



Senior Preschool & Kindergarten Class Information

With the uncertainty still surrounding us with COVID, Oriole wanted to create a program where older children can socialize, learn and have fun in a safe and supportive environment. This upcoming school year, Oriole will be offering a small Kindergarten class for children eligible to enter Junior or Senior Kindergarten. The program is designed to run in conjunction with our existing Senior preschool class, with separate circle times to meet the learning needs of all children.

This Kindergarten class is designed for families who feel that their child is not yet ready for full day learning, or for families who would prefer smaller class sizes and a higher standard of health and safety protocols during this ever-changing COVID-19 landscape.

The Senior Preschool program will follow ELECT, a Preschool Curriculum developed by the Ministry of Education. The Kindergarten class will follow the Curriculum for both Junior and Senior Kindergarten, developed by The Ministry of Education.

The total combined Senior preschool class and Kindergarten class size will be limited to 15 children. Program times are from 8:50am-11:45am, Monday to Friday, September to June.

Below is an outline of a typical day in Oriole’s Senior Preschool Class and Kindergarten Group:

Senior Preschool & Kindergarten Class Schedule

9:00am-10:00am	Senior Preschool & Kindergarten children play in the playground (or large gym during inclement weather)
10:00am-10:15am	Transition to indoors & undressing
10:15am-10:35am	Hand washing & snack for the Kindergarten Group
10:15-10:35am	Circle Time for Senior Preschool Class, following the Ministry of Education’s ELECT Curriculum
10:35am-10:55am	Circle time for Kindergarten Group, following the Ministry of Education’s Kindergarten Curriculum
10:35am-10:55am	Hand washing & snack for Senior Preschool Class
10:55am-11:45am	Free Play/Learning Stations in all 3 classrooms
11:45am	Dismissal for both classes, through wooden doors)

To register your child in Oriole’s Kindergarten program, visit: <https://oriolenurseryschool.com/register/> and choose “Senior Class, Non-Participating”. The School Supervisor or Registrar will follow up by phone or email asking if you would prefer to enroll for the ‘Regular-Day’ or ‘Extended-Day’ option.



Below is a list of Frequently Asked Questions. If you have specific questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the school Supervisor at heather@oriolenurseryschool.com.

Frequently Asked Questions: New Kindergarten Program

Why is Oriole offering a Kindergarten program this year?

In the summer of 2020, we heard from our parent community that families were looking for options. Some families were apprehensive about sending their child to the TDSB during a pandemic, as most Kindergarten class sizes have remained at an average of 27. Our families also expressed concern regarding the different and in many cases less-stringent health protocols being applied in the public school system as opposed to more rigorous protocols being applied in the childcare sector (under which Oriole is governed). These and other families have considered homeschooling, hiring a tutor for their child, or creating a 'learning pod' with another family, but most families were still worried about their child's ability to socialize with other children on an ongoing basis. We wanted to create a class where families can feel at ease knowing that their child's health and safety are our foremost concern. We offered a Kindergarten class with smaller class sizes and have implemented health protocols beyond the prescribed health protocols of both the TDSB and the childcare sector generally, while continuing to provide children the opportunity to socialize with others in their age group.

My child is eligible for the Senior class, but I'd prefer they are with a younger age group.

We know that flexibility is important to everyone, especially right now. As parents, you know your child best and we want you to feel comfortable with your child's class placement. If your child is 3, but you would prefer they are enrolled on a part-time basis, or if you prefer that they are with a younger age group, you can choose the Junior class as an option. The Junior class also provides an option for families to 'participate' in-class with their children.

How many children will be in the Kindergarten program?

We understand that the current COVID situation is fluid, and requires a certain level of flexibility, from both Oriole and the Oriole community. We will work diligently with each family to ensure that they feel comfortable with their child's classroom placement. Our Kindergarten program will run in conjunction with our Senior Preschool program, with a maximum of 15 children in the class.

Will children be required to socially distance?

We all recognize that children are curious learners, and that social distancing is difficult for younger children. We believe that the environment acts as a teacher, who helps indicate to children where to play. We have removed additional equipment from the playgrounds and classrooms to provide children with more space to play. Snack times and circle times will be in smaller groups. During indoor/free play, all 3 classrooms will be open, so children can spread out as much as possible.



I'm worried about closures, lockdowns and losing my tuition fees. What is Oriole's refund policy?

Oriole is run by a group of volunteer parents who all have children that are Oriole students. We are a co-operative, non-profit charity and do not aim to profit from tuition fees in any way. When the first lockdown took effect in early 2020, Oriole's Board of Directors worked tirelessly to get prepaid and unused 2019/2020 tuition fees back into the hands of all families, as quickly as possible. If we enter into another situation where Oriole is forced to close due to a lockdown, the Board will again do its best to ensure that families receive refunds for as much unused tuition fees as possible, as quickly as possible.

It is possible that my child will only attend for part of the school year. Can I pay a portion of the yearly tuition fee?

Oriole contracts our teachers on a yearly basis, based on the level of enrolment. We require families to pay for their spot for the year upfront, as we will turn away other families if we are full. Clearly, we recognize that this year is very different, and will do our best to remain flexible and consider the needs of families whose school and living circumstances change throughout the year. Tuition refunds will be considered on a case by case basis, at the discretion of the Board.

What type of additional programming will Oriole be offering?

Due to current public health regulations, Oriole is not permitted to bring outside service providers into the school at this time. We are currently working to develop our own Sports program, taught by Oriole teachers, which will be offered on a weekly basis inside of our large and spacious gyms. We are also planning on bringing Aleks (our well-loved French teacher) back via Zoom and a projector screen! Oriole will continue to incorporate music and movement classes into every school day, either in the gyms or outdoors, as the weather permits.

What about other community groups who use the Church facilities? Will Oriole students be exposed to other people?

We have been working with Christ Church Deer Park to coordinate schedules to eliminate the exposure to other community members using the Church. Oriole has been granted exclusive access to the wooden doors for the duration of the school year. Community programs are being moved upstairs, or have been re-scheduled to use the facilities in the afternoons when Oriole children are no longer in the building. The washroom closest to the classrooms is now a designated Oriole washroom, and no other community programs will be permitted to enter during program time. Oriole children and teachers will only encounter each other during the day, and the Junior Preschool and Senior Preschool/Kindergarten classes will not mix, to minimize exposure.



What Health and Safety protocols are being put into place?

Oriole's teachers have always gone above and beyond when it comes to cleaning and disinfecting. We recognize that there is a fine balance between keeping our classrooms clean and sanitized, and filling our environment with chemicals and worrying children who see adults over-sanitizing. We have hired our caretaker, Denis, to sanitize the indoor classrooms in between group use. Denis will be using a natural, thyme oil disinfectant, approved by Health Canada, and will be cleaning when no other groups are in the classrooms. All toys and equipment will be cleaned after use at the end of the day, and the Junior Class will play with different toys than the Senior Class and Kindergarten Group.

All children and staff and will be required to complete health assessments before the program each day, and temperatures will be taken for all people permitted to enter the building.

Teachers are all required to wear medical face masks and eye protection, as mandated by the Ministry of Education and Toronto Public Health. At this time, children are not required to wear masks, but Oriole will do our best to assist those children who decide that they would like to wear one.

Please email the school for detailed information of our current COVID-19 policies.