcome you to our community and to spend time with you during the important opening moments of your Pre-K year. It is a beautiful new chapter in your life and we are looking forward to enjoying it with you!

Warmest regards,  
Jennie Willens  
Director of Lower Elementary





## Sydney Burdick

Ms. Burdick is excited to be starting her first year at Echo Horizon within the Pre-K program. She looks forward to being immersed in the loving EHS community after seven years of teaching Early Childhood friends throughout Southern California and Arizona. As one of the Pre-K teachers, Ms. Burdick is eager to work with the EHS family to create and provide a strong, innovative, fun, and positive learning environment in which children can thrive. Ms. Burdick received a BA in Early Childhood Education from The University of Arizona and has taught in Los Angeles for the past five years. In her free time, she loves cooking yummy food, spending days at the beach, practicing Pilates, and hanging out with her cat Charlie.



## Ellis Enlow

Ms. Enlow has worked in early childhood education for over two decades in a variety of capacities. She developed Echo Horizon's Pre-K Program and is also the school's Mindfulness Mentor. She takes great joy in being present for her young students, supporting their growth, and marveling at their capacity to be profound in ways that are unique to four- and five-year-olds.

As the school's Mindfulness Mentor, Ms. Enlow shares the benefits of mindfulness by supporting its integration into student learning and by teaching it to faculty and parents. Ms. Enlow completed the year-long Training in Mindfulness Facilitation through UCLA's Mindful Awareness Research Center; trained with Susan Kaiser Greenland, a pioneer in adapting mindfulness practices for children; and is concluding Mindful Schools' year-long Mindful Teacher Certification program. She is grateful for the opportunity to blend her love of teaching young children with her passion for sharing mindfulness with kids, parents, and educators. Ms. Enlow received an M.A. from Pacific Oaks College in Human Development, with a specialization in Early Childhood Education; a J.D. from Northeastern University Law School in Boston; and a B.A. from Pennsylvania State University in Sociology. She is the parent of two adult children, and a sweet, if somewhat unsocialized, rescue dog.



## Sheryl Udell

Ms. Udell is not new to Echo Horizon; she began teaching first grade with us in 1995! Ms. Udell retired in 2015, but we are fortunate to have her back as a lower elementary assistant teacher with the Pre-K classes. Ms. Udell received her BA in Sociology from California State University, Northridge and a California Multiple Subject Credential. She is overjoyed to be a part of the wonderful Echo Horizon family!



## Jennifer Mascolo-Echo Center

Ms. Mascolo began working at Echo Horizon School in 2002, following a brief internship at the school while finishing her graduate program. Ms. Mascolo has a master's degree in Education of the Deaf (MED) from Smith College/Clarke School for the Deaf in Northampton, MA, and a BS in Speech Pathology and Audiology from Ithaca College. She was born and raised in Northampton, Massachusetts. Ms. Mascolo loves how much the students at Echo Horizon enjoy learning, and how the teachers encourage this by providing amazing opportunities for learning through a variety of projects and activities that tap into each individual student's strengths and natural curiosity. Her daughter is also an Echo Horizon student.



## Eva Panuelas-Echo Center

Eva Panuelas joins us as an Echo Center DHH Associate. She received her bachelor's degree in Deaf Studies from CA State Northridge and her master's degree in Bilingual Education at Loyola Marymount. She has worked as a lead teacher, an assistant teacher, and a Spanish and ASL teacher at Citizens of the World Charter and New Roads School.





August, 2020

Dear Incoming Pre-K Families,

We are so excited to welcome you to our classrooms, both virtual and (hopefully, soon) on-site! In Pre-K, we're all about resilience and flexibility, and clearly, we'll have lots of opportunities this year to expand these capacities! We're also all about relationships, curiosity, and engagement, and we are looking forward to cultivating these, regardless of whether we are doing so together on-line or in-person.

What follows is some information that was originally prepared to orient you to an on-campus beginning to Pre-K. It has been updated slightly in light of our on-line beginning. Hopefully, you will find it helpful in getting your bearings to Pre-K in general and later, to on-campus learning. Meanwhile, Jennie Willens' letter, enclosed in this packet, provides an excellent description of our Pre-K goals and on-line plans for the opening of school!

### **Expanded Pre-K**

This year we are excited to be expanding our Pre-K program into two on-campus classrooms! Sydney Burdick will be joining Ellis Enlow as a Pre-K classroom teacher. While the program will be housed in two classrooms when we return to campus, with students each having their own homeroom, the program is intended to operate as a unified one. Each teacher will get to know and work with each student, regardless of the student's homeroom, with lots of blending between the classes (as soon as the bubble cohorts can mix!). We envision that this format will accommodate a variety of creative activities and groupings, and are looking forward to the new social, emotional, and academic learning opportunities this affords. Our fall on-line format will reflect this intention, with lots of fluidity among groupings of teachers and students. Ms. Enlow and Ms. Burdick will be planning and coordinating all curriculum with the Pre-K Team to ensure consistency. The classroom teachers will be joined by Sheryl Udell, Associate Pre-K Teacher; Jenn Mascolo, Echo Center DHH Teacher; and Eva Penuelas, Echo Center DHH Associate Teacher. Please see the enclosed sheet for teacher pictures and bio's.

### **Planning for our On-Line Beginning**

Most of the information you will need, such as your child's schedule, is contained in the communications from Jennie and Peggy. We do want you to know that our Pre-K Play-and-Learn On-Line Program is designed to offer your child opportunities to explore, create, and connect. Since our Pre-K scholars are so young, your partnership in supporting their learning is essential. We realize it is likely you and/or your child are feeling some stress around this reconfigured opening. Your Pre-K Team is here for you and we hope that you'll share any concerns you may have with us. One of the most important things you can do to support your child is to model an optimistic, reassuring attitude, and normalize any worries your child may have. You can also help your scholar feel successful by encouraging them to begin their school day on time, ready to participate with any needed materials. (Please see the accompanying list of suggested materials to have on hand). In addition, we hope that you will be able to serve as their at-home co-teacher, partnering with us to support the learning that is offered by the teachers on-line. Hopefully, this will be fun for both you and your child!

### **Planning for our return to campus**

There are a few things you might want to get a head start on as you begin thinking about on-campus learning.

~**Backpack.** Children will need a backpack. It should be large enough to hold their morning snack and lunch, packed in two separate containers, as well the standard-sized folder your child will receive. We want to help children learn to take responsibility for their belongings and ultimately, they will be unpacking and packing their backpacks themselves each day. It is enormously helpful in this process if the backpack is large enough to accommodate all of their belongings.

~**Self-help skills.** Part of our Pre-K curriculum throughout the year is helping children develop independence in a variety of life skills. There are a few skills, however, that will help your child feel more comfortable if they can gain some confidence in them before returning to school. The following skills are offered as a heads up and in no way are intended to create anxiety on the part of your child (or you!)

~Socks and shoes. Children should be able to at least try to put on their own socks and shoes, as they may be removing them for some activities. It helps considerably if they have some independence in this area.

~Bathroom. If your child could use some practice with any aspect of using the bathroom independently, please help them practice this summer and fall. Children differ in their response to using class bathrooms and this will provide a measure of confidence for them.

~Car Seats (Extra Credit). If you plan on picking up your child at the end of the day by driving through carpool in the front of the school, it is very helpful if your child is able to buckle themselves into their own carseat.

### **Parent Check-ins.**

As Jennie mentioned in her letter, the teachers will be holding “Getting to Know You” check-ins with parents during the first few weeks of school. These will enable us to share our early observations, hear about any concerns you may have, and listen to anything you feel would be helpful for us to know. You DO NOT need to wait for your formal check-in, however, to connect with us, to share information, or to ask questions; we fully expect to be in close contact from the very beginning. The check-ins will simply give us another forum in which to connect.

### **Additional Details.**

When the time comes to return to on-campus learning, you will receive lots of additional information about what to bring, when to arrive, drop off and pick-up, safety protocols, and more. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With eager anticipation,

The Pre-K Team:

#### **Ellis Enlow**

Pre-K Classroom Teacher,  
Mindfulness Mentor  
[eenlow@echohorizon.org](mailto:eenlow@echohorizon.org)

#### **Sydney Burdick**

Pre-K Classroom Teacher  
[sburdick@echohorizon.org](mailto:sburdick@echohorizon.org)

#### **Sheryl Udell**

Pre-K Associate Teacher  
[sudell@echohorizon.org](mailto:sudell@echohorizon.org)



**Eva Penuelas**

Echo Center DHH Associate Teacher for Pre-K and Kindergarten

[epenuelas@echohorizon.org](mailto:epenuelas@echohorizon.org)

**Jenn Mascolo**

Echo Center DHH Teacher for Kindergarten and Pre-K

[jmascolo@echohorizon.org](mailto:jmascolo@echohorizon.org)



# Pre-K Supply List

As we prepare for online learning, below are a list of supplies for you to have available at home.

Plastic Pencil Case



Watercolors (set of 8)



2 Pocket Folders with Prongs



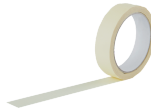
12 Count Oil Pastels



Thick Crayola Markers



Roll Masking Tape



White Liquid Glue



Ruler



Pencils



Scissors



Crayons

White paper (such as copy paper)



Construction paper in any colors



Glue stick



Recycled material for open-ended projects (such as boxes, egg cartons, etc.)



## Note for when we return to school:

To ensure that students have separate and unique supplies that do not need to be quarantined, we ask that students bring their own school supplies this year. Wherever possible, please label items with your child's name.



# Ease into Echo Horizon Events Schedule 2020

## MONDAY, AUGUST 10

### Online Learning Informational Session (via Zoom)

4:00PM

We invite parents and guardians to join us for informational sessions on our online learning, particularly our SEL reopening.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

### Echo Center Online Learning Informational Session (via Zoom)

4:00PM-5:00PM

We invite Echo Center families to join Dr. Lucero for a discussion about Echo Center online learning, which begins on August 25.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

### New Parent Orientation (via Zoom)

8:30AM-10:15AM

Join the Admission & Leadership teams to get all the information you will need to smoothly navigate the first few weeks of school!

## MONDAY, AUGUST 24

### Pre-K & Kindergarten "All About Me" Car Parade

2:45PM-3:15PM

Make a poster or decorate your car with your name, your grade and whatever you want to share with your teachers about who you are!

### Echo Center Welcome Back Family Social (via Zoom) 5:00PM

Please join new and returning Echo Center families for a Zoom social gathering with the Echo Center team as we kick off the start of the school year!

## TUESDAY, AUGUST 25

### Echo Center First Day of School

Echo Center is a certified Nonpublic School (NPS) and because of our contracts with our partnering school districts, online learning for Echo Center students will begin on this day. Echo Center students will have daily synchronous online learning from 8:30-9:45AM. A schedule with meeting links will be forthcoming.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

### Pre-K "All About My Family" Scavenger Hunt (via Zoom)

4:00PM-4:45PM

Join Ms. Willens and Ms. Procter for a scavenger hunt in your house! Pre-K students and their families will be sent to gather items that tell us more about you and your family.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

### Kindergarten "All About My Family" Scavenger Hunt (via Zoom)

4:00PM-4:45PM

Join Ms. Willens and Ms. Procter for a scavenger hunt in your house! Kindergarten students and their families will be sent to gather items that tell us more about you and your family.

## MONDAY, AUGUST 31

### All-School Kick-Off Assembly (via Zoom)

4:00PM

Join the Echo Horizon community for a fun-filled kick-off to the 2020-2021 school year!

## WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

### Community Conversation with Roger and Peggy (via Zoom)

8:45AM

Maintaining hope and optimism amidst a pandemic: Join Peggy and Roger as we discuss this vital topic.

### Pre-K Parent Social Hour (via Zoom)

6:30PM-7:30PM

Pre-K Parents, Please join us for a casual parent happy hour hosted by our Leadership Team. It's a great way to meet other Pre-K parents!

## THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

### Kindergarten Parent Social Hour (via Zoom)

6:30PM-7:30PM

Kindergarten Parents, please join us for a casual, parent social hour hosted by our Leadership Team. Come meet other K parents!

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

### FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!

## TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1-FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

### Getting-to-Know-You Parent Conferences (via Zoom-to be scheduled)

Getting-to-Know-You Parent Conferences will take place on these days. Your teachers will be in touch to schedule a virtual conference.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

### Lower Elementary Community Building Assembly (via Zoom)

11:15AM

### Noon Dismissal

Join Ms. Willens, your teachers and students and families from PK, K, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grades in a morning meeting where we celebrate our community through song, dance, sharing, and gratitude.

## FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

### All-School Pep Rally, Echo Center Spirit Day, and Echo Center Celebration (via Zoom)

4:00PM

Go Hawks! Come ready to cheer and celebrate Echo Horizon School and learn more about the 50th anniversary of the Echo Center.





3430 McManus Avenue, Culver City, CA 90232

310-838-2442 • [www.echohorizon.org](http://www.echohorizon.org)