



Ridgeway Early Learning Center 2024-2025 FAQ for Parents



Dr. Kendra A. Hightower, Principal

What time does school begin? **School begins at 8:15am daily.** Students are marked tardy at 8:31am. We are unable to open our doors for students before 8:15am unless they are enrolled in the YMCA before care program.

What time does school end? **School dismissal begins at 3:00pm daily.** Students are marked as "late pickup" at 3:16pm. Students enrolled in the YMCA after school care program should be the only students in the building after 3:15pm.

What should I do if I need to pick my child up early from school? **Ridgeway Early Learning Center is a Memphis-Shelby County School and student attendance matters. All pre-k students are expected to attend a full day of school Monday-Friday from 8:15am-3:00pm.** We cannot modify a student's schedule to be dropped off late daily or picked up from school early daily. Early dismissals should be for appointments and/or emergencies ONLY and end at 2:30pm. It is the expectation for all parents to notify the school or your child's teacher in the event of unexpected emergencies or scheduled appointments ahead of time so that we are prepared to release your child from class. Please know and understand that from 2:30-3:00pm, our teachers and staff are working hard to prepare students for dismissal (restroom, snack, cleanup, homework folders, etc.) and it is not an easy task to stop an entire class routine to accommodate one student. Again, we'd kindly ask that you let the school or your child's teacher know of any scheduled appointments during morning arrival or call ahead when emergencies arise to notify someone in the main office at **(901) 416-1530** to avoid interrupting classroom routines. **We will not allow students to be checked out early between 2:30pm-3:30pm.**

How do I sign-up for before and after school care? The YMCA of Memphis offers a tuition based before and after school care program called YCARE that is offered here onsite to our Ridgeway Early Learning Center pre-k students. Before care hours are from 6:30am-8:15am. After school care hours are from 3:15pm-5:30pm. Please note that the YCARE program is a third-party program that is housed in our building and operates separately from our MSCS early childhood program. **Ridgeway Early Learning Center teachers and staff do not have access to YCARE records, payment portal, or student enrollment information. For all YCARE questions and/or concerns, please call (901) 766-7677 or visit the YMCA website**

https://www.ymcamemphis.org/index.php?src=gendocs&ref=01_BASC_Overview&category=childcare

Can my child bring their lunch to school? **No, students may not bring outside food.** Due to the funding of our program and USDA food program guidelines, we are unable to allow students to bring in any outside food. This includes food for student birthday celebrations. However, we are fortunate enough to offer a variety of foods for breakfast, lunch, and snack time to all students including those with dietary restrictions. We understand that students may be picky eaters, but we can assure you that your child will have plenty of food options offered throughout the school day. You might even be pleasantly surprised when your child begins to enjoy foods that they would never try at home simply because of the ongoing encouragement and support of their teachers and peers during mealtimes.

Is there a school supply list? No. All materials and supplies are provided by the school. Teachers may occasionally share a classroom wish list with parents for specific items needed for classroom activities. The wish list will consist of inexpensive items/supplies that have been preapproved and not exceed 3-5 items/supplies. You may purchase your child a backpack big enough to hold their daily home/school communication binder aka "homework binder."

What are the school uniform colors? Uniform colors mirror our school mascot colors. The shirt colors are **royal blue, Kelly green, yellow, heather gray,** and white. Bottom colors are **khaki, navy blue,** and black.

Please visit our school website for more information and updates at

<https://schools.scsk12.org/Domain/182> or feel free to contact the main office at (901) 416-1530