



Information for New Parents

Welcome to the Goldberg Early Childhood Center, also known as the **GECC**. There is so much to learn and we hope that this will be a helpful guide. Of course you can also reference the Parent Handbook that can be found on the JCC website for more detailed information.

Office Phone Number: 214-239-7117

Hours:

- 8:45am to 12:45pm (The Pre-K program goes until 1:45pm)
- The center is open from 7:45am and closes promptly at 5:45pm

ECP (Early Childhood Plus): ECP refers to our “aftercare” program for children who attend the GECC for extended hours (“Plus”).

- Early morning ECP hours are from 7:45am to 8:45am
- Afternoon ECP hours are from 12:45pm to 5:45pm (1:45pm to 5:45pm in PreK)

Carpool:

- We have an opening carpool from 7:45 – 8:00am
- Morning only students may arrive for carpool from 8:40 – 9:05
- Afternoon carpool is from 12:40pm to 1:00pm (Pre-K carpool is from 1:45 to 2:00pm)

Interpreting the GECC Calendar

- **GECC Closed:** No programming or care at all
- **GECC Closed, ECP Open:** Care is available ONLY IF your child is enrolled in ECP. These days are included in your ECP tuition. These dates include Winter Break and Spring Break. It also includes the time between school and camp and the week between camp and the next school year (for returning families).
- **GECC Closed, HBP Open:** HBP stands for Holiday Break Program and is an option for ECP families on certain Jewish Holidays when the school is closed. You will need to sign up in advance for this child care and there is an additional charge. During HBP care, you can expect fewer children at school and the teachers and/or classroom may be different than usual. Please note that HBP hours are shorter than those during the regular school year. Drop off is at 8:00am and you MUST pick up by the time indicated (usually 5:00pm).

Communication:

- **StoryPark:** You will receive ongoing, almost daily communication, both written and photographic, through StoryPark. Be sure to respond to the invitation from the teachers

and check the app often for news and information. Two-way communication with the teachers and fellow parents is encouraged on this platform.

- **“Shout Out”:** All parents will receive the weekly “Shout Out” email on Tuesdays with important announcements and programming information. If you change your email address or do not receive weekly emails from the school, please contact us immediately so that we can update your information.
- **Text Notifications:** Please make sure your cell phone number is up to date with our office. We will add you to these notifications for important information.
- **GECC Social Media:** The GECC Parent's Facebook Group is open to all parents and is a great resource to ask questions about the school, find personal resources, and to be in touch with upcoming events. Connect with Tara or a current school family to get into the group. You can also find us on Instagram and YouTube. Additionally, make sure to like the Goldberg Early Childhood Center on Facebook to help spread the awesomeness that is our school.

Conferences: Twice yearly (fall and spring) children will be formally assessed and student Journey Binders/Portfolios will be used to facilitate a Parent/Teacher Conversations. You will sign up in advance for a time to speak with the teachers either virtually or in person. The Pre-K conferences will be mid-semester and the Pre-K will close at 2:00 PM on those days. Infant – 3 year-old conferences will be held towards the end of the semesters. The school will close at 3:30pm (except for Pre-K which will have normal hours) on these days and there will be no extended care.

Hot Lunch Program: If you choose, you may register for our Hot Lunch Program in partnership with Fino! Restaurant. The lunches will be delivered to the classrooms three days a week, except where indicated on the calendar. The menu is:

- Monday: "CHK'N" tenders, corn and applesauce
- Wednesday: Cheese Pizza, fresh fruit and dessert
- Friday: Pasta with Butter (sauce on the side), vegetables and applesauce

Parent Association (PA): Our school has an amazing PA that helps take care of our staff and our families. Traditionally they have hosted on-going programs throughout the school year. Given these unique times, the following activities may look different this year, but the PA is looking into and continuing to brainstorm ways for the families to be involved in the classroom without coming into the building

- **Best Date Night Ever (BDNE):** In a typical year our PA has hosted BDNE, our schoolwide fundraiser. It is an exciting, parents-only night out to celebrate the school and have a great time with our school friends. The committee is in the process of re-imagining the event and details will be forthcoming.
- **Teacher Appreciation:** Typically, there are scheduled dates during the year where each grade level (toddlers, 2's, 3's, and Pre-K) hosts a teacher appreciation event. Parents are asked to help set up, man the event or clean up. Depending on the event, parents may be asked to contribute a food or beverage item. Additionally, there is a week of Teacher Appreciation put on by the PA in the spring. During this week, the teachers receive a treat a day from the PA and the families assist with selected days during the week.

- **Thank You:** Twice a year (at Hanukkah and the End of the Year) we have a chance to say thank you to our teachers as a class. The PA coordinates the collection for the gift, if you choose to participate. If you would like to do something on our own in December or instead in May, feel free. Participation is 100% voluntary.

Snack Menu: A snack menu is created each month and is posted in the entry area. In addition to letting you know what is for snack, it can be helpful if your child has allergies, so that you can send a substitute food. The menu is also provides great ideas for snacks at home!

Birthdays: Birthdays are special at the GECC and children enjoy celebrating with their friends. If you want to send treats to class, they cannot be home baked and must be **KOSHER**. Kosher treats can be purchased at the Tom Thumb at either Coit/Campbell or Preston/Forest. Please coordinate with your child's teacher before sending any food items to school.

Hebrew Terms you May Hear:

- *Havdallah* means "separation" and indicates the end of Shabbat. On Monday mornings, it is a time to sing songs and celebrate the end of Shabbat. Traditionally we gather together as a school family.
- *L'hitraot* means "see you soon." At the end of the day you might hear "*L'hitraot*" indicating that the children are preparing to say their goodbyes.
- *Rosh Chodesh* celebrates the beginning of the new Hebrew month when a new moon appears in the sky.
- *Tzedakah* translates to "charity." Before Shabbat there is a time for your child to put a coin or two into a special tzedakah box. This money will be donated to a charity at some point during the year.

Blessing before Meals: If you find your child singing a catchy tune before dinner, chances are that they are singing the *Motzi*, it is a prayer of blessing and thankfulness for bread. We've included it here so that you can read it over to help you understand what they are saying and maybe even sing along:

*Ha-motzi lechem min ha-aretz, we give thanks to G-d for bread.
Our voices rise in song together, as our daily prayer is said.
Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu melech ha-olam
Ha-motzi lechem min ha-aretz. Amen*

Welcome to the GECC, it is going to be a great year!