



Arcola Christian Preschool

"Let the little children come to Me . . . for of such
is the kingdom of God."
(Luke 18:16 NKJV)

September 2026

Director's Note

Welcome to a brand-new school year!

We are so thankful you have chosen to be part of the Arcola Christian Preschool family! The staff are ready to welcome their new students after spending this past week preparing their classrooms. We can't wait to get to know your children throughout the school year. Thank you for entrusting us with their care.

Please make sure to check your child's school bag each day and take time to read the ACP and classroom newsletters. These will keep you informed of the happenings at our preschool. We also post the ACP monthly newsletter on the website for your reference.

This newsletter is a bit longer than we typically send home, but it is full of important information for the beginning of the school year.

We are a developmental preschool. That means your child will be involved in a variety of active learning experiences. You will not get a craft sent home every day, and some things that are sent home may make you wonder, "What is this for?" Be assured that we are using age-appropriate methods of instruction to help your child build a strong foundation for learning.

The preschool staff have been praying for your children as they have been preparing their classrooms, newsletters, and lesson plans. We've attached a back-to-school blessing tag to each child's bag (unless you attend Arcola Church and already got one from the Sunday school kick-off) to remind them that the congregation of Arcola Church and the staff of the preschool have and will continue to pray for them.

I remember my grown children's preschool days fondly and hope you will do the same one day. My son lives here in northern Virginia and my daughter lives in Colorado with my grandcat, Pickles, so I feel especially blessed to fill my days with your joyful little ones!

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me at any time.

Barbara

BarbaraL@ArcolaChurch.org

703-327-7878 x222

Enter in Good Health

As a reminder, when you enter the building or send your child into the building, you are confirming that you or your child do not have symptoms of a contagious illness. Children should be 24 hours symptom free without medication before returning to school. Please stay home if you are unwell!

Snack Policy

Please see the attached note for our Snack Guide.

Water Bottle

Children are asked to bring a small, reusable water bottle (around 12 oz) that we can refill as needed. (Water only!) We can fill it at school, so there is no need to risk a leak or spill in their school bag.

Clothing

Please be sure to label all clothes, jackets, and school bags with your child's name. Many children do not recognize their own belongings when there are several others that look similar.

If you haven't done so already, please send in an extra set of your child's clothing to be kept at school. Occasionally, accidents and spills happen, and children feel most comfortable in their own clothing.

Arrival and Dismissal

We will begin the arrival carline at 9:25 each morning. Please do not go into your child's classroom before that time. Before 9:25am, the teachers are working hard to prepare for the day. Dismissal carline will begin at 12:15pm (regular day) and 1:30pm (extended day).

If you choose to walk in for drop off or pick up, be prepared for a quick hand-off at the classroom door.

With children who have trouble separating, it is best to use the carline for drop-off at first.

There is a map of carline on the back page of the online [Parent Handbook](#). Please keep the following in mind to help our carline run smoothly and safely:

- Stay in your car.
- Do not use your cell phone.
- Turn off electronic devices when you get in line. (movies, games on phone or iPads, etc.)

Upon arrival, staff will open your child's door, help your child out of the car, and walk them to their classroom. It is best if preschool children are on the passenger side of the car so our staff can easily unbuckle them, or if they can easily get to the passenger side to get out of the vehicle.

For dismissal, please hang your carline sign from the rearview mirror with a pant or skirt hanger so it is easy for us to see throughout the entire pickup process.



Staff will put your child into your car; **however, it is the responsibility of the driver to fasten safety belts.** If a child requires assistance in fastening his/her car seat belt, please pull into a vacant parking space or into the gravel parking lot to secure him/her properly. This helps keep the carline moving smoothly. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please make sure to share our carline procedures with anyone who transports your child – nannies, grandparents, friends, etc.

Parent Orientation

It was wonderful to see so many of our new preschool parents at the parent orientation. Hopefully, a lot of your questions were answered. Most of the information that was discussed can be found in the [Parent Handbook](#). Our job is to provide a joyful first school experience for the children and prepare them for kindergarten by exposing them to many different developmentally appropriate and active learning opportunities. If you missed the orientation or have questions about this, please don't hesitate to e-mail or call me.

Socks and Sneakers

Those flip-flops are adorable.
Your sandals are so cute.
And you look very stylish
In your clogs and cowboy boots.

But when you're on the playground,
Where there's dirt and mulch and rocks,
The safest things for you to wear
Are sneakers and some socks!

The mulch can scratch your ankles.
The rocks can stub your toes.
You might take a tumble
And bop your little nose!

Your teachers want to keep you safe.
We think you're very sweet.
So please wear socks and sneakers
To protect your little feet!

Tuition

Tuition payments are **due the first of each month**. We do not send a bill. The best way to pay is on the preschool tuition [payment page on our website](#). There is a \$25 late fee after the 5th of the month. We are a non-profit and rely on your timely payments to pay our staff and purchase supplies.

Rosters

I will e-mail you an updated copy of your child's class roster later this week. Don't forget to let me know if you've noticed any errors so I can get those corrected. These can be helpful for setting up play dates, switching snack days, sharing information, etc. Please remember that these rosters are for preschool use only and the information is not to be used for business purposes.

Absences

If your child is going to be out of school due to illness or travel, please email your child's teacher or the preschool office.

ACP Calendar

The calendar for the school year is posted on our website for you to view at any time.

September 21 - NO SCHOOL – LCPS & ACP Closed
October 12 - NO SCHOOL (Indigenous Peoples' Day)
October 27 & 28 - Halloween celebrations
October 29 & 30 NO SCHOOL – LCPS & ACP Closed

Lunch Bunch opportunity

Lunch Bunch is an optional program that occurs Monday – Thursday most weeks for children enrolled in regular morning classes. It offers the opportunity for students to extend their school day occasionally until 1:30pm while enjoying lunch, friends, and play. **Details and the Sign-up for September dates will be in the Friday email.**

Check your spam/junk mail if you don't see the email. All students ages 3 and up are welcome to sign up. We will open it to 2 ½- year-olds in November.

Scholastic Books

Does your child love books? Reading to your child is the most important thing you can do to help them succeed in school. Each month, new flyers will be posted. Please take a few moments to explore the selection together and let your child help choose books he or she is excited to read. Orders will be submitted toward the end of each month. Thank you for supporting your child's reading both at home and in the classroom! Your books will ship directly to our preschool, and we will send them home with your child.

You'll have access to expertly curated, affordable books that help boost your child's reading skills, build your home library, and maybe even create moments of quality time you can share together.

Family Order Due Date: **09/20/2026**

Shop Our Class Page:

<https://orders.scholastic.com/GZVWY>

Shop Flyers: <https://clubs.scholastic.com/all-flyers>

Invite relatives and friends to help your child discover the joy of reading when you share our class page link. Every order benefits our preschool, helping us earn FREE books and resources that every child can enjoy.

Thanks so much for your support!

Arcola United Methodist Church

Pastor: Chris Riedel

Web site: www.arcolachurch.org

Worship @ 9am & 11am (Preschool & Nursery available)
Sunday School for K-5th grade @ 9am
Youth (grades 6-12) Sunday School/Fellowship @ 10am

If you are interested in learning more about what is happening in the life of Arcola Church, please send me an e-mail (BarbaraL@ArcolaChurch.org) and I will have you added to the church newsletter e-mail distribution list.

Arcola Church Happenings – All are welcome!

Arcola Church Mission

More than 450 homeless Veterans in the DC area need our support. Last year, 470 Veterans attended the VA's annual Winterhaven resource event. We are collecting men's socks (white or black, sizes 9-12), men's underwear (sizes M-2XL), and mini personal hygiene items for women, such as body wash, lotion, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, lip balm, and shampoo. Please bring donations to Arcola Church between **September 20-27** and place them in the cart in the narthex. Financial donations can be made through the [Arcola Church website](http://www.arcolachurch.org), or items can be purchased through our [Amazon Wish List](#) and shipped directly to the church.

Dates With a Purpose

September 12, 5:45pm

DWAP provides an intentional way to do just that. Start your date out at the church with a mini (20 minutes or so) relationship-building discussion and conversation topics for your date. The rest of the evening is yours! Register here - <https://arcolachurch.org/event/24337860-2026-09-12-dates-with-a-purpose/>

Children's Ministry Nature Walk

September 12, 9am

Join Children's Ministry for a nature walk at the Hal & Bernie Hanson Nature Center in Aldie, VA as we explore God's creation! We will meet at the nature center to begin the walk. Register here - <https://arcolachurch.org/event/24461306-2026-09-12-childrens-ministry-nature-walk/>
Contact GraceM@ArcolaChurch.org with questions.