

Welcome to Lakeside Preparatory!



Lakeside Preparatory is a unique program designed to grow young minds in more ways than one!

My name is Julie Belk and I am a National Board Certified teacher with over 26 years experience. I taught children with special needs for over six years, Kindergarten in the public school system for eight years and have had my own learning program since then. I have also been a multi-age tutor for 20 years. I truly love every student that comes through my program and I treat them as if they are my own.



I have been with my high school sweetheart for 32 years and married for 26 years. We are both born and raised in the Charlotte/Huntersville area.

We have three children; Lauren 21, Alli 11 and Bryson 9.

Lauren will be a senior in college this year at Elon near Burlington and will graduate in December. Alli and Bryson are rising 6th graders and will attend Bailey Middle.

Lakeside Preparatory provides a fun-filled, hands on learning experience which will ultimately help prepare children for school. The focus is on academic achievement, strengthening fine and gross motor skills as well as building confidence with social awareness. Children will benefit from a combination of whole group activities and small group interactions. Attention will be given to individual strengths and weaknesses which will allow for differentiated instruction. Periodic assessments will be given to track monthly and yearly progress. This program is designed to provide individual tutoring in a collaborative learning environment. Children benefit from learning through play and social interactions such as music & movement, games, stories and role play. These activities are used to incorporate imaginative play as well as allow physical fitness. All activities are developmentally appropriate and set in a nurturing, but structured environment.

The 2021-2022 school year is from September 8th – May 26th.
School hours are Monday – Thursday 9:00-1:00. Drop off starts at 8:50 and pick up starts at 12:50. *Please visit the website for this year's schedule and calendar.



Age is just a number. I understand that children learn at different capacities, therefore I teach each child based on ability and not age.

My mission has always been to provide children with individualized instruction in a whole group setting. All activities and lessons are differentiated, meaning everyone doesn't participate in the same learning activities. Groups constantly change based on the skills being taught for each lesson. Because of the nature of my program, age of a child, personality, and strengths, children may participate in the program more than one year. Since each objective and lesson are differentiated, a child will never have the same learning experience in two consecutive years.

Below is an example of a typical day at Lakeside. Each day varies depending on Science/Social Studies/Spanish/Holidays/Show and Share, etc.

8:50-9:10 Arrival/Morning Work (blocks, math manipulatives, puzzles, coloring, tracing, copying, completing activity from previous day)

9:10-9:30 Whole Group Circle Time (welcome, songs, calendar, show and share, story, etc)

9:30-9:45 Whole Group Math Lesson (teacher instruction, games, movement, songs)

9:45-10:30 Small Group Rotations (3-5 differentiated learning groups based on skills taught. They consist of teacher led groups, independent/peer collaboration, free choice exploration and follow up of skills taught)

10:30 Snack *Parents send in boxes/bags of snacks to leave at school. Teachers will pass out the same snack to all children each day. Sometimes this is incorporated into centers.

10:40-10:50 Whole Group Literacy Lesson (story, games, songs, teacher instruction)

10:50-11:45 Small Group Rotations (3-5 differentiated learning groups based on skills taught. They consist of teacher led groups, independent/peer collaboration, free choice exploration and follow up of skills taught)

11:45-12:35 Lunch/ Recess (Whole Group)

12:35-12:50 Whole Group Circle Time to recap day

12:50-1:00 Pack up/Treasure box/Dismiss

*As the year progresses, the schedule changes based on learning achievements.

My program is designed to be integrated, so all children know each other and can have experiences with a variety of peers. We play, laugh, love each other and learn. Each year the enrollment varies. No matter the number of students I have had in the past, I am blessed to always have the same successful results. I want to make sure the children are safe, reaching their learning potential and love school! I don't have separated classrooms with a certain teacher. I am the lead teacher, but also have two amazing educator assistants that teach small groups and assist with the rotations, differentiated activities as well as help monitor lunch, etc. Here is a little bit about them.



My name is Jolie Laya. I was born in Philadelphia and grew up mostly in West Virginia. My passion for working with children led me to Fairmont State University where I received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Early Childhood Education and Child Development. I have had the pleasure of teaching in various preschool programs including Head Start, West Virginia University, Child Development Center and volunteering at Hope House. I also worked as a full time Nanny for two wonderful families. My husband's job brought us to North Carolina where we have enjoyed living for the past 13 years. After taking a break from teaching to stay at home with our two children 12 and 9, I am thrilled to be starting my fourth year at Lakeside Prep! I enjoy spending time with family and friends, practicing yoga, and cheering on the Philadelphia Eagles, and WV Mountaineers.



Hello Lakeside Preparatory families. I am Cindy Fernandez and I came to Lakeside with a childcare and education background. When my children were small I ran a home daycare closely monitored by the Canadian government. I cared for newborns to school aged children. Since coming to the US I was a teaching assistant/substitute teacher for CMS for thirteen years. I taught children in K-5th grade enrichment activities to increase their literacy skills. This is where I met Julie Belk who was teaching at the same school. When I retired, I really missed working with kids and delighted at the opportunity to work with Julie again. Learning should be fun at this age and that's why I love working at Lakeside. I'm looking forward to another wonderful year with your children.

Here is some information regarding the program, reminders and policies.

Extra Precautions

*Please see the “Precautions for Covid” tab for more information on extra measures we’re taking at school as well as a parent waiver and guidelines from the state.



Calendar: The school year is from September 8th – May 26th. The school days and times are Monday-Thursday 9:00-1:00. Drop off starts at 8:50. Dismissal will start at 12:50. If you will be dropping off/picking up late or early, please text to let me know. Please review the Lakeside Preparatory academic calendar for holidays, workdays and parent events. Please note that the calendar is similar to CMS, but not the same. Lakeside has fewer workdays and observances and does not have any early release days. We are also in session a week or so longer than some programs.

Inclement Weather: Lakeside Preparatory will follow the CMS inclement weather policy for the first two days of closing. We will **not** make up those days. We will monitor the weather forecasts and road/sidewalk conditions each day after. If the parking lot and sidewalks are clear and do not pose danger for children and families, then we will be open. If CMS is closed numerous consecutive days, then Lakeside Prep may add a make up day. I will communicate through texts to keep everyone informed.

Two years ago was the first time CMS closed due to hurricane threats. We were fortunate not to need to close, therefore we offered Open Days to families in need.

Tuition: Tuition is \$410 per month and due the first of the month. If the first falls on a weekend, then you may pay the following Monday. You may pay with Venmo, cash or check. Please make checks payable to Julie Belk or Julie Belk/Lakeside Preparatory. I have a tax ID number that I can provide to each family. This will also be written on receipt slips sent home monthly. Thank you!

Nightly Folder: Your child will be given a folder that will be used to send paperwork, notices, artwork, etc home. Please check and empty it each night and send back to school. After the first couple of months of school, each child will bring home a book to “read”/look at each night Mon-Wed. Please return each day to receive a new one.

*****Parents are asked to purchase a School Bag and Class Shirt *****

**Please visit the link below to order. There are also additional items if you're interested.*

*If you are a returning student,
you may use your bag and shirt from last year. Otherwise, you may purchase a new one.*

<https://lakesideprep.xgclt.com/>

School Bags: Each child will have a monogrammed Lakeside Preparatory school bag instead of a traditional back pack. These will be used daily and are the perfect size for the student planners.

School T shirts: Each child will have a Lakeside Preparatory shirt that will be worn for fun days, field trips and special events.



Snack/Lunch: Make sure your child brings a lunch box and drink/water each day. We will have a quick snack around 10:15 and lunch around 11:45ish. (see schedule) Parents will send in snacks each month as needed. I will store them at school and pass them out to everyone daily. If our snack supply gets low, I will send a text to request more. Some favorite snacks are: Goldfish, Cheez its, Cereal bars, Granola bars, Animal Crackers, Graham Crackers, Raisins, Ritz Crackers, Fruit, etc *If your child has a dairy/gluten allergy, please send in snack items/treats to keep at school.

Attire: Make sure your child wears comfortable play clothes and shoes. Please send in a change of clothes in a labeled Ziplock bag to keep at school.

Beach Towels: Please send in a labeled beach towel to keep at school all year. We will use these for outdoor picnics and activities. We will send them home periodically to wash.

Safety: The front door to the school will remain locked during the day. We have chimes to know when the front door opens. The back door (main entrance to the school) has a coded lock and doorbell camera.

Absences: If possible, please send a text or email if your child will be absent. If your child will be out for an extended time, tuition is still expected to be paid.

Sick Policy: If your child is not feeling well, has cold like symptoms, coughing (other than

allergy related), has a fever, etc. please do not send your child to school. Your child must be fever and symptom free for at least 24 hours without medication before returning to school. *If your child is diagnosed with the flu, they must be fever and symptom free for at least 48-72 hours before returning to school. Thank you for your cooperation.

Field trips: Hopefully our fieldtrips will be up and running this year! There will be a couple of driving field trips this year, one in the fall and one in the spring. For transportation and safety purposes, a parent or guardian is required to drive and attend. We may also participate in 1-2 community events or service projects. Details of these trips are being finalized and will be shared closer to the event. Please see the updated calendar

Class Parties: There are several times during the year, that we will have class parties and celebrations. Most of these will be in school, mostly children only celebrations. When we have parent involved class parties, I'll ask for parents to organize, volunteer stations or simply donate items. All are welcome to participate and contribute at anytime.

Birthdays: During our morning Circle Time, we will sing to the birthday child. If you'd like, you may come visit your child at lunch and bring a treat for the class. You may also send in a treat that morning for us to pass out at snack time. Some suggestions of treats are cookies, cookie cake, fruit, juice box, water bottles, etc. This will help with timeliness and clean up after. Please DO NOT bring cupcakes as they are pretty messy and take up our learning and play time with extra cleaning. Thank you for your cooperation!

Communication: You will receive texts 2-3 times a week with updates and pictures. I will also add this information to the Lakeside Preparatory Facebook page. I take LOTS of pictures throughout the year! Please sign the photo release consent form. It will be available at Open House or any time after.

Behavior: At Lakeside Preparatory, we play, laugh, love and learn. Fortunately, our days are so busy, that we haven't experienced behavior issues. However, if your child is disruptive to others, steps will be taken. I use a lot of positive redirection, natural transitions and consequences. Verbal communication with parents, texts and phone calls will be used to make sure we are all on the same page. If the negative behavior continues, other placement may be necessary.

Assessments and Student Progress: Students will be given informal assessments a few times a year (September, December/January and May). I will meet with each family during fall conferences in November to discuss the initial assessment as well as progress made to that point. I will continuously monitor progress and adjust instruction accordingly throughout the year. We will also meet at the end of the year to discuss progress, strengths and areas for improvement.

Supplies: I typically try to provide all of the materials that the students need throughout the year. However, parents are asked to send in the following items. There are a few extra items that we are requesting to help supplement the extra cleaning and disinfecting of the school.

- *1 box/bag per month (Cheez its, crackers, Goldfish, Dry Cereal)
- *1-2 packs of treasure box items per month (stickers, balls, pencils, etc)
- *2 boxes of tissues at the beginning of the year
- *2 cans Lysol Spray (or off brand)
- *2 containers Lysol Wipes (or off brand)
- *1 bottle of Natural/Essential Oil/Clorox Cleaner/Disinfectant
- *2 bottles of hand sanitizer
- *2 packs of baby wipes
- *One plastic pencil box (labeled)
- *One box of crayons
- *One box of washable markers
- *One box of colored pencils
- *One box of #2 regular size pencils (NOT jumbo please)
(Feel free to label your box and fill with supplies, except boxes of pencils)
- *1 white pillow case for our science lab coats

At Lakeside Preparatory, you will receive:

- *Developmentally appropriate activities that are fun and engaging
- *Small group learning stations
- *Individualized instruction based on each child's strengths and weaknesses
- *Beginning of the year individual assessment
- *One on one teacher conferences in the fall and spring
- *Daily Folder
- *Daily/Weekly texts, updates and pictures
- *Facebook posts and pictures about what we are learning
- *Personalized/Differentiated Learning
- *Parent Shows throughout the year (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring, End of Year)
- *Fieldtrips (Off and On Site)
- *Most importantly, genuine love and concern for your child

I have always offered an "open door" policy where parents are encouraged to ask questions and keep an ongoing dialogue of communication. I want to make sure we have a strong partnership to help your child be successful. I always provide opportunities for parents to be involved and build and classroom community. If you ever have any questions, please let me know.

Please visit www.lakesidekprep.com or the Lakeside Preparatory Facebook page for detailed information and updates. You can always call or text me at 704-577-0399. Thank you for trusting us with your child. We are looking forward to a fun year!

