



2021-2022
Deeper Root
Academy
Handbook

Deeper Root Academy is a private Christian-based School and subsidiary of Phoenix Tree Educational Foundation, Inc. We offer classes for Infant/Toddler, Preschool and Kindergarten through 8th Grade. The academy provides character education with an emphasis on multiple intelligences. Our school focuses on academic achievement with attention to how children are smart rather than how smart children are.

The vision of Deeper Root Academy is to provide business and educational excellence by serving our clients and community with compassion, commitment, and character. The educational focus is based on the study of Howard Gardner's theory of Multiple Intelligence. At the core of this theory is the recognition that people think and learn differently, and that intelligence can be expressed in a multitude of ways. This approach differs from the traditional education provided in public, and private schools in Florida. Using the Common Core State Standards and Nationwide benchmarks, our teaching will incorporate each of the eight major intellectual domains defined by Dr. Gardner and provide opportunities for each student to use his or her unique intelligence to understand the subject matter.

In addition, we help students understand their strengths and challenges using Multiple Intelligence as a tool. Students learn to use strengths to acquire new information and work on more fully developing their knowledge in areas that are a challenge for them. Our Christian values and character education will also foster the sound qualities that should be at the core of humanity. We seek to rule out any chance of failure and teach our students to embrace their God-given abilities and talents in order to develop their understanding of how they can positively impact our world. This opportunity is extended to those who qualify for scholarship-based on academic or developmental needs as well as provide scholarship opportunities for those who may not otherwise be able to afford to receive this type of quality education.

We recognize the need for a nurturing environment where children are treated as individuals. We understand that each child is different, and we look for ways to allow each one to become who God intends them to be. It is our goal to provide a comfortable and safe place where each child is encouraged to learn and grow.

ENTRANCE POLICY:

No child will be refused admission to Deeper Root Academy for reason of race, religion, color or creed.

Parents will receive a notification letter after all enrollment forms have been submitted and reviewed. Please allow 5-7 business days to be notified if your child has been enrolled or placed on our waiting list.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

School Dates: August 9, 2021 – May 25, 2022

School Hours: Monday – Friday 8:15am – 3:15 pm; Wednesday Early Release 2:15 pm

Optional Before School Care: 7:00am – 8:15am and After Owl Care 3:15pm – 6:00pm

Infant/Toddler and Preschool have a slightly different schedule. Please see information provided for details.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

School Dates: August 9, 2021 – May 25, 2022

School Hours: Monday – Friday 8:15 am – 3:15 pm; Wednesday Early Release 2:00 pm

Infant/Toddler and Preschool have a slightly different schedule. Please see information provided for details.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

It is expected that students will attend school regularly and arrive on time to benefit from the learning experience. If your child is absent from school, it may be excused if it is for the following reasons (samples):

- Medical appointments
- Counseling
- Legal appointments
- Funeral of family member or closely related friend (school may request proof)
- Family emergency (school may determine if valid)

Students should not be absent more than 10 days within a three month period (marking period). This includes absences that result from tardies. If attendance guidelines are exceeded, a parent/teacher conference will be requested by the director.

Our Infant/Toddler and Preschool students may arrive as early as 7:00AM and may remain in care until 6PM. Students in Pre-K are to be escorted and signed in by a parent/guardian to their classroom no later than 8:30AM each morning. Students will be considered tardy if they are not in place by 8:30AM. If a student arrives after 8:30 AM, parents should escort the student to the office to receive a tardy slip. Students will be escorted to class by a staff member. Parents should understand that Deeper Root's attendance policy states that five (5) tardies are equivalent to one (1) day absent. A student may not exceed more than 10 absences (resulting from tardies or absences) in a marking period. The "tardy count" is reset every nine weeks.

Students in grades K-8, are to report to the cafeteria by 8:00 in the morning to participate in the breakfast program. Each classroom teacher will have their own table designated for their students and the teacher will pick students up from the cafeteria at 8:15AM each morning. Students will be considered tardy if they are not in class by 8:30AM. If a student arrives after 8:15 AM and their class has already left the area, parents should ensure the student is in class by 8:30AM. If arrival is after 8:30AM, students must be escorted by a parent/guardian to the office to receive a tardy slip. Students will then be escorted to class by a member of the office staff. Parents should understand that Deeper Root's attendance policy states that five (5) tardies are equivalent to one (1) day absent. A student may not exceed more than 10 absences (resulting from tardies or absences) in a marking period. The "tardy count" is reset every nine weeks. The "tardy count" is reset every nine weeks.

DROP OFF POLICY:

- Kindergarten – 8th grade students should arrive no later than 8:15 am; classes begin promptly at 8:30AM.
- Check-in with a Parent/Guardian is **required after 8:30 AM** (Tardy pass needed); 5 tardies = 1 unexcused absence. Tardy passes are issued after checking in at the school office.
- Parents of Infant/Toddler and Pre-K students, please park in designated area and walk your child into the building. This is optional for all other grades as they can be dropped off at the designated sidewalk entrance. If inclement weather, **ALL students please use the covered sidewalk.**
- If possible, please give the school a courtesy call if your child will be absent or arriving late.
- Extended day services are available from 7:00am – 8:00am and 3:15pm – 6:00pm.
- Students arriving before 8:00AM and not enrolled in Before Care, will be charged \$5 per day of service and encouraged to enroll in the before school care program. Students not picked up by 3:30pm or 2:30pm on Wednesdays and not enrolled in the after-school program will be charged \$10 per day of service and encouraged to enroll in After Owl Care.

PICK UP POLICY:

- The School office hours are from 8:00am-4:00pm.
- If your child is not enrolled in aftercare and is not picked up by 3:30pm or 2:30pm on Wednesdays (dismissal is 3:15 or 2:15 on Wednesdays), you will be charged an extended care fee of \$10 each incident for after care services and encouraged to enroll in the after-school enrichment program.
- NO CHILD WILL BE RELEASED TO ANY PERSON NOT ON THE AUTHORIZED PICK-UP LIST AND WHO FAILS TO SHOW PROPER PICTURE IDENTIFICATION.
- Additional pick-up persons must be added in writing and signed by the parent or legal guardian, verbal authorization is not acceptable. Written notices must be submitted to the front office. Be sure to notify us of any changes in advance.
- No child will be released to a minor (persons under 18 years of age).

AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT POLICY:

- The after-school enrichment program closes promptly at 6:00pm
- Please contact the school if you are going to be late. A late fee of \$1 per minute will be charged for every minute past 6:00pm. Late fees are billed directly to the account.

PAYMENT POLICY:

One of our primary goals this year at Deeper Root Academy is to concentrate our efforts on improving the *business side* of our school. By taking advantage of the security and convenience of payment processing and information technology offered by FACTS, we remain committed to this goal. You will realize these benefits by using FACTS for your tuition payment plan:

1. **Payment Dates:** You may choose either the 5th or the 20th of each month as your payment date. Automatic payments can be made from a checking or savings account or from a variety of credit cards, if applicable
2. **Convenience & Security:** Along with multiple payment plan options, your payments are processed securely through a bank-to-bank transaction.
3. **Peace of Mind Insurance:** FACTS offers this optional benefit for only \$20 per year per family. In the event of death of the Responsible Party or spouse, the remaining tuition balance owed for the current school year is paid to the school.
4. **Consumer Account:** You may check your personal account or make payments online from the convenience of your home or office anytime.

FEES:

2021-2022 Fee Schedule

*New Student Application Fee (1st time enrollment) \$100.00 **Non-Refundable**

Infant/Toddler (6 weeks – 23 months)	Preschool (2yrs. – 4yrs.)	Kindergarten-8th
Registration \$100.00 Non-Refundable	Registration \$100.00 Non-Refundable	Registration \$100.00 Non-Refundable
Tuition \$8,640	Tuition \$6,960.00	Tuition \$7,500.00

**2021-2022 Annual Activity Fees
Non-Refundable**

Infant/Toddler - \$60.00	Kindergarten – 2 nd grade - \$234.00
Preschool - \$170.00	3 rd – 8 th grade - \$294.00

- Before school care - \$15/wk After school enrichment program \$35/wk
****for Kindergarten thru 8th grade students only****

Scholarship Opportunities:

Step Up For Students

Step Up For Students offers five scholarships in Florida for students who are five years old and entering Kindergarten through 12th grades, with the exception of the Gardiner Scholarship that includes preschool age students with special needs. Below is a brief description of each scholarship:

- The **Florida Tax Credit Scholarship** and the **Family Empowerment Scholarship** are based on **financial need**. Both scholarships allow parents to find new learning environments for their children.
- The **Gardiner Scholarship** allows parents to personalize the education of their pre-K-12 children with **certain special needs** by directing money toward a combination of approved programs and providers.
- The **Hope Scholarship** allows parents of children in public school to find a new learning environment for their **child who is being bullied or a victim of violence**.
- The **Reading Scholarship Accounts** program allows parents with children in **public school** to access services for their children in grades three through five **who are having trouble reading**.

McKay Scholarship

The McKay Scholarships for Students with Disabilities Program, originally created in 1999, provides scholarships for eligible students with disabilities to attend an eligible public or private school of their choice. Any parent of a public-school student with a disability who has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 accommodation plan may receive a McKay Scholarship if the student meets specific requirements.

AAA Scholarship

Families with children struggling in their current school and cannot afford to put them into a good private school, this scholarship is here to help! They have state-approved scholarships to help pay for tuition, books, and fees at private k-12 schools for income-eligible students.

Child Care Aware

Child Care Aware of America is a non-profit program designed to help families, including military families, who need help with childcare. The agency provides referrals, tools, and resources nationwide.

Deeper Root Academy participates with all eight of these scholarships to assist families who desire to apply to our programs.

Deeper Root Academy (DRA) Scholarship

Deeper Root Academy is our “in house” scholarship program for families who need financial assistance and do not otherwise qualify for any of the other scholarship programs we currently participate with. We currently offer over \$50,000 each year for students from infant/toddler through 8th grades that apply and demonstrate financial need. It is our goal to continue to give the gift of D.R.A. and rely on the generosity of our partners and community.

WITHDRAWAL POLICY:

WITHDRAWAL BEFORE CLASSES BEGIN

- All Enrollment Fees (New Student Application, Annual Enrollment, and Activity Fees) are **Non-Refundable**. The Enrollment Process requires these fees for processing the applications, assigning licenses for instructional support platforms, supply/material/curriculum purchases, etc. Please see a detailed breakdown of costs on the Admissions Page. If a family/parent chooses to not move forward with enrollment before the enrollment process is initiated (email notification received), fees may be refunded. However, once the enrollment process has been initiated and/or supplies, materials, and curriculum are purchased, refunds of the enrollment fees **will not** be granted.

WITHDRAWAL OR ABSENCE FOR MEDICAL AND HARDSHIP REASONS

- 50% of the unused annual tuition balance may be waived, provided the student's injury, sickness, mental health, or financial hardship forces the student to withdraw from school or medical absence lasts for 31 or more consecutive days. Documentation will be required.

WITHDRAWAL FOR OTHER THAN MEDICAL REASONS

(Examples include relocation, change of objective, and voluntary withdrawals.)

- 25% of the annual tuition balance may be waived, provided the student has withdrawn from school after attending more than fourteen consecutive calendar days beginning with the student's first-class day of attendance in the academic year. A two week notice in writing is required and the full remaining balance will be due upon its receipt to the Administration. *Failure to withdraw without providing notice will result in the remaining balance being due immediately. Student records will not be released until all financial obligations have been satisfied.*

*If it becomes necessary for your child to take a leave of absence, tuition must continue to be paid to reserve his/her place in the class.

DISMISSAL FROM THE SCHOOL

- Deeper Root Academy reserves the right to dismiss any student at any time in accordance with the discipline policy and/or unresolved delinquency of Financial Agreement.

VISITORS:

- If you would like to observe your child's class, we encourage you to do so. However, this will have to be done remotely to minimize disruptions. Please schedule a time with the director. Any parent or visitor who arrives between the hours of 8:00am and 4:00pm will be required to sign in at the Front Office. This is a precautionary measure to keep your children and our staff as safe as possible.

LOST & FOUND:

- Please label your child's bags, jackets, lunch boxes, and any other personal belongings with a permanent marker.
- Deeper Root Academy staff will do our best to make sure your child is responsible for his/her personal items. All unclaimed items will be placed in lost and found for a two-week period. After which, any remaining items will be donated.
- Students are not allowed to bring personal toys from home. Deeper Root Academy Staff will not be responsible for damage or loss of these items.

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION:

- Parents and teachers will communicate through Daily Binders completed by the teacher and sent home with your child's belongings. We will also utilize the Parent Portal and emails to ensure proper documentation of contact.
- Please address any concerns you have with your child's teacher through a written request. This may result in a scheduled parent/teacher conference. During pick-up and drop off, it is not appropriate to discuss specific student information.
- During the school day, you may leave messages for your child's teacher through the office or through email. Please be advised that teachers will be able to return calls and emails after the school day ends. Please refrain from texting to minimize distractions during instructional time.
- If it becomes necessary to meet with the teacher or director to discuss major concerns, please make an appointment either through the school office or by contacting the teacher directly.
- Updates and other school and class related information can also be accessed online through the Parent Portal, website, and Remind 101 System.

HOLIDAY/VACATION SCHEDULES:

******Kindergarten – 8th grades Only******

- August 6, 2021 Meet the Teacher
- August 9, 2021 First Day of School
- September 6, 2021 Labor Day **(No School)**
- October 7, 2021 End of 1st Marking Period
- October 8, 2021 Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
- October 11, 2021 Begin 2nd Marking Period
- October 29, 2021 **Student Holiday/Teacher Non-Workday**
- November 22-26, 2021 Thanksgiving Holiday **(No School) *Camp Optional***
- December 20 – 31, 2021 Winter Break **(No School) * 1 week Camp Optional***
- January 3, 2022 Teachers Workday/Student Holiday
- January 4, 2022 Begin 3rd Marking Period
- January 17, 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday **(No School)**
- February 21, 2022 Presidents Day **(No School)**
- March 10, 2022 End 3rd Marking Period
- March 11, 2022 Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
- March 14 – 18, 2022 - Spring Break **(No School) *Camp Optional***
- March 21, 2022 Begin 4th Marking Period
- April 15, 2022 – Good Friday Observance **(No School)**
- May 25, 2022 Last day of school - End of 4th Marking Period
- May 26-27, 2022 Teacher Post Planning

******Infant/Toddler and Preschool Only******

- August 6, 2021 Meet the Teacher
- August 9, 2021 First Day of School
- September 7, 2021 Labor Day **(No School)**
- October 29, 2021 **Student Holiday/Teacher Non-Workday**
- November 25-26, 2021 Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 20 – 24, 2021 – Winter Break
- December 27 – 31, 2021 (Optional Vacation Week Mon.-Fri.)
- January 3, 2022 Teacher Workday/Student Holiday
- January 17, 2022 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday **(No School)**
- February 21, 2022 Presidents Day **(No School)**
- March 14 – 18, 2022 - Spring Break (Optional Vacation Week Mon. – Fri.)
- April 15, 2022 Good Friday Observance/School Holiday
- May 30, 2022 Memorial Day Holiday (Mon.) **(No School)**
- May 31, 2022 Begin Summer Session (Tues.)
- July 5 – 9, 2022 Summer Vacation Week **(school closed)**
- July 30, 2022 End of 12-month program

• If it becomes necessary for your child to take a leave of absence, tuition must continue to be paid in full to reserve his/her place in the class.

EMERGENCY CLOSINGS:

In the event of a natural disaster, such as a severe storm or hurricane, the Academy will follow Orange County School's guidelines and will close per their recommendations. Please listen to your radio or television for such announcements. It is unlikely that we will be able to contact each parent to notify of emergency closings. However, every effort will be made to make contact.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

We strongly believe in the importance of security and safety for all the children, parents, and staff at Deeper Root Academy. We have strict policies in place that must be followed to protect the children in our care. The building has security cameras around the exterior and throughout the interior of the building. There is also a security alarm monitoring system utilized daily. We make every effort for teachers in each classroom to have current First Aid and CPR certification and be familiar with proper medical emergency procedures. We strive to provide a safe environment by conducting safety audits, monthly emergency storm/fire drills, and teaching children safety rules. If a child does experience an injury, an accident report will be completed by the staff and signed by the parent/guardian. Despite our efforts, an emergency may arise. For this reason, Deeper Root Academy requires that parents/guardian's complete emergency contact information and sign a release for emergency medical treatment.

****Please see FAQ's for specific procedures/protocols in place for COVID-19****

EMERGENCY DRILLS & EVACUATIONS

Evacuation procedures for fire and other emergencies are practiced monthly to ensure our children are readily prepared in case of an actual emergency. Severe weather drills are also conducted every month. When severe weather is in the area, the director monitors weather reports, and alerts staff to be prepared to quickly move children to safety. Emergency procedures are posted in each classroom.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY AND ACTIVITIES

Our staff understands that our decision to open, close or delay school opening during inclement weather often disrupts family schedules. We also understand that our children are better served – academically, emotionally, and socially – by being in school. But, as always, our top priority is the safety of our children and staff, so the decision to close or delay opening is not an easy one. The process is complex and involves many people. Below is a list of activities that may be implemented when normal outdoor time is restricted:

- Music and Activity CDs
- Story Telling
- Indoor Board Games (Bean Bag Toss, Bowling, Four Corners, etc.)
- Floor Puzzles

VISITOR POLICY

All visitors must sign in and out of our visitor log located in the front entrance and state the purpose of their visit. To ensure the security of all involved, picture identification is required for all unfamiliar visitors. In addition, visitors are required to be accompanied by a staff member and are never to be left alone while in the center.

DISCIPLINE:

The goal of Deeper Root Academy is to provide an environment that encourages respect for others. We DO NOT participate in corporal punishment but rather a more positive approach to discipline. We encourage a strong relationship between parents, students, and teachers. We believe consistent communication with all parties is the key to discipline.

Disciplinary Action Policy

Classroom Discipline Plan

1. Positive Reinforcement
2. Redirection
3. Reflection Time/Self Evaluation
4. Removal of Privileges
5. Parent/Teacher conference requested.
6. Sent to Director's Office

Students who are repeatedly sent to the Director's Office for behavior correction will be required, along with the parent/guardian to adhere to a Behavior Management Plan.

Director Intervention Procedures

1. Written Warning requesting Director, Teacher, Parent conference to establish a Behavior Improvement Plan
2. In-School Suspension
3. Sent Home for 1 Day (*includes date of incident if sent home prior to 12:00pm*)
4. Sent Home for 3 Days
5. Expulsion

****Please refer to Student Code of Conduct for more specific information****

Preschool Behavioral Policy

Conscious Discipline

The heart of Quality Child Care Early Learning Center's Discipline Philosophy is to encourage self-control, self-esteem, and respect for all children and adults. For this reason, we are training our staff to implement the principles of "Conscious Discipline" by Dr. Becky Bailey. This program takes a different approach to traditional classroom management. It is based on the basic idea that developing discipline with children instead of applying discipline to them, will help them become more emotionally healthy and happy adults.

The program is designed to help teachers take everyday discipline issues and turn them into teachable moments that convey the importance of impulse control, anger management, and conflict resolution. Conscious Discipline gives children the tools to understand that their emotions are not only important and deserving of attention, but they are also controllable and the power to control them lies within the child. We are striving to teach children how to progress from physical or verbal aggression to calm self-regulation, how to make better choices with cooperation and compassion, and the importance of respecting and empathizing with others.

We would encourage you to check out the website www.consciousdiscipline.com to see how Dr. Bailey's brain research is changing the way we think about discipline and classroom management.

Discipline Philosophy

We believe that all domains of learning are supported during play and through strong, positive interactions with adults. Promoting healthy social and emotional development, including self-control, is one of the fundamental responsibilities of our program.

The preschool period is a critical time for children to learn to control their thoughts, feelings, attention, impulses, and behavior. They are learning how to get along with others and how to be a friend. Children are not born with these skills. Teachers and caregivers must teach social and emotional skills just as they teach washing hands or learning colors and shapes. We know that when children are given the opportunities and support to develop (learn, practice, discuss, etc.), self-control and other social and emotional skills, it gives them the foundation needed for academic and life success.

When any child in our program presents with challenging behavior, teaching staff shall follow the standards of the [National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\)](http://naeyc.org):

- Observe the children, and then identify events, activities, interactions and other factors that predict and may contribute to challenging behavior.
- Rather than focus only on eliminating the behavior, teaching staff shall focus on teaching the child social, communication, and emotional regulation skills and using environmental modifications, activity modifications, adult or peer support and other teaching strategies to support the child's appropriate behavior.

- Teaching staff shall respond to challenging behavior, including physical aggression, in a manner that provides for the safety of the child and the safety of others in the classroom. Our response will be calm, respectful and provide the child with information on what is acceptable behavior and what is not.
- We will document the challenging behaviors and the intervention methods that were attempted in a behavior tracking log.
- Teacher-parent discussions regarding a child's behavior shall be held in private and shall focus on working as a team to develop and implement an individualized plan that supports the child's inclusion and success.
- If necessary, intervention shall ensure each child has access to professional services, such as referrals to the educational cooperative behavioral specialist and/or local programs.

WE SUPPORT THIS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH:

Our Environment

- We provide children with interesting materials and engage them in activities that are appropriate for their age to keep them focused and attentive.
- We develop schedules that meet the needs of young children by avoiding long periods of wait time without activity.
- Our schedule is flexible enough to follow the children's interests as well as their cognitive, physical, and biological needs. We do our best to not let any child get bored or disinterested.

Our Teachers

- We work to develop a relationship with each individual child, including those needing higher levels of support.
- Teachers always speak to children in a calm tone, especially during redirections.
- We help children put words to their emotions. (For example, "Billy, I can tell you were mad when James took your block.")
- We use stories about young children in social situations to teach healthy social skills.

Our Families

- Communicate regularly with staff to ensure consistency in guidance between home and school.
- Partner with us and allow us time to work with all children, including those needing higher levels of support.
- Understand and acknowledge that we do not expel children as they are learning these skills. We strive to serve individual needs while ensuring the safety of young children.
- To best serve children, we may need to partner with social and emotional experts to help give a child the best foundation for academic and life success.

Our Children

- We ask parents to communicate regularly with staff to ensure consistency in guidance between home and school.
- Parents understand and acknowledge that we do not expel children as they are learning these skills. We strive to serve individual needs of each child, while ensuring the safety of young children.
- To best serve children, we may need to partner with social and emotional experts to help give a child the best foundation for academic and life success.

Discipline Procedures

We have found that behavior concerns usually indicate that a child needs more time, support, and practice to develop their social and emotional skills. When serious concerns arise, we will partner with parents and professionals who specialize in supporting children's social and emotional health.

When a child continues to be unable to control their actions, one method we use is called "safe place." When children are upset, angry, or being disruptive, they may be sent to or asked if they would like to go to the "safe place." This is a quiet spot in which they can allow themselves to take the time to relax, breathe, and try to get their emotions under control. Teachers will continue to watch children while they are in the "Safe Place" to make sure they are not hurting themselves or others. They will encourage the child to talk about their feelings and help with calming techniques so the child will be able to return to the classroom setting.

If a child is unable to use these calming techniques and continues to be disruptive, the teacher will then notify the office and the director will be called in to help the child. We might also reach out to parents so they can speak with the child and/or be notified of the circumstances.

If further guidance is required, actions taken will always be individualized, consistent, and appropriate to each child's level of understanding. **No physical punishment of any kind will be administered on our property. This policy restricts parents and staff from using physical punishment on their own children while on our property. In addition, staff may not yell at, shame, or humiliate a child in any way.** Our goal is to correct children's behavior in a way that will help mold and perfect a child's mental faculties or moral character. The terms "bad" or "naughty" shall not be used about a child.

The following steps will be completed when a child must be removed temporarily for challenging behaviors that constitute an imminent danger to the child or others:

- Make a referral to the agency responsible for early childhood special education services in the local area. If a child's behavior is such that it necessitates temporary removal on a repeated basis, there should be sufficient documentation for consideration of special education services.

- Maintain documentation on file of the outcomes of the incident, subsequent parent conference, and plan developed that includes appropriate intervention strategies. The purpose of the parent conference is to develop a plan jointly with the family and available resources, to address the specific behaviors which constitute an imminent danger (recurring violence, behavior, or aggression).

Biting

Biting is a normal part of early childhood development. Babies and toddlers bite for a variety of reasons, such as teething or exploring a new toy or object with their mouth ("mouthing"). As they begin to understand cause-and-effect, they also might bite a person to see if they can get a reaction.

Biting also can be a way for toddlers to get attention or express how they're feeling. Frustration, anger, and fear are strong emotions and toddlers lack the language skills to deal with them. So if they can't find the words they need quickly enough or can't articulate how they're feeling, they may resort to biting as a way of saying, "Pay attention to me!" or "I don't like that!"

Biting tends to occur most often between the first and second birthday. Biting is a normal part of early childhood development, however, biting that continues past two and a half to three years of age is not appropriate. Parents may be called to pick up their child from school and may be excluded for the day if he or she continuously exhibits this behavior past the age of two and a half. Please note that refunds/credits shall not be issued for days in which the child was sent home for behavior issues.

We reserve the right to dismiss any student whose behavior is an immediate threat to the safety of themselves, staff, or other students or is disruptive to the operation of the school.

BIRTHDAYS:

Birthdays are an exciting time, and we encourage birthday parties. If you wish to celebrate your child's birthday at school, please make arrangements with your child's teacher three (3) days in advance. We suggest you keep your snacks simple and individualized. Parents are encouraged to attend but are not required. The staff will NOT be responsible for distributing invitations to outside parties.

DAILY ACTIVITIES:

A daily schedule will be posted in each classroom and provided for parents.

- Schedules are subject to change periodically.

NUTRITIONAL PRACTICES:

Breakfast

Breakfast will be provided to all students. To participate in the Breakfast program, you **MUST** have a completed Lunch Application on file. Students must also arrive no later than 8:30AM.

Lunch

- Parents may *choose* to send their child to school with a complete cold lunch or have the school lunch that is provided in the tuition cost.
- If bringing lunch, it is the parent's responsibility to make sure the child arrives at school with a complete meal including drink and utensils needed for consumption.

Snacks

- Each classroom has a calendar each month for each student to participate in snack time. Snack is provided for all students enrolled in the after-school enrichment program and given during the Afterschool Enrichment time (3:15 – 6:00pm).

DRESS CODE:

- Uniforms are **REQUIRED** for all students.

Tops

-White, Black, Green, and Gold Polo.

-All tops must be purchased from AMS Uniforms.

-All blazers/sweaters must have school monogram and be purchased from AMS Uniform Gallery.

Oxfords or polo shirts worn under embroidered sweater vests or jumpers do not have to be embroidered.

-Tops need to be neatly tucked into bottoms.

Bottoms

-Khaki, black, plaid (girl skorts)

-Skorts, skirts, shorts, pants

-All bottoms must be longer than the tips of your fingers when hands are placed at your sides.

All jumpers must be embroidered.

-Girls wearing skirts *must* wear shorts underneath.

Belts-Black, Brown

Shoes

-Black or Brown preferred or Sneakers (must be closed-toe)

All should have non-marking soles. No brightly colored writing or laces.

*Dress shoes are required for chapel

Socks

-White/Black/Brown/Green

Single color socks may be worn in a style appropriate for the shoes being worn.

Undershirts-White

Boys may wear all white undershirts.

In colder weather, all-white long-sleeved shirts or turtle necks may be worn underneath monogrammed shirts.

Sweaters, vests, jackets, blazers and pullovers should reflect school colors.

Approved attire can be purchased at:

AMS Uniform Gallery

7439 W. Colonial Drive

Orlando, FL 32818

All boys/ girls attire and accessories available, including embroidery.

HEALTH/MEDICATIONS/SICK POLICY:

- NO Medications will be dispensed by the Academy Staff. Please make arrangements to administer your child's medication before or after school. If there are special circumstances, please communicate this to the school director.
- If your child becomes ill while in our care, you will be notified immediately.
- Any child with an elevated temperature over 100 degrees must be picked up immediately.
- Any child suspected of having measles, pink eye, chicken pox, lice COVID-19 or any other contagious, communicable or infectious disease or virus which includes vomiting, or 2 incidents of diarrhea MUST BE PICKED UP IMMEDIATELY.
- Children sent home with above mentioned symptoms must present a doctor's note or be free from all symptoms for 24 hours to be readmitted. (48 Hours for Strep Throat). We enforce CDC protocols for suspected and confirmed COVID-19 virus.
- NO CHILD WILL BE ADMITTED WITH A FEVER.
- In the event of a minor injury, an incident report will be completed for your signature when you Pick-up your child. If a serious injury occurs, parents will be notified immediately.

Thank you for choosing Deeper Root Academy for the care and education of your precious child. We count it as a blessing and a privilege to be able to serve you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact our Director, Dr. Angela Kennedy. We believe and pray that your child's experience at Deeper Root Academy will exceed your expectations.