



**Ella J. Baker Montessori
New Family Welcome Packet
2022-2023 School Year**

Dear New Families,

Welcome to Baker Montessori! We are so happy your family is joining our community. Below we've put together introductory information to help you connect with the school community, plan for the beginning of the school year and know who to contact if you have additional questions.

Together we lift the sky! Go Bobcats!
Principal Salvador

Important Beginning of School Year Dates:

- Meet the Teacher/PTO Ice Cream Social – **Thursday, August 18th @ 4:00-5:30 p.m.**
Each student and family will have the chance to find out who their teacher will be for the school year and meet them. This is a quick meet and greet to pick up carpool signs, pay supply fees, buy Baker spirit items, and enjoy ice cream with new and returning families!
- New Student Orientation – **Saturday, August 20th @ 9 a.m.**
Each new student will have the chance to come to the school with their family and participate in new family orientation. This includes a visit to the classroom and a presentation from the school administrators about what to expect for the school year ahead.
- First Day of School – **Monday, August 22, 2022**
- PTO Boo Hoo, Woo Hoo Breakfast-**Monday, August 22, 2022 @ 8:30 a.m.** in the cafeteria.
An annual tradition to gather and meet other families, reconnect with those you already know and enjoy breakfast together as you send your kids back to school (Woo Hoo) or off to school for the 1st time (Boo Hoo)!
- Additional dates can be found on the HISD 22-23 Academic Calendar here:
<https://www.houstonisd.org/2022AcademicCalendar> (or the school events calendar on the school webpage <https://www.houstonisd.org/baker>).

Basics to Know:

- Terms to know:
 - EC – Early Childhood or Children's House (grades Pre-K 3 thru Kindergarten)
 - LE or Lower El – Lower Elementary (grades 1-3)
 - UE or Upper El – Upper Elementary (grades 4-6)
 - Middle or Erdkinder – Middle School (grades 7-8)



- PTO – Parent Teacher Organization, a volunteer group that supports the needs of the school not met through the district. The PTO uses fundraising and donated time from our awesome Baker parents in conjunction with the teachers and administration to identify needs and help meet them.
- Ancillary – In an effort to educate the “whole child”, Baker provides specialty classes for all students on a weekly basis. These include instruction in Science, Music, Physical Education, Art, Library and Technology. Introduction and exposure to these subjects can help students find unknown talents, unearth hidden passions, and learn to express themselves.
- About Baker Montessori:
 - Baker Montessori School is the best PK3-8th grade public Montessori school for zoned and magnet students because we provide a diverse, rigorous Montessori program in a safe, community environment.
 - Motto: Educating Children to be Independent
 - Mascot: Baker Bobcats
- School Arrival/Dismissal:
 - Dropoff begins at 8am and students are tardy after 8:30am.
 - Early Childhood drop off is on the Yupon side of the school. You can use the carpool lane or park/walk up. Students walk into the building on their own, an independence-building exercise that usually begins after the first day of school. You can say goodbye, give hugs outside and friendly administrators and Baker staff will help your child get to where they need to go.
 - Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary and Middle School carpool drop off is on Windsor side of the school.
 - Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary and Middle School walkers may enter on Yupon or Windsor.
 - There are bike racks on Yupon and Windsor.
 - Students in Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary and Middle School walk the track in the mornings if they arrive before 8:20 a.m. Students enjoy this long-standing tradition and can not only get a brisk walk in before class but can socialize with friends as well. Early Childhood students go directly to class upon arrival.
 - **Arrival Tips for Early Childhood Parents:** For the first couple of weeks when you bring your child to school, it may take a few minutes for your child to feel comfortable. When you leave, give your child a hug, say goodbye, and then leave quickly. Once your child begins to adjust you can shorten your time at drop off. Drawing out your departure is hard on your child, so a quick hug and goodbye before you leave will minimize the time it takes for your child to calm down. Please remember you may call the office; they are happy to check on your child and give you a report. We will call you if your child does not calm down in a short period of time.



- Pick up begins at 4pm. Carpool line up and walk up are both options, and many families arrive a couple minutes before dismissal.
 - Early Childhood pick up is on the Yupon side of the school. You can use the carpool lane with your child's sign displayed in the front window or park/walk up to the cones on the south side of the building (near the gated area with benches). Bring your child's sign for walk up and hold it up for teachers to see that you have arrived. Your child will be brought to you or your car.
 - Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary and Middle School walkers exit on Yupon.
 - Lower Elementary, Upper Elementary and Middle School car riders exit on Windsor. Parents pull into the line and must have the student carpool number tag visible.
- What to Bring to School Each Day:
 - Backpack
 - Reusable water bottle filled with water
 - Early Childhood only – nap mat for rest time (we suggest an all-in-one nap mat, so it is easier for your child to carry by him/herself)
 - School Supplies – Baker PTO will collect a school supply fee of \$50 for each student. Using these funds, the school and PTO purchase all school supplies for the classroom. You can pay by check (made out to Baker PTO) or online at bakerpto.ptboard.com. See below under ways to connect for how to sign up for this website. Your child's teacher will let you know if any additional supplies/snacks are needed throughout the year and when to bring.
- What to Wear:
 - Tops: White, navy blue, light blue, yellow or gold polo shirts OR Baker T-shirts (which you can collect throughout the year from events and PTO sales). Worn tucked in.
 - Bottoms: Blue Jeans (only with Baker T-shirts), Khaki or Navy pants/shorts
 - Shoes: closed toe, rubber soles (no crocs), worn with socks
 - The 1st Friday of each month is Baker PTO's Fabulous First Friday Free Dress fundraiser, Students may wear free dress (uniform free) and donate any amount to the school to participate.
- Meals:
 - Free breakfast is served daily for all students between 8am-8:30am in the classroom.
 - Free lunch is served daily for all students in the cafeteria during your child's lunch period. You may also choose to send your child to school with a lunch made at home.
 - Breakfast and lunch menus by date can be found here (select Baker Montessori from the drop down): <https://www.schoolcafe.com/menus/0>
- Classroom:
 - Each classroom has a Lead Teacher and an Assistant Teacher.
 - In general, Montessori classrooms include natural materials, rugs – used for making a purposeful space for work, and various areas for children to spread out and work independently.



- Every classroom is a little different and a reflection of that teacher's style. You will have the chance to visit your child's classroom during the new family orientation.
- All classrooms follow the Montessori tenant of an uninterrupted three-hour work period each morning. Therefore, it is important to ensure your child arrives each morning between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m.
- Parents will attend Open House on **Thursday, September 1, 2022 @ 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.** to tour the classroom and hear a presentation from the classroom teacher on his/her specific procedures and expectations related to classwork, homework, etc.
- Before / After School Care: Little Heroes
 - Contact Abel Rodriguez or Sharon D'Amico with Little Heroes at 713.505.7519, littleheroeswilson@gmail.com.
 - Kidssucceedafter3.com
 - Little Heroes offers on campus, early drop off and late pick up care options for students. Pricing and sign-ups will become available closer to the beginning of the school year.

Ways to Connect:

- School Platforms:
 - <https://www.houstonisd.org/baker>
 - ClassTag: You will receive an email from ClassTag near or shortly after the beginning of school inviting you to join. Please look out for this and create your login. You can use this on a computer or via the ClassTag app. This platform provides school-wide news and updates as well as a direct line to your teacher and classroom with posts by the teacher.
 - Follow Baker Montessori on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!
- PTO Platforms:
 - Sign up for an account at Baker PTO website bakerpto.org or bakerpto.ptboard.com (School Code: JMJ6NV)
 - Follow Baker PTO on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/bakermontessoripto>
 - Follow Baker PTO on Instagram at <https://www.instagram.com/bakermontessoripto>
 - Follow Baker PTO on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/bakermontpto>

General Procedures:

- Early Pick Up:
 - If you need to pick up your child early from school, please go to the front office (do so before 3:30pm, as pick up preparation begins then and the front office staff is needed elsewhere). You can sign your child out and they will be called to come to the front.
 - If you need to regularly pick up your child early for a specific reason, you must obtain approval from the principal and notify your child's teacher.
- Out Sick:
 - Send an email to Nurse Ana Valerio (AVALERIO@houstonisd.org) and your child's teacher letting them know your child will be out of school that day. Include any



relevant symptoms or planned doctor visits. Please copy the school attendance clerk as well, Sharon Smith (ssmith3@houstonisd.org)

- GT Testing:
 - At Baker Montessori, all children are treated as Gifted and Talented. There are not separate classrooms for GT students, but rather those with this distinction are planned for individually just as all students are in the Montessori style of learning.
 - All Kindergartners and 5th graders are universally GT tested in the late Fall. Results are given to parents in mid Spring.
 - For those seeking GT testing in other grade levels, you may reach out to Krystal Perkins (Krystal.perkins@houstonisd.org) in early Fall to schedule.

Questions?

- Give us a call: 713.942.1470
- Or use the email directory for a specific person: <https://www.houstonisd.org/Page/162540>
- Registration Questions: Sharon Smith
- General Questions: Front Office Staff, Rosie Recinos-Guerrero and Veronica Gonzalez
- Magnet Program Questions: Krystal Perkins
- Health Questions: Ana Valerio
- Wrap Around Specialist: JaLesia Cousin (koo-ZAN)
- School Counselor: Belva Parrish
- Principal: Shameika Sykes-Salvador (ssyKESSA@houstonisd.org)



Checklist for New Baker Families:

____ ASAP, Create account on Baker PTO website (see how under “Ways to Connect”) to stay up to date on school news, volunteer opportunities and social & fundraising events

____ In first weeks of school, Look out for Classtag email and sign up when prompted to receive class and school-wide announcements

____ ASAP, Follow Baker Montessori and Baker PTO on the various social media platforms (see “Ways to Connect” section)

____ August, Pay supply fees to Baker PTO (see how under “What to bring to school each day”)

____ July/August, Purchase appropriate uniform clothing for your child (many stores sell these items including Walmart, Academy, Gap, The Children’s Place, etc)

____ **August 18th**: Attend Meet the Teacher w/ your student. Pick up carpool tags.

____ **August 20th**: Attend New Family Orientation w/student

____ **August 22nd**: Attend PTO Boo Hoo/Woo Hoo breakfast

____ Sign up for before/after school care, if this applies to your family (see above for more information under “Before/After School Care”)

____ **September 1st**: Attend Open House (parent only event)