



Head Start Herald



The entrance into a new year offers new opportunities, new experiences, and new routines! As adults, we are very aware of the new season-setting resolutions, goals, and plans for ourselves. Our little ones, however, are not as aware of what each New Year brings. As they transition home for the Winter Break, they may not realize that they have to return to school in two weeks. So here's a couple of tips to help with that process as we gear up for Monday, January 6, 2025:

Keep the learning going! There are many resources available for families who want to continue the learning process at home.

Re-launch the bedtime routine two to three days before school begins.

Read books about school.

Start talking about school early by reminding them about the fun they have while here and the friends they may see once they return to school.

Talk about feelings: Understandably, there may be some hesitation with returning to school. We can keep our little ones by teaching them the words and healthy ways to express the big emotions they may experience.

For more information about transitions, please visit the Office of Head Start's Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center:

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/transitions>.

As you think about the transition from Winter Break at home to back in the classroom, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's Teacher. Make sure you use our wonderful Talking Points app for all of your communication needs! This gives our families the opportunity to stay connected to their child's Teacher and it also helps us communicate with all of our families!

We are thrilled to be able to support the development of our students and as always, THANK YOU for gifting us the opportunity to serve your family!



*Tanya Coles,
Head Start Director*



Important Dates and INFORMATION

Day	Date	Time	Event
Thursday & Friday	January 2 & 3	— —	No school for Students: In-Service Days
Monday	January 6	8:30 am	Welcome Back: 1st day of school in 2025
Tuesday	January 14	3:00 pm	Parent Connections: Griffin Yeates Center
Wednesday	January 15	3:00 pm 5:00 pm	Parent Connections: Yorktown Policy Council 
Friday	January 17	3:00 pm	Parent Connections: Bethel Manor
Monday	January 20	— —	School Closed: Martin L King Day
Friday	January 24	12:30 pm	Early Dismissal at All-Sites
Monday	January 27	— — 6:00 pm	No school for Students: In-Service Day Housing Presentation 
Tuesday	January 28	9:00am	Picture Day @ Griffin Yeates
Wednesday	January 29	9:00am	Picture Day @ Bethel Manor
Thursday	January 30	9:00am	Picture Day @ Yorktown



****Facebook****

Like us on Facebook and keep up-to-date on all events and school closures.
<https://www.facebook.com/YorkCountyVirginiaHeadStart>



- **Did you know the program can provide transportation for parents to Parent Connection Meetings?**

We will happily coordinate transportation for any parent who calls us to RSVP for a Parent Connection Meeting, Education Review Team Meeting, and Health Services Advisory Meeting and requests transportation.

- **Did you know that the program requires you to call you if your child is absent or late, and you did not call to let us know?**

Parents are asked to call if their child will be absent or late for school to ensure their child's safety and comply with Head Start federal requirements.

- **Did you know that volunteering in the program helps to fund your child's Head Start classroom?**

There are many reasons why volunteering in your child's classroom benefits you, your child, and the program. Volunteering helps your child see that you care about their education and learning. We enjoy having our parents in the classroom because they are role models for students. Volunteer hours help the program meet the in-kind match requirement for the grant funds that we receive from the federal government.

- **Did you know you can help us decide how services are provided to you and your child?**

We have several committees that parents/guardians can be a part of that help us determine our program's policies, goals, practices, and activities. For example, parents can attend Education Review Team meetings to discuss and plan education services and Health Services Advisory meetings to help the program plan health services. No experience is necessary. We just ask that you come with the intent to help us ensure that we are providing quality services for all children in the program.

- **Did you know that we have a food pantry onsite?**

The program partners with the Peninsula Food Bank to have a food pantry at the Griffin-Yeates Center that our family services staff can use to help you if you have an emergency need for food. All it takes is a parent contacting their Family Services Specialist to let them know that they have a need.

If you would like additional information about our program services or need assistance, don't hesitate to contact your Family Services Specialist.

Thank you,

York County Head Start Family Services Team

Please bring your child's backpack to school every day and ensure that you check it every morning and evening. For safety and security, children are only allowed to bring clear backpacks to school provided by Head Start. No toys, food, medication, or other items should be brought to school in your child's backpack.

****Facebook****

Like us on Facebook and keep up-to-date on all events and school closures.
<https://www.facebook.com/YorkCountyVirginiaHeadStart>



Health Services

Tips for Staying Healthy in Winter

Eat Well

Get Your Flu Shot

Avoid Touching Your Face

Cover Coughs & Sneezes

Stay Active

Disinfect Commonly Touched Surfaces

Wash Hands Often

Get Enough Sleep

Stay Home when You Are Sick

Know When to See a Doctor

REMINDER

Please call 890-3888 to discuss your child's health status before coming to school, if your child or anyone in your household has been diagnosed with or exposed to RSV, COVID-19, or another communicable disease. We want to do all that we can to continue to protect Head Start's children and staff. It is a confidential matter but it is our reality. We cannot protect your child, other children, and our dedicated team if we are not aware. We ask that you please make us aware so that we can problem-solve together. It is the only way that we can limit the spread of viruses that are spreading in our community. Thank you for your cooperation.