



Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Information Packet



Hello VPK Parents!

We are SUPER excited to begin this awesome school year with your (not so) little Bloom. Does attending VPK mean that your little one will be reading when they graduate? Most certainly not. Our goals for your children are very age appropriate and they will advance at a pace that is natural and comfortable for your child. Some children will begin entry level reading, while others will begin mastering their letter sounds. Literacy is only one component of our VPK curriculum, Frog Street Pre-K. Our curriculum is a comprehensive, research-based program that integrates instruction across developmental domains and early learning disciplines. The program is engaging for both teachers and children. While in VPK, children will cover topics including but not limited to literacy, math, self-help, self-discipline, social skills, science, and becoming a positive part of a community. I have included a brief list of kindergarten readiness expectations (below) that we use as our map to get your child to where they need to be for entry into kindergarten. Throughout this school year, our Blooms will learn through play. When you enter a pre-kindergarten classroom at Bloom, you will not see worksheets and required homework assignments. What you will see are children actively engaged in exploration through hands on experiences. Writing will be done on blank pages and will not be space confined. Whole group activities are very limited, instead children are involved in small group activities that allow them to maintain focus and move around. We follow the state of Florida standards for VPK and are very in tuned to the expectations for kindergarten. Voluntary homework assignments will be sent home as optional FUN practice. If your child is uninterested in doing this work at home, it can find it's way into the recycle bin. Again, extra practice through homework is available, but optional. As a parent, you may feel pressure from others about "what your child should be able to do?" and I want to reassure you that you are doing a great job and that ALL kids are DIFFERENT and UNIQUE in their academic progression, interests and behaviors.

Assessments are conducted at the beginning, middle and end of the school year. After each assessment, we will offer a parent conference to review progress and goals. If we feel your child is in need of intervention or additional support, we will be sure to keep you informed. In lieu of a night time meeting as we have done in the past to fill you in on all of the ins and outs of VPK, we are instead sending out this information packet. In previous years, we have found that many parents have a hard time making it to our quick orientation meeting and also we have found the majority of our families have been a part of Bloom for several years and our VPK program is very similar to our normal daily routines at Bloom. **During the first two weeks of school, we will offer an open house/meet and greet for all of our VPK students & families, so stay tuned.** Classroom assignments will be emailed out 1 week prior to your child's first day of VPK. I hope that you find the information below helpful and as always, please do not hesitate to call, email or stop into the office with any questions you may have.

Bloom Academy, Sprouting Kids Naturally!

o: 941.655.8150 Punta Gorda

o: 239.599.5405 Founder's Square

Check out our website www.bloompuntagorda.com

The Scoop!

1. Attendance is required during VPK hours. VPK hours depend upon your child's program selection.
Morning VPK: 8:30 a - 11:30 a
Afternoon VPK: 12:30 p - 3:30 p
We also offer "wrap around" care for families needing full time preschool/child care.
2. Please refer to your enrollment option and reference page 3 of this packet for detailed information about enrollment options and drop off /pick up times.
3. VPK FEE STATEMENT: Bloom Academy will not issue any fees associated with the Voluntary Prekindergarten program. Fees will only be incurred by children voluntarily signed up to participate in preschool hours/programs outside of our Voluntary Prekindergarten program.
4. Depending on the schedule that you have chosen for your child, Bloom provides morning and afternoon snacks, as well as lunch (provided at PG, available for purchase at FS).
5. Children enrolled in VPK only can be dropped off no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the start of their VPK program (Morning Session 8:30 a, Afternoon Session 12:15 p) and must be picked up within 15 minutes of the VPK dismissal times.
6. During Non-VPK days or non- VPK weeks, VPK only children and Extended day children do not attend Bloom. For families enrolled in the Extended Day program, tuition will only be prorated for weeks with less than 3 VPK days. Extended Day Tuition will not be billed when VPK is not in session for breaks.
7. VPK is in session following the Year Round CCPS schedule (PG BLOOM) or BNS schedule(FS BLOOM). (attached). Bloom is open on Non-VPK days for children that are enrolled in wrap around care.
8. Children that miss more than 20% of scheduled VPK days each month will be subject to losing their VPK funding from the state. We will let you know if you are approaching an absence count that is too high. 20% of the entire program surmounts to 36 absences out of 180 total days. Children must not exceed a 20% absence count of the number of VPK days accrued as the program progresses. Children with excessive absences will be offered a self-pay preschool option that is not held to the attendance requirements set forth by the state VPK program.
9. As per statute 6M-8.305, FAC, the state requires Bloom to obtain parental signatures after the last date of attendance each month to provide parent verification that their child was in fact in attendance at Bloom during the previous month. Your child's VPK teachers will obtain these signatures from you as needed.
10. Closed toed shoes only. No sandals.
11. Paperwork and student work will be sent home every Friday in your child's "Mailbox". Please be sure to check it regularly.
12. All children must bring in a complete change of clothes in a gallon zipper bag labeled with their first and last name to be kept at school. This should be sent on the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL.
13. FULL DAY and EXTENDED DAY STUDENTS- On Monday's please send a small bag or back pack that will fit in cubby without hanging out or hang nicely on a hook. Bags/Backpacks will be sent home on Friday each week. Toys from home are not allowed and will be kept at the front desk for pick up. Back pack should include the following items:
 - A small blanket and fitted crib sheet, these fit nicely on our cots (cots provided by Bloom).
 - A complete change of clothes in a gallon zipper bag labeled with their first and last name to be kept at school.
 - No sunscreen, chap stick, hand sanitizer or toys in back pack.
 - A small animal of lovey for nap time is encouraged.
14. With prior arrangements (email or ProCare Connect message) drop off can be extended until 10:30 am with documentation.
15. No jewelry.
16. VPK assessments will be completed at the beginning, middle & end of the year. Conference "Sign Up Sheets" will be set out after each assessment period. Results will be sent home in the "Friday folder/mailbox".
17. VPK officially starts on Monday, August 10th for Bloom PG and Monday, August 3rd for Founder's Square.

VOLUNTARY PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM OPTIONS

VPK ONLY

Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten is FREE of charge and is offered Monday through Friday when public school is in session. Punta Gorda Bloom follows the CCPS Year Round School schedule. Founder's Square follows the Babcock Neighborhood School schedule. Any time these schools are closed for students, VPK only children DO NOT have class. Bloom offers a morning and an afternoon VPK session daily. Families in the VPK only program must choose one option for their child's VPK program.

PRICE PER WEEK

With VPK Voucher: **Full Time - FREE**

Without VPK Voucher: **Full Time -\$100, M-W-F -\$75, T-TH -\$50**

MORNING SESSION

8:30 – 11:30 am

(drop off is between 8:15 - 8:30am)

AFTERNOON SESSION

12:30 – 3:30 pm

(drop off is between 12:15 - 12:30pm)

Valet drop off and pick up are available and recommended at the entrance

VPK EXTENDED DAY

Add extra time before and after VPK time to allow for enrichment and added convenience. The extended day program is in session Mon-Fri when public school is in session. Punta Gorda Bloom follows the CCPS Year-Round School schedule. Founder's Square follows the Babcock Neighborhood School schedule. Any time these schools are closed for students, VPK extended day children DO NOT have class and tuition is pro-rated when the week is less than 3 days in length due to public school closures. Although students will attend daily for VPK, parents can choose to utilize the extended day times everyday, M-W-F or T-Th.

PRICE PER WEEK

With VPK Voucher: **Full Time - \$95, M-W-F - \$75, T-TH - \$53**

Without VPK Voucher: **Full Time - \$156, M-W-F - \$129, T-TH - \$110**

MORNING DROP-OFF

8:15 – 8:30 am

AFTERNOON PICK-UP

2:30 pm

Valet drop off and pick up are available and recommended at the entrance

VPK FULL WRAP AROUND YEAR ROUND CARE

Helpful for families that need care when public school is not in session. This program is available anytime Bloom is open. The weekly fee does not change when VPK is not in session, all camp days/weeks are built into the weekly cost for added convenience. Choose from two session times. Although students will attend daily for VPK, parents can choose to utilize the extended day times everyday, M-W-F or T-Th.

PRICE PER WEEK

With VPK Voucher: **Full Time - \$130, M-W-F - \$89, T-TH - \$67**

Without VPK Voucher: **Full Time - \$180, M-W-F - \$153, T-TH - \$102**

SESSION A

7:00 am – 4:15 pm

SESSION B

8:30 am – 5:45 pm

Valet drop off and pick up are available and recommended at the entrance

Helpful/Optional Supply Requests:

*Many parents have asked “What supplies can we send in to help?” Below is a list of items that we can always use more of ©Donating supplies is **COMPLETELY OPTIONAL**. Bloom will provide EVERYTHING that is needed aside from the list of items sent in your child’s backpack each week.*

- Non-Toxic Markers
- Dry Erase Markers
- Crayons
- Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Pencil Sharpeners
- Erasers
- Construction Paper
- White paper or Cardstock
- Dress Up Clothes (used) (can be adult)
- Tissue Paper
- Water Color or Tempura Paints
- Play Dough
- Gently Used Kiddie Blankets and Crib Sheets (for forgetful friends)
- Fun Stickers
- Gently Used Sports Balls
- Glue (stick and bottle)
- Used Kids Aprons
- Old Sand Toys and Safe Kitchen Utensils for Sensory Play
- Orange Pocket Folders
- Small Treasure Box Prizes
- Legos/Cars
- Blocks
- Manipulatives
- Baby Dolls & Clothes
- Play Food
- Gently Used Books
- Kid's Magazines

Year Round School Schedule (following regular schedule due to COVID19)

Bloom Academy Punta Gorda

VPK SCHEDULE: Punta Gorda Location

24368 Airport Road

Punta Gorda, FL 33950

941.655.8150

Email: directorpg@bloompunatgorda.com



Regular School Calendar | 2020-2021

JULY '20						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
			1	2	3	
6	7	8	9	10		
13	14	15	16	17		
20	21	22	23	24		
27	28	29	30	31		

4 Independence Day

JANUARY '21						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
				1		99
4	5	6	7	8	9	103
11	12	13	14	15	96	108
18	19	20	21	22	100	112
25	26	27	28	29	105	117

1 New Year's Day (Pd Holi #3)
4 Hurricane M.U. #1 (Teachers)
5 Teacher Work Day
5 Hurricane M.U. #1 (Students)
6 Students Return from Break
18 MLK Day- Employees Off

AUGUST '20						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
3	4	5	6	7	0	5
10	11	12	13	14	5	10
17	18	19	20	21	9	15
24	25	26	27	28	14	20
31					15	21

3 First Day for Teachers
10 First Day for Students
18 Teacher PD Day - District

FEBRUARY '21						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
1	2	3	4	5	110	122
8	9	10	11	12	115	127
15	16	17	18	19	118	130
22	23	24	25	26	123	135

8-12 Survey Window
15 Presidents' Day- Employees Off
16 Hurricane M.U. #2

SEPTEMBER '20						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
	1	2	3	4	19	25
7	8	9	10	11	23	29
14	15	16	17	18	28	34
21	22	23	24	25	33	39
28	29	30			36	42

7 Labor Day- Employees Off

MARCH '21						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
1	2	3	4	5	128	140
8	9	10	11	12	133	145
15	16	17	18	19	133	145
22	23	24	25	26	137	150
29	30	31			140	153

12 End of Quarter 3
15-19 Spring Break
22 Teacher Work Day

OCTOBER '20						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
			1	2	38	44
5	6	7	8	9	43	49
12	13	14	15	16	47	54
19	20	21	22	23	52	59
26	27	28	29	30	57	64

5-9 Survey Window
9 End of Quarter 1
12 Teacher Work Day

APRIL '21						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
			1	2	141	155
5	6	7	8	9	146	160
12	13	14	15	16	151	165
19	20	21	22	23	156	170
26	27	28	29	30	161	175

2 No School- Paid Holiday (#4)

NOVEMBER '20						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
2	3	4	5	6	61	69
9	10	11	12	13	66	74
16	17	18	19	20	71	79
23	24	25	26	27	73	82
30					74	83

3 Teacher PD Day - School
25 Thanksgiving Break
26 Thanksgiving (Pd Holi #1)
27 Thanksgiving Break

MAY '21						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
3	4	5	6	7	166	180
10	11	12	13	14	171	185
17	18	19	20	21	176	190
24	25	26	27	28	180	195
31						

27 End of Q4- Students Last Day
28 Teacher Work Day
28 Hurricane M. U. #3(Students)
31 Memorial Day- Employees Off

DECEMBER '20						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
	1	2	3	4	78	87
7	8	9	10	11	83	92
14	15	16	17	18	88	97
21	22	23	24	25		98
28	29	30	31			

18 End of Quarter 2
21 Start of Winter Break
25 Christmas (Pd Holi #2)

JUNE '21						
M	T	W	Th	F	SD	TD
7	8	9	10	11		
14	15	16	17	18		
21	22	23	24	25		
28	29	30				

1 Hurricane M.U. #3(Teachers)

	Grading Period Dates
	Students Off Teachers Work

	Everyone Off/ Unpaid
	Everyone Off/ Paid Holiday

Regular School Calendar
School Board Approved Dec 10, 2019

SEE YOU ON August 10th!

Bloom Academy Founder's Square

42891 Lake Babcock Drive

Babcock Ranch, FL 33982

239.599.5405

Email: directorfs@bloompuntagorda.com

Babcock Neighborhood School Schedule

VPK SCHEDULE: Founder's Square Location

Babcock Neighborhood School
Regular School Calendar
2020-2021

Bloom is closed on the following days:

July 31st Teacher Work Day

September 7th Labor Day

November 26th Thanksgiving Day

November 27th Thanksgiving Day After

December 24th and 25th Christmas

Holiday December 31st New Year's Eve

January 1st New Year's Day

January 18th Teacher Work Day (MLK

Day) April 2nd Good Friday

May 31st Memorial Day

July 5th Independence Day (observed)

2020/2021	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Student Days	Teacher Days	Holiday/Day	
July 2020		6	7	8	9		13	July 4th: Independence Day	
		13	14	15	16			July 15th: First day for teachers	
		20	21	22	23				
		27	28	29	30				
		3	4	5	6	7			
August 2020		10	11	12	13		21	34	August 3rd: First day for students
		17	18	19	20	21			
		24	25	26	27	28			
		31							
September 2020			1	2	3	4	42	55	
		7	8	9	10	11			September 7th: Labor Day (no school for students)
		14	15	16	17	18			
		21	22	23	24	25			
		28	29	30					October 5 - October 9: FTE
October 2020				1	2		54	67	October 2nd: End of Quarter 1 (44 days)
		5	6	7	8	9			
		12	13	14	15	16			October 12th - 23rd: Fall Break (no school for students)
		19	20	21	22	23			
		26	27	28	29	30			
November 2020		2	3	4	5	6	73	86	
		9	10	11	12	13			
		16	17	18	19	20			
		23	24	25	26	27			November 26th - 27th: Thanksgiving Break (no school for students)
		30							
December 2020			1	2	3	4	87	100	
		7	8	9	10	11			
		14	15	16	17	18			December 18th: End of Quarter 2 (43 days)
		21	22	23	24	25			December 21st - January 1st: Winter Break (no school for students)
		28	29	30	31	1			
January 2021		4	5	6	7	8	106	119	
		11	12	13	14	15			
		18	19	20	21	22			January 18th: Martin Luther King Jr. Day (no school for students)
		25	26	27	28	29			
February 2021		1	2	3	4	5	125	138	
		8	9	10	11	12			February 8th - 12th: FTE
		15	16	17	18	19			February 15th: Presidents' Day (no school for students)
		22	23	24	25	26			
March 2021		1	2	3	4	5	138	151	
		8	9	10	11	12			March 5th: End of Quarter 3 (43 days)
		15	16	17	18	19			March 8th - 19th: Spring Break (no school for students)
		22	23	24	25	26			
		29	30	31					
April 2021				1	2		160	173	
		5	6	7	8	9			
		12	13	14	15	16			April 5th - 16th: FSA GR 4-10 ELA Writing, GR 3 ELA Reading
		19	20	21	22	23			
		26	27	28	29	30			
May 2021		3	4	5	6	7	180	194	
		10	11	12	13	14			May 3rd - 14th: FSA GR 4-6 ELA Reading, GR 3-6 Math
		17	18	19	20	21			May 3rd - 28th: FSA GR 7-10 ELA Reading, GR 7-8 Math, EOCs
		24	25	26	27	28			May 10th - 21st: NGSSS Grades 5 & 8 Science
									May 28th: End of Quarter 4 (50 days)
June 2021									May 28th: Last day of school for students
			1	2	3	4			June 1st - 2nd: Hurricane make up day
		7	8	9	10	11			
		14	15	16	17	18			
		21	22	23	24	25			
	28	29	30	31	32				
Teachers/Students no school									
First/Last day for students									
Hurricane make up days									
Paid teacher holidays									
First day for teachers									

SEE YOU ON AUGUST 3rd!

What do kids really need to know for kindergarten?!?

Preparing Your Child for Kindergarten

Let's face it: Kindergarten isn't what it used to be. Right or wrong, it is the world we live in. The following list is intended to help prepare your child in a variety of developmental areas to make the transition into kindergarten as smooth as possible. Believe it or not, just 15-20 minutes of playing and learning with your child can make a world of difference!

Social/Emotional Development

- Encourage your child to persist in tasks when encountering a problem by giving him tasks slightly above his current ability level. When your child cannot find a solution on his own, encourage him to calmly ask for help.
- Play board games to practice taking turns.
- Set up several play dates with friends of various ages.
- Allow your child to stay with other trusted adults for a few hours at a time prior to kindergarten (especially if she has rarely been in the care of someone other than mom and dad).
- Tell your child you expect her to clean up after play. You could implement a ransom box for toys left out like this one:
www.madsmemories.blogspot.com/2009/08/moms-ransom-rubbage.html

Language Development

- Verbally give your child specific one-step and two-step directions and encourage him to follow through.
- Read to your child for a combined total of at least 20 minutes each day.
- While reading, point out how to hold a book (right-side up with the spine on the left) and the orientation in which we read the words and look at the pictures (left to right).
- After reading, ask your child what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story.
- Give your child plenty of opportunities to draw (without coloring books). Ask her to draw the things she sees around her.
- Teach your child the uppercase and lowercase letters and, most importantly, the sounds each letter makes through play and games. Need some ideas? Go here:
www.icanteachmychild.com/alphabet

Cognitive Development

- Have your child help you sort items according to color, size, and shape (laundry, blocks, silverware, toys, and other household items work well).
- Teach your child to make various patterns (red, blue, red, blue). Garage sale dot stickers or craft pom-poms are great for this purpose.
- Practice counting aloud to 20 while driving in the car.

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- Teach your child numerals 1-10. Need some suggestions on how to do this: Go here: www.icanteachmychild.com/numbers
- Count objects in your home. Have your child point to each object as she counts.
- Go on a shape hunt. Point out circles, triangles, squares, and rectangles to your child while you are taking or walk or grocery shopping.
- Talk about positional and directional concepts like up/down, over/under, in/out, behind/in front of, top/bottom, beside/between, off/on, stop/go.
- Talk about opposite words (big/little, empty/full, slow/fast).

Physical Development (Gross & Fine Motor)

- Give your child plenty of opportunities for outdoor play: running, jumping, and climbing.
- Play catch on a regular basis.
- Practice skipping.
- Stack blocks together.
- Let your child use child-safe scissors to cut out a variety of shapes.
- Teach your child to write his name (capital for the first letter and lowercase for the remaining letters). To start, write his name using a highlighter and encourage him to trace over it. Be sure that he forms the letters from the top to the bottom.
- Ensure your child is holding her pencil correctly:
www.icanteachmychild.com/2012/06/correct-pencil-grip/
- Play with playdough regularly. Roll, squish, stamp, and even cut it!
- Encourage your child to cut out various shapes using child-safe scissors.
- String large beads to make a necklace.
- Play with an interlocking puzzle together.

Creative Arts

- Always encourage pretend play...occasionally join your child in his fantasy world.
- Teach your child to recognize the following colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, black, white, brown, and pink. For help, go to:
www.icanteachmychild.com/colors
- Use a variety of materials to let your child paint, draw and explore!

This list was created based upon the following:

<http://www.icanteachmychild.com/2012/03/71-things-your-child-needs-to-know-before-kindergarten/>