

Welcome Preschool Families!

We hope you are enjoying a lovely summer filled with adventure, sunshine and smiles! We'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the 2024-2025 North Branch community and introduce ourselves. The Preschool class will have three classroom teachers each day; Stephanie Matysek-Snyder, Jeanine Beiber & Brianna Saby.

Stephanie Matysek- Snyder - Welcome! I joined North Branch school as a Preschool Teacher/Assistant Director in 2021. This is my third year working in the preschool. This year, my role will be as Director of the program and as one of the three Teachers. My husband Heath is a North Branch alum, our daughter Indie will be in Primary Blue this year and we have an 8-month old daughter Freya. I have over 12 years of teaching experience beginning in a public preschool in San Diego, followed by a Preschool classroom at La Jolla Country Day School in San Diego. From there, I moved on to teach First Grade at Sabot at Stony Point in Richmond, Virginia. My educational background includes a Master's of Arts in Teaching degree from Mary Baldwin University as well an Early Childhood Certification from San Diego Community College and a Bachelor's of Business Administration degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. My philosophy of education encompasses a collaborative, social and playful experience driven by a child's quest for connection, discovery and understanding. I am fascinated by the wonders of nature and particularly intrigued by the close relationships that children share with their natural environment. I feel incredibly fortunate to be a part of the North Branch community and am so looking forward to nurturing your children as we learn and grow together this year!

Jeanine Beiber/NeNe - Greetings! I have been working as a teaching assistant in the NBS Preschool for 10 years. For 15 years of my career I worked for Region III Child Development Services in Huntington, West Virginia as the director of Children's Place, a child development program for children from infancy through kindergarten. Prior to that I was a parent educator, visiting preschool children in their homes and working with parents in at-risk settings to provide enriching educational activities for their children. I enjoy the energy and enthusiasm of young children and I find it particularly rewarding to help children experience the wonders of nature. From that perspective I appreciate the close connection NBS offers students to the outdoors and the amount of time we spend together there. I also love to sing and to use music as a tool for helping children express themselves and to be joyful. My educational background includes masters degrees in counseling/rehabilitation and in health promotion, and an undergraduate degree in education. I am the mother of 4 adult children and 9 mostly adult grandchildren. My

partner Karen and I recently moved to Charlottesville from Nelson county, our home for 20 years and the scene of many grandkids camps. I look forward this year to working with you, your children, and the team of preschool teachers.

Brianna Saby - Let me start by saying how pleased I am to be a teacher in the preschool classroom this year! I am a North Branch School alum with a lot of ties to the school and local community. I love the pace, warmth and unity of North Branch and coming back as a teacher has truly been a homecoming. My educational background includes a degree in Human Development with a focus in Human Services from Virginia Tech. I have had many lovely working experiences within the helping field, but none have been as rewarding as teaching as a long term substitute teacher in this classroom last spring. I look forward to getting to know each student in the classroom and using this knowledge to be sure that each child builds confidence and learns through play everyday. I live just a mile from the school with my husband Mark and my two children, Ari (8) and Maya (6), who will also be attending North Branch this fall. I look forward to bringing my passions for crafting, creating art, reading and gardening to the classroom this year with my fabulous co-teachers!

Upcoming Important Dates & Information

If you have any remaining paperwork, it needs to be turned into the office before **August 29th**, the first day of school.

Arrival: Children arrive between 8:30 and 8:45. Grown-ups walk their children into the classroom where they are greeted and checked in, and help them with placing their belongings into their cubby. All children need to be encouraged to use the bathroom and wash hands before heading out with grown-ups to the playground, where they are greeted by teachers.

Departure: Grown-ups arrive for pick-up at 12:30.

Upcoming Playdate: On Tuesday, August 20 from 10:00-11:30. This playdate is for Preschool and Early Primary students and families. It is a great way for everyone to meet each other, and for the kids to become familiar with their new classmates, teachers and school. There will be lots of fun things to do on the playground, and sweet watermelon too.

Home Visits: The home visit is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with new children and families, getting to know one another, and to engage with your child in the comfort of their own environment. There will be a sign-up sheet for home visits at our play date on Tuesday, August 20th.

2024 - 2025 Preschool Supply List

Please provide each of the following items for your child:

- Outside Shoes - please have your child wear appropriate shoes for outdoor play. These should be closed toe with good grip for running, climbing, etc.
- Inside shoes - comfortable, easy slip off and on, closed toe and will stay on feet! (Crocs are a great option)
- Spare change of clothes in a plastic bag (ziplock/grocery) to stay at school (including undergarments).
- Rain boots and raincoat with a head covering can be left in cubby or brought in on inclement days.
- Lunchbox/bag - labeled with child's name and date
- Morning snack (please pack separately from lunch and put into provided snack bag located in your child's cubby)
- Water bottle with closed spout, labeled with child's name and date - to go home and come back each day
- One box of crayons (24 pack)
- One box of markers (washable & unscented)
- One box of colored pencils
- Watercolors
- Scissors

The following is a list for general classroom use. We will use these items throughout the year. You may bring in one, some, all, or none of these items...

Whatever works for your family!

- Glue sticks
- Tissues
- Any/all size zipper storage bags (off brand is fine)
- 13 gallon trash bags
- Baby Wipes (unscented)
- White Rice for our sensory table

Please do not hesitate to reach out to the preschool team with any questions!

Stephanie Matysek-Snyder: stephaniem@nbsva.org

Jeanine Beiber: jeanineb@nbsva.org

Brianna Saby: briannas@nbsva.org