

August 18, 2021

Dear Families of Rochester Project GROW Students,

My name is Cindy Baronas and I will be your child's Project Grow preschool teacher at Rochester Memorial School for the 2021-2022 school year. I look forward to meeting you and your child and know we can work together as a team to continue teaching your child as they grow and learn each day! I hope you had an enjoyable, relaxing summer and I welcome you to the project GROW preschool program. I am confident we can provide a safe, caring and playful environment for all children. I am excited to have your child in our room and am looking forward to a fun year!

**For New Families/Students:**

I will be setting up a time to visit each child at home who is **new** to the program by making a "home visit". The "home visits" will be a little different this year, as many things are. We will be conducting all "home visits" outside and decide together on a location, preferably your yard or neighborhood playground. This is a valuable time for your child to become acquainted with me as his/her teacher. This gives me an opportunity to meet with you and your child before his/her arrival to school on the first day, hoping to lessen any anxieties and to help answer any questions you may have concerning your child's transition to school. We hope to make that transition as smooth as possible and have learned this time really helps both parents and students feel more comfortable. Home visits typically last 20-30 minutes.

Tuesday, August 31st: Home visits conducted outside only

Wednesday, September 1st: Home visits conducted outside only

Thursday, September 2nd: Home visits conducted outside only

Please email me at [cindybaronas@oldrochester.org](mailto:cindybaronas@oldrochester.org) to sign up for a "home visit". I look forward to meeting with you and your child to begin a wonderful new school year!

**Important Dates for ALL FAMILIES:**

RMS will have their Open House and Project Grow will host a Parent Orientation zoom. No pressure to attend Open House, as we will meet during our home visit and questions can be answered during orientation zoom.

Tuesday, August 31st: Rochester Memorial School Open House 6:30-7:30pm. This is for all grade levels at RMS. It can be your opportunity to see the school and classroom. More information will be emailed from Mr. Medeiros, principal at RMS pertaining to Open House.

**\*\*\* Wednesday, September 1st at 6:00 pm: Project GROW Parent Orientation will be held for all parents of new incoming and returning students. This is an informational evening for parents only and will be held virtually see zoom link below.**

A helpful “How to Zoom” info. included below for anyone not familiar with the platform. A Google slide presentation can be sent to all parents as well.

**Cindy Baronas is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.**

**Topic: [Parent Orientation](#)**

**Time: Sept 1, 2021 06:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://oldrochester-org.zoom.us/j/6251931780?pwd=eURIZ1RpLOJjZ2xvZjJsM2VFb2dKUT09>**

**Meeting ID: 625 193 1780**

**Passcode: 647575**

**Zoom Help and Tips**

User guide: <https://itld.psu.edu/training/participating-zoom-meeting-quick-start-guide>

Tutorial Videos:

Join a meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIkCmbvAHQQ>

Joining & Configuring Audio & Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-s76QHshQnY>

You can download the zoom app onto your laptops and phones for a better connection:

<https://zoom.us/download>

Tips

1. Everyone muted and only unmuting themselves when they have a question
2. Wear headphones with a microphone - reduces noisy feedback, but not a requirement
3. Take advantage of text chatting

**Project Grows begins on**

**Tuesday, September 7th: First abbreviated day of school for the Tue/Thur class.** The days will be an abbreviated session from 9:00-11:00 am. Please have your child bring a small snack and water bottle in their lunchbox and backpack on this day, no lunch on this morning.

**Wednesday, September 8th: First abbreviated day of school for the Mon/Wed/Fri class.** The day will be an abbreviated session from 9:00-11:00 am. Please have your child bring a small snack and water bottle in their lunchbox and backpack on this day, no lunch on this morning.

Thursday, September 9th: First full day for the Tue/Thur class. Drop off is promptly at 9:00am and pick up is at 1:00pm.

Friday September 10th: First full day for the Mon/Wed/Fri class. Drop off is promptly at 9:00 and pick up is at 1:00pm.

Wednesday, September 22th: Professional Development Day. **Half Day for the Mon/Wed/Fri class.** Drop off is promptly at 9:00am and pick up is 11:30am

**Other Information:**

All children will arrive at the Project Grow door at 9am. Teachers will be there to greet your child and enter them into the building. It is helpful with separation if parents say a quick goodbye and then head on their way. Occasionally, a few children will shed some tears...not to worry..we will comfort them :)

On FULL (regular 9-1) days of school, please have your child bring their backpack and lunch box to school. In their lunch box, they will need lunch (food and drink) and a healthy snack for snack time. It is helpful if children bring a refillable water bottle (or thermos) to school everyday. We like to foster independence so please make sure your child can handle and open the lunch box, containers, thermos, etc. (this is good practice for them).

\*\* Last school year lunch was provided free of charge. I will let families know if this will be the case again for the 21-22 school year.

On District  $\frac{1}{2}$  days of school the children will be dismissed at 11:30 and no lunch is needed, just a snack.

Project Grow follows the Old Rochester Regional School Calendar, which can be found on the website for the town <https://www.oldrochester.org> . Our class has a weebly page, I try to update it monthly. As of right now, it contains some basic information and several activities from last year.

Feel free to check it out at <https://rochesterprojectgrow.weebly.com/>

**Masks:**

The DESE and Governor Baker have released guidance earlier this month that speaks to masks being mandatory on the bus and in the nurse's office only. As of right now their guidance in regards to the rest of the school day speaks to masks being "strongly recommended" at the elementary level for all students and for those staff who are not vaccinated. Once Covid protocols are implemented this school year I will share that decision with all families.

My contact information is [cindybaronas@oldrochester.org](mailto:cindybaronas@oldrochester.org) . I check my email frequently so feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I will be back in the building on

Monday Aug 30, 2021 . The telephone number is 508 763-2049 x1027, there is a voicemail to leave messages.

I am so looking forward to greeting our new incoming students and their families, as well as welcoming back our returning students and families! Enjoy the last few days of summer and see you soon!

Sincerely Yours,

*Cynthia Baronas, M.Ed.*

Cynthia Baronas, M.Ed.  
Rochester Project GROW Teacher