



Marvelously Made™

THE SCHOOL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN



PARENT HANDBOOK

FARMHOUSE, COTTAGE, AND PRIMARY



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WHO WE ARE AND OUR PHILOSOPHY

Marvelously Made is a result of the professional passion and authentic respect for children that began brewing in the heart of its founder, Jennifer McCarville, over 30 years ago. The Marvelously Made Way (approach) values authentic learning and holds strongly to its dedication of respecting the developmental needs of children, with the first consideration being the individual emotional needs of each one. As a result, we offer children a Christ-centered, experienced-based, developmentally appropriate childhood education while honoring the biological process of human development that has been designed by God.

Influenced by the works of Lev Vygotsky, Jean Piaget, Eric Erickson, Howard Gardner, Friedrich Froebel, Maria Montessori, David Elkind, Bev Bos, Rudolf Steiner, and many others and considering the standards set by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) our school is a place that inspires children to try new things, explore possibilities and gain knowledge as they develop skills at their own pace. Through a balance of planned and emergent curriculum, our approach is experience-based and places emphasis on each child's learning needs.

Marvelously Made began in 2010 at Helotes Hills United Methodist Church. For the first four years of its operation, the school offered mixed-age preschool classes for children ages three through five years old. The school added Kindergarten in 2014, and in 2015, having outgrown the church facility, Marvelously Made relocated to its current location in Old Town Helotes and has now expanded to 8th grade.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to honor children and protect childhood by respecting each child's developmental needs and creating nurturing environments where children can explore, question, and learn the way God made them to.

VISION

To equip and inspire all to give children a childhood in which they thrive!

MOTTO



PHILOSOPHY

Our school embraces all children as unique and marvelously made by God. We know that children are active learners; therefore, we encourage each child to discover the world through hands-on, interactive learning and the richness of open-ended and authentic play. This creates a solid academic foundation and a love of learning for years to come. In this atmosphere of love and acceptance, children develop positive self-esteem and confidence, learn to take appropriate risks, embrace the mess, explore God's creation, and learn respect for their peers. Our underlying philosophy of sharing God's love provides support to our families and results in a community where we all work together to create this wonderful place for children to thrive.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Marvelously Made recognizes the Bible as the one true word of God and seeks to integrate a spiritual and Christian dimension in all areas of learning. Biblical principles are prevalent throughout the program. Within a Christian-values-oriented environment, the children hear New Testament and Old Testament stories, participate in daily prayer, and learn Bible songs.

"BODY AND SOUL; I AM MARVELOUSLY MADE!"

Psalms 139:14

OUR PROGRAM

CLASSES

At Marvelously Made, we offer classes for children three years old through eighth grade. Many of our classrooms are designed to be multi-age because we know through research and experience that not only do multi-age classrooms work, they work beautifully. Having a mix of ages, supported by teachers who meet each child's learning needs, in an experience-based environment where all children are given time, space, and support to build academic skills, emotional intelligence, and social skills is the only way to educate the whole child.

FARMHOUSE (Ages 3–5)

The Farmhouse is our preschool class. Children must be at least three years old by September 1 of the school year to attend the Farmhouse. We offer two class options for the Farmhouse children. A two-day class is offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and a three-day class is available Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. These classes are from 8:45 a.m.-11:45 p.m. This class typically maintains a 1:6 ratio and have approximately 34 children enrolled each day.

COTTAGE (Kindergarten)

The Cottage is our kindergarten class. Children must be at least five years old by September 1 of the school year and be developmentally ready for the challenges and tasks of kindergarten to attend the Cottage. This class typically maintains a 1:8 ratio and a maximum group size of 30 children with four teachers. The Cottage class meets Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m.-12 p.m.

PRIMARY (1st-3rd Grade)

The Primary is our program for children in their final stage of the early childhood years. This class typically maintains a ratio of 1:10 with a maximum enrollment of 60 children throughout. The Primary children are separated into smaller groups according to each child's developmental stage.

Groups are named accordingly:

Oaks – traditionally children in first grade

Maples – traditionally children in second grade

Willows – traditionally children in third grade

The Primary class meets Monday through Friday from 8:45 a.m. -12 p.m.

COLLECTIVE (4th–8th Grade)

The Collective is a unique educational option for children in 4th-8th grades. We call this approach a homeschool hybrid because parents and teachers collaborate to provide the children with a rich and well-rounded learning experience.

At school, we focus on the academic areas of history, geography, and science. The children also participate in nature studies, learn handwork skills, and create art at school. We focus on teamwork through a variety of experiments, Instant Challenges, and group games. As always, the children's social and emotional growth continues to be a focus throughout these formative years.

Parents are responsible for teaching their children math and language arts at home. We believe that, at this stage of development, providing children with an individualized curriculum in these academic areas (coupled with additional learning within a peer community supported by dedicated and passionate teachers) gives them an ideal education. We have researched many homeschool curriculums and are happy to help families choose a curriculum if they wish.

The class will typically maintain a ratio of 1:15 with the group having two teachers and up to 30 children. The Collective class meets Monday through Friday from 8:45am-12pm.

CLASSROOMS

Play truly is the work of childhood! We know that young children are active learners; therefore, we encourage each child to discover the world through hands-on, interactive learning and the richness of open-ended play. Each day our children enter classrooms that have been carefully prepared with "Invitations to Play," which are interesting, challenging, and thought-provoking. We want children to touch and interact with a wide variety of materials and experiences. Each day the children of Marvelously Made leave dirtier, happier, and smarter than they arrived!

INDOOR CLASSROOM

Our Indoor Classrooms are filled with kid-powered materials and lots of opportunities to create, build, and imagine. Our art areas offer children time to work with clay, tinker, bead, create collages, and use a wide variety of mediums to paint, draw, and color. Other indoor spaces also allow children opportunities to participate in table games, complete puzzles, and so much more!

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

Our outdoor environment is a classroom. Our Outdoor Classrooms reinforce our commitment to providing children with plenty of time in nature. Whether they are gardening, caring for and enjoying one of our many critters, engaging in experiments, painting, digging in the sand pit, swinging, watching Story Plays, looking for butterflies and lizards, cooking in the mud kitchen, or sitting for a spell and taking it all in, the children are going about the business of childhood and embracing new experiences each day. It is our desire to provide the children with engaging experiences and creative play opportunities while they enjoy time outside.

Children will play outside every day unless the temperature and/or chill factor is below freezing and deemed unbearable by the school administrators, the temperature and/or heat index is over 100 degrees, or there is lightning within 10 miles of the school. The school uses Spark

Lightning Detector (a feature of the WeatherBug website) to monitor storms and make decisions regarding outdoor activities. Children will remain indoors for 30 minutes after the last lightning strike. The administrative assistant will notify the staff of storms that require the children to be moved inside and when it is clear for the children to return outside.

Children should be brought to school in clothing that will enable them to play outside in the outdoor classrooms. No child is allowed to stay in the office or with another class during this time. If a child has been ill and needs to be kept indoors, it is necessary that the child be kept at home until he or she is able to participate in all the activities at school.

On occasion the children may take part in water activities. These activities may include water table play, sprinkler play, and/or wading pool play. Water play will take place on safe, non-slippery surfaces. Water equipment will be sanitized appropriately, and children will be well supervised during water play activities. If you do not want your child to take part in water activities, please notify the office of your request in writing.

CURRICULUM

Well-planned and aesthetically beautiful environments are paramount to a child's growth and development. Our teaching teams design the curriculum with a balanced focus on spiritual growth, the development of social skills and emotional competencies, motor skills, and academic skills to meet the unique needs and interests of the children we teach.

The curriculum is intended to nurture the child's growth independently and within the group. Activities are designed to be age-appropriate and developmentally challenging. Our day consists of both teacher-guided and child-initiated indoor and outdoor activities. Your child will be able to build relationships and develop appropriate academic and problem-solving skills. Our learning environments are designed to support each child's need for independence and exploration.

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT

Fostering a solid foundation of Christian development is an essential aspect of Marvelously Made's educational mission. Our commitment to nurturing our students' spiritual growth is rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ and the principles of love, compassion, and service. We aim to guide our students and families in understanding and embracing the values of faith, integrity, humility, and community.

Our curriculum integrates Old and New Testament biblical teachings, songs, and stories, allowing students to explore the timeless wisdom in the scriptures. We encourage thoughtful reflection, open dialogue, and critical thinking, empowering students to deepen their understanding of Christian beliefs and principles and how they relate to their lives.

We also provide opportunities for students to pray and perform acts of kindness that reflect Jesus's teachings.

As your children progress through their educational journey with us, we will strive to equip them with a deep understanding that God marvelously makes them and others, that we each have a responsibility to care for the earth and all things in it, and to equip them with tools to navigate

life's challenges with resilience and faith.

MATHEMATICS

Children explore math concepts outlined by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Building a solid foundation in number sense and operations is the primary goal in the early childhood years. We work to help children develop a strong fluidity and flexibility with numbers and a solid understanding of what numbers mean. We also provide the children with learning experiences in geometry, measurement, algebraic thinking, and data analysis and probability.

SCIENCE

At Marvelously Made, we are very intentional about nurturing children's eagerness and enthusiasm for learning through well planned environments and activities which are filled with science possibilities. Scientific learning is nurtured throughout the curriculum as children participate in science experiments, work with and care for our animals, spend time in the school garden, collect bugs, work with sand and water, mix and blend ingredients, and more. Teachers are nearby to help children expand their curiosities by asking them questions that promote deeper wonderings and facilitate the connection-building in their minds between their varied explorations.

ART

We know that people were born with an insatiable desire to create. We also know that within creative experiences, all areas of curriculum are intertwined. Art is a complex combination of science, math, language, motor, sensory, visual, social, and emotional learning. So, the children at Marvelously Made create art every. single. day. Not crafts (cut out by an adult and meant to produce one cookie-cutter product). Art! The children paint, sew, weave, bead, mold clay, watercolor, sculpt, collage, print, and more daily throughout the entire year. Children are exposed to many art mediums, tools, and explorations and can work on art each day.

HANDWORK

It is important to us that the children in our school are not only consumers in the world but they are also contributors. One of the ways we instill this in the children is through the learning and practicing of handwork skills. Different from art, handwork activities teach the children how to create something useful that did not exist before. Handwork experiences are provided for the children beginning at the Farmhouse and are built on throughout the years they spend at Marvelously Made.

LANGUAGE

Language development is nurtured through the sharing of age-appropriate stories and poems, finger plays, songs, story dictations, and other language-play experiences. Children are exposed to letters kinesthetically, visually, and verbally. In the Cottage (kindergarten) letters and language are reinforced through play, oral storytelling, share boards, story plays, and in other activities throughout the day. Children in the Primary class build a strong understanding of phonics through teacher-led instruction and are individually challenged as they build a solid foundation of language art skills. Language and literacy learning goals are aligned with the developmental milestones established by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

FIELD TRIPS

While school trips are not common at Marvelously Made, should the occasion arise, parents will be notified at least 48 hours in advance of any scheduled field trip and must sign a permission slip before their child will be permitted to attend the field trip. Field trips are taken with parent chaperones who assist with and transport the children. Parent volunteers are crucial to keeping our children safe on field trips. Without an adequate number of parent volunteers, field trips will be cancelled.

Field trip drivers must:

- Provide the office with proof of insurance that can be copied and kept in the office files.
- Grant permission to the office to run a criminal background check on him/her.
- Carry a mobile phone and provide the school office and classroom teacher with the telephone number of that phone where he/she can be reached; and
- Have a working fire extinguisher in the vehicle which is used to transport children.

All car seat laws will be enforced when children are traveling for school field trips. It is the responsibility of each parent to secure his/her child's car seat in the vehicle in which they will be transported the morning of a field trip.

All children and staff are required to wear a school T-shirt for identification on all field trips. Shirts are always available for purchase at rootandtwigstore.com.

STAFF

The school staff is crucial to the quality of our program. Our staff members come from a variety of educational backgrounds and experiences. Each teacher has been carefully chosen for his/her warmth and nurturing skills and dedication to providing excellent, early childhood programs within a Christian setting.

TRAINING

To provide the safest possible environment, our staff is CPR and First Aid certified. All teachers and staff participate in ongoing training to deepen their knowledge of child development and brain research and to remain alert to ever-changing educational research and trends.

BACKGROUND CHECKS

All employees, substitutes, and other individuals who are regularly or frequently present at Marvelously Made, provide direct care/supervision to children, or have unsupervised access to children in our care must undergo background checks before having contact with children at Marvelously Made.

SCHOOL OPERATIONS

BACKPACKS/BOOK BAGS

The school gives each child a tote to bring to and from school each day at the Back-to-School Parent Meeting prior to the first day of school. No other backpacks, bags, etc. are to be brought to school.

BATHROOM POLICIES

All children enrolled are expected to be toilet trained and should be independent in bathroom use.

If your Farmhouse child is still in the process of mastering training, you are required to notify the school, and he/she is required to wear a pull-up. You must also provide additional pull-ups for the school to keep on campus.

CALENDAR

Marvelously Made starts in September and runs through late May. The first day of school is the day after Labor Day of each year. School ends the Thursday before Memorial Day. Consult the annual school calendar for holidays and other days when school is closed. Calendars are provided at the Back-to-School Parent Meeting each August and there is an electronic calendar on the Parent Page of the school's website that has details about events and other important dates.

CHILDREN'S VISITING DAY

The Friday morning prior to school starting, the school will host a Children's Visiting Day. During this time, the children may visit the school to see the classrooms and meet the teachers. Due to space limitations, one parent can visit the school with their child(ren). Siblings are not allowed to attend.

HOURS OF OPERATION

The Farmhouse	8:45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.
The Cottage and Primary	8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

BACK TO SCHOOL PARENT MEETING

The Back-to-School Parent Meeting will occur the Thursday night before school starts.

CLOTHING

Marvelously Made is an exciting and active place for children to grow and learn! Your child's day will include outdoor activities and creative classroom experiences. No child should be concerned about soiling his/her clothes while participating in school activities. Please bring all children to school in comfortable, washable play clothes that parents don't mind getting stained or soiled. When visiting the school, adults should also dress for school activities and not worry about their clothes becoming soiled or stained.

One change of clothes (including underwear and socks – one extra pair of shoes is also encouraged) must be provided every day to allow children who have accidents or get clothing excessively soiled or wet an opportunity to change into dry clothes. Please place clothes in a wet bag clearly labeled with your child's name. All clothing and personal items should be labeled with your child's name. Parents are also encouraged to keep an additional change of clothing in their car so they can freshen their child's clothing if they are not going directly home after school.

Because children are highly active and some are still learning to navigate their environment, they need good, sturdy footwear that lets them run and play without fear or increased risk of tripping or falling. Therefore, we strongly encourage closed-toe shoes. We discourage sandals that are not secured to the foot or any shoe with a heel. At the Farmhouse, it is required that all footwear be either slip-on or have Velcro fastening so that children can independently put on and remove their shoes.

Please send your child with a sweater, jacket, or coat on cool mornings.

Clothing should be free from "pop-culture" references and pictures, including emojis and athletic teams (from local to professional). Children should not wear masks, costumes, or accessories to school. These items are not only difficult for children and teachers to keep up with throughout the day, but they also risk being lost or broken and can distract the child and his/her classmates at school. We require that items such as these be left in the parent's car rather than brought into the school or placed in a child's tote.

Clothing that is inappropriate or that promotes offensive messages is prohibited. The teacher may ask children to remove hoods, hats, caps, and visors when inside.

The judgment of Marvelously Made's faculty and staff prevails in determining the appropriateness of attire. If a child's attire does not meet the school's standards, faculty will speak with the child's parents about the need to respect and follow these policies.

DROP OFF

All classroom doors and gates will open at 8:45 a.m.

Classroom entries will be locked at 9:00 a.m. Any family arriving after this time must check in at the school office, and parents may be asked to walk their children to their classrooms. Any family who habitually arrives late will be contacted by the school to address the reasons and may be denied future entry after 9:00 a.m.

In the event the drop-off process takes longer because of school needs, etc. gates will remain open to accommodate those needs.

FARMHOUSE

Drop-off time is between 8:45 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

After arriving at the school, parents and children are to line up along Antonio Drive until the Farmhouse gates are opened. Upon entering the courtyard, your child should place his/her snack pail in the blue rack on the fence and place his/her tote in the tote room; and then a parent should help your child wash their hands. Once their hands are washed, the children will be greeted by a teacher at the classroom gate and welcomed into the Outdoor Classroom. Please do not leave until your child has been acknowledged by the teacher and is safely in the Outdoor Classroom. Only bring your child's provided tote and snack pail to school. A change of clothes, in a labeled wet bag, should be placed in his/her tote if necessary to replace one that has been sent home dirty.

COTTAGE

Drop-off time is between 8:45 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.

After arriving at the school, parents should enter the exterior gate on Antonio Drive and walk onto campus to wait at the Outdoor Classroom gate. A Cottage teacher will be at the classroom gate to greet you and welcome your child to school. Children will enter the classroom, put away their totes and snack pails, wash their hands, and then get to work outside. Once your child has entered the Outdoor Classroom, please exit.

Please send your child to school only with their provided tote and snack pail. If needed, place a change of clothes in his/her tote in a labeled wet bag to replace one sent home dirty.

PRIMARY

Drop-off time is promptly at 8:45 a.m. to help children get the most benefit from their work time. If you have children in multiple classes, we suggest dropping your Primary child off first.

An adult must accompany each child to the classroom daily. Do not drop children off in the street and allow them to run up to the doors. Park along the street or at First Baptist Church, then walk your child to the classroom. Safety must be everyone's first concern, so be INCREDIBLY careful walking along the driveway or in the parking lot. *Stay with your children and do not allow them to run in the parking lot.*

For everyone's safety, no one dropping off children may park in the parking lot of the Primary building. The only exception is for someone who is handicapped and needs access to the handicapped parking space at the front of the lot.

After arriving at the school, parents and children should gather in the mulched area outside the

classroom doors. Do not allow children to run or play in the parking lot.

Drop children off at their classroom door: #101 Oaks, #102 Maples, and #103 Willows, where they will begin their day. A teacher will be at the door to greet you and to signal to you when to say goodbye to your child. When prompted, say goodbye to your child from outside the building.

All children will put away their belongings and wash their hands prior to beginning their daily work.

Only send your child's provided school tote, snack pail, and reusable water bottle (Primary only) to school each day. You should include a fresh change of clothes, if necessary, to replace one that has been sent home dirty.

RELEASE

A teacher or staff member must sign out all children each day when they are picked up. Children will be released only to parents or legal guardians, or to those approved in writing by the parents or legal guardians. The names of these individuals should be provided to the school office at the time of enrolling or in writing via letter, note, or email during the school year. Children cannot be released to siblings younger than 16 years of age.

Under no circumstances may an adult pick up a child without authorization. In an *emergency*, a parent or legal guardian may call the school office to authorize pickup by phone or send an email authorization from the email address on file with the school office. Allowing phone authorization is at the discretion of the office staff and is grounded in deep concern for the safety of all children.

Marvelously Made has no legal authority to deny either parent the right to have custody of their child unless a court orders it and the school office has a copy of the judgment. Please have non-custodial parents arrange visitation pick-up/return around non-school hours.

During the first few weeks of school, the teachers are learning parent names and faces. For this reason, anyone picking up a child from school must bring a photo ID for the **first three weeks** of school and should expect a teacher or staff member to ask for it before releasing a child.

Children must be picked up within ten minutes after class ends. If a parent arrives more than ten minutes late, the parent must go to the office to pick up their child. A late fee of \$5.00 per five-minute segment will be assessed, and the family will be billed accordingly. Time is based on www.time.gov.

If the pick-up process takes longer because of school needs, etc., there will be no consequence for families waiting to pick up their children from school.

Please make all appointments, etc., at times which will not interfere with your child being at school and, in the event, this is impossible, we strongly request you keep your child home from school on those days.

FARMHOUSE

The pick-up time is 11:45 a.m. Parents/adults picking up are to line up along Antonio Drive. The front of the line starts to the right of the Antonio entrance gate and extends

towards the Little Free Library.

When signaled by the teacher(s), parents should enter the courtyard. The teachers will help your child to the gate and send him/her to you. Gather the child's tote and snack pail, then exit through the gate facing Old Bandera Road (by the chicken yard).

Check the courtyard wall for any artwork to gather on your way out.

COTTAGE

Pick-up time is 12:00 p.m. Parents should enter the exterior gate on Antonio Drive and walk onto campus to wait at the Outdoor Classroom gate. A member of the Marvelously Made staff will be at the classroom gate to greet you and will release your children one at a time.

PRIMARY

Pick-up time is 12:00 p.m. Park along the street or at the First Baptist Church and walk to the classroom. Parents are to gather in the mulch area outside the Indoor Classroom doors. A teacher will be at the door to greet you and will send your child to you when they are ready.

Safety must be everyone's first concern, so be INCREDIBLY careful walking along the driveway or in the parking lot. *Stay with your children, and do not allow them to run or play in the parking lot.*

For everyone's safety, no one picking up children may park in the parking lot of the Primary building. The only exception is for someone who is handicapped and needs access to the handicapped parking space at the front of the lot.

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Marvelously Made will be closed whenever NISD declares a late start or closing due to inclement weather (flooding, snow, ice).

If Marvelously Made needs to close for other reasons, parents will be notified via email and on Facebook. No refunds are given for days deemed necessary for school closure, and missed days will not be made up.

GENERAL POLICIES

ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT

APPLICATION PROCESS

At Marvelously Made, we offer classes based on children's ages as of September 1 of the corresponding school year. Children must be three years old as of September 1 to enroll in our Farmhouse classroom. Children who celebrate their third birthday during the current school year may not register for school until the following year. Exceptions to these policies are rare and will be made at the Executive Director's discretion.

Enrollment is ongoing throughout the year based on space availability. However, formal enrollment takes place each winter/spring for the next school year. In January, currently enrolled children will have the first opportunity for enrollment. Current Farmhouse three-day class children will enroll first to ensure a three-day class spot for the following year. The current Farmhouse two-day class children will enroll the following school day. All Cottage and Primary children will enroll on the same day. Alumni families will enroll after the currently enrolled families. In early February, enrollment will open to new families.

New families that wish to enroll must attend a tour, complete an application, and pay an application fee. You may complete these steps in any order. However, we encourage you to complete the online application and submit your non-refundable application fee as soon as you are able.

After your tour and receipt of the application, the school will either extend an invitation to enroll your child or notify you that the class you want is at capacity and that your family has been placed on the waitlist. We will email all enrollment forms, which must be completed and submitted within three business days to secure enrollment.

The waitlist includes families that have toured and applied, which indicates they are ready to enroll. If classes are full when a parent inquires about enrollment, we may place the child's name on the age-appropriate interest list in the order requests are received. We will notify families on the interest list when a tour is scheduled. As vacancies occur during the year, we will fill them from the waiting and interest list. Families on the waitlist will be given priority to enroll. We will call the next person on the waitlist as soon as space is available and give them an opportunity to notify us of their interest in enrolling before we offer the space to someone else. The interest and waiting list apply only to the current school year. The Executive Director will add, drop, or consolidate classes as needed based on available space.

PAYMENT POLICIES AND OBLIGATIONS

Marvelously Made is an independent, non-profit corporation. As such, it depends on fees, tuition, and fundraising to operate. All families pay tuition as well as an enrollment fee, a supply fee each year and the May installment of the coming year's tuition at the time of enrollment. We cannot guarantee a place in the school for your child unless you pay these fees or the first payment under your selected payment plan. All supply and enrollment fees are nonrefundable under any circumstance. Supply fees for a child who enrolls in January or later may be prorated at the Administrative Director's discretion. The enrollment fee is not subject to prorating.

Tuition costs are set yearly and are based on the class a child attends. Tuition may be paid in one, two, or nine installments. At enrollment, families sign an Enrollment and Parent Agreement and choose a payment plan. Tuition will be paid via auto draft on the first of the month to correspond with the chosen tuition payment plan. Parents are responsible for meeting the payment deadlines they choose upon enrollment. Any fees not received by the written deadlines imply the child's withdrawal from the school and may result in loss of enrollment. Please contact the school office if your family needs special consideration to meet a deadline, as we will work with families within our capabilities.

Tuition is based on the yearly calendar; we do not make adjustments for holidays. Because tuition is an annual fee and is built into the budget each year, no refunds are given for illness or family vacations. Families who withdraw a child during the school year are obligated to pay the full balance of annual tuition. However, reimbursement of pre-paid tuition and forgiveness of the remaining tuition obligation may be given when a minimum 30-day written notice is given to the school, the class is at capacity, and the school is able to immediately fill the spot from the waitlist.

Tuition must be paid on time. If monthly tuition payments are not paid by the fifth day of the month, a \$10.00 late fee will be assessed, and tuition must be paid immediately. An additional \$15 late fee will be assessed *each day* after the fifth day of the month for overdue tuition payments. Families who do not pay tuition on time and in full must withdraw their children from the school.

A tuition payment returned for insufficient funds will incur a \$30.00 returned payment fee and accrued late fees for the first incident. The second time tuition is returned for insufficient funds, a \$50.00 returned payment fee and accrued late fees will be assessed. In the event a third tuition payment is returned for insufficient funds, a \$100.00 returned payment fee and accrued late fees will be assessed. For the first and second instances, that month's tuition must be paid in cash. For the third instance, that month and all future tuition (or other) payments must be paid in cash.

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION & REPORTING

Marvelously Made intends to comply with the provisions of the laws and guidelines established by the State of Texas related to child abuse. Child abuse and neglect are against the law in Texas, and so is the failure to report it if it is suspected.

The safety and well-being of children is a genuine concern for educators and schools. Abuse of a child, whether through neglect or physical, emotional, verbal, sexual, or other actions, can cause physical and mental harm to that child and therefore will not be tolerated in any manner at Marvelously Made.

In accordance with state law and School policy, the school staff is obligated under penalty of law to report the reasonable suspicion of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or child neglect. In this profoundly serious and legally narrow area, there may be situations in which the school will not contact parents/guardians in advance of making a report to authorities, even though the school might normally provide such advance notice to parents/guardians in other legal matters. The clear intent of the law, based on the seriousness of the crimes listed above, is to mandate that a report of reasonable suspicion of abuse be made. This mandate protects students. A staff member with reasonable suspicion does not have any legal alternative except to make a report to the proper authorities for their review and investigation.

All employees of the school receive annual training on the identification and reporting of child abuse.

WARNING SIGNS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

As a parent, it is important for you to be aware of warning signs that could indicate a child may have been or is being sexually abused. Sexual abuse in the Texas Family Code is defined as any sexual conduct harmful to a child's mental, emotional, or physical welfare as well as a failure to make a reasonable effort to prevent sexual conduct with a child. Anyone who suspects that a child has been or may be abused or neglected has a legal responsibility, under state law, to report the suspected abuse or neglect to law enforcement or to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services.

Possible physical warning signs of sexual abuse could be difficulty sitting or walking, pain in the genital areas, and claims of stomachaches and headaches. Behavioral indicators may include verbal references or pretend games of sexual activity between adults and children, fear of being alone with adults of a particular gender, or sexually suggestive behavior. Emotional warning signs to be aware of include withdrawal, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, and problems in school. Children and adolescents who have experienced dating violence may show similar physical, behavioral, or emotional warning signs.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following websites might help you become more aware of child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, and other maltreatment of children:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): Preventing Child Abuse & Neglect
<https://www.cdc.gov/child-abuse-neglect/prevention>
- Child Welfare Information Gateway (U.S. Department of Health & Human Services)
Resources on risk factors, protective factors, and recognizing signs of abuse
<https://www.childwelfare.gov>
- KidsHealth: Child Abuse (For Parents)
Clear, parent-friendly articles on prevention, recognition, and response
<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/child-abuse.html>

REPORTING

All Marvelously Made personnel, including teachers, are required to comply with Marvelously Made's Child Abuse Prevention & Child Abuse Reporting Policy as laid out in the Employee Handbook, which includes definitions of child abuse and neglect as well as reporting requirements and guidelines for prevention.

In summary, any individual suspecting child abuse or neglect is expected to use the following procedure to report the child abuse and/or neglect:

1. Do not confront the suspected abuser or molester.
2. Report to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) or local law enforcement and let them investigate.
3. Maintain confidentiality. Information about suspected child abuse is only to be given out or discussed on a "need to know" basis and is not to be shared with fellow employees, parents, children, or anyone outside the school other than law enforcement.

Anyone who suspects a child has been abused or neglected is required to report it to TDFPS as soon as possible, but no later than 24 hours. Under state law, employees may not delegate this task or rely on another person to make the report. Therefore, the individual's report to the Executive Director does not excuse the employee from the requirement to make a report to TDFPS. The report can be made using the Texas Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline (1-800-252-5400) or online at www.txabusehotline.org

The report to TDFPS is confidential and not subject to public release. The law provides immunity from civil or criminal liability for innocent persons who report even unfounded suspicions, as long as the report is made in good faith. The reporting individual's identity is kept confidential.

Upon notification that a report of suspected child abuse/neglect has been made against any Marvelously Made personnel, that person will be removed from all contact with children at Marvelously Made and may be suspended from employment or further service pending further investigation with or without pay. The Executive Director will determine the action to be taken. The employment or services of any Marvelously Made personnel convicted of, or otherwise found to have committed, an act of child abuse and/or neglect will be terminated immediately. Marvelously Made will inform the parent of a child immediately if there is an allegation that the child has been abused, neglected, or exploited.

In addition, if an individual has received information reflecting that any person who may regularly or periodically visit the school's campus (child, employee, parent, spouse of an employee, family member, volunteer, or contractor) has engaged in behavior that could constitute abuse, has been accused, arrested, or convicted of any type of potential abuse or sexual misconduct toward any other person, the individual must immediately report such information to the Executive Director.

INVESTIGATIONS

Marvelously Made and all Marvelously Made personnel must fully cooperate with all appropriate authorities and agencies in the investigation of any incident of suspected or alleged child abuse and/or neglect. Depending on the circumstances, Marvelously Made may not be able to communicate with parents about the report until the authorities authorize it. Marvelously Made asks for your understanding as we do our best to protect the children in our care.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

In general, we ask that you pray for our teachers and staff. Support them with kindness and a spirit of collaboration. Marvelously Made teachers and staff are dedicated to supporting and educating your children, helping them develop upright character and behavior. Please know we have reasons for all rules, and we strive to enforce them as consistently and fairly as possible. However, the following process applies when a complaint or concern arises:

1. Contact your child's teacher by email or call the school office to begin the communication process. Try to resolve the issue at the teacher level. Remember that it is counterproductive and disrespectful and that it can be destructive to discuss concerns regarding a teacher, staff member, or school policy with other parents, and please avoid doing so.

2. If the situation cannot be resolved at the teacher level, contact the Executive Director via email or by calling the school office. She will investigate the situation and may request a meeting with the child, parents, and staff member(s), as necessary.

This process does not apply to concerns regarding a child's health or safety. Raise such concerns with the Executive Director immediately.

LEGAL DISPUTES

It is disruptive to the school for a parent to involve the school (or any of its employees) in domestic legal disputes between the parents, for which the school often must pay for legal fees and costs associated with such issues. As such, any parent who involves Marvelously Made in a legal dispute agrees to promptly reimburse the school for all expenditures incurred by the school as a result of the parent's actions or seeking to involve the school in any domestic or other legal disputes, including, but not limited to: parental disagreements about their child's education, placement or retention; divorce proceedings; custody proceedings; and/or modifications of custody proceedings. Costs incurred for which a parent will be responsible may involve, but are not limited to: reasonable attorneys' fees/costs to prepare for and/or attend depositions, trials, or hearings; expert witness fees; communicate with the parent or parent's counsel, guardians ad litem or attorneys ad litem; respond to subpoenas; draft letters or motions; assemble or provide documentation in discovery; perform research; copy documents, provide records, engage substitute teachers or temporary employees, computerized research, and travel expense.

Parents should resolve any dispute about which parent owes which portion of the bill so the school can be reimbursed on time. A parent's failure to pay such fees/costs promptly may result in the child's dismissal from the school.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

PARENT/FAMILY COOPERATION

Marvelously Made welcomes and encourages parents to be involved in areas that support our school programs. All parents are expected to always lead in a manner consistent with the school's Christian principles and beliefs and encourage their children to do the same.

Throughout this handbook, the term "parent" includes a natural parent, adoptive parent, legal guardian, or person having legal authority for the child. "Parent" may also include an adult child who has reached the age of majority and who is not under legal guardianship.

Marvelously Made believes that a positive and constructive working relationship between Marvelously Made, each child, and all the child's parent(s)/legal guardian(s) is essential to accomplish Marvelously Made's education mission and responsibilities to its children. Accordingly, if, in the sole judgment and discretion of Marvelously Made, the child's, the parent's/legal guardian's, other family member's, or other adults associated with the child's behavior, communications, or interactions, on or off campus (including during

school- sponsored events and non-school related conduct), is disruptive, intimidating, or overly aggressive, or reflects a loss of confidence or serious disagreement with the school's policies, methods of instruction, or discipline, or otherwise interferes with Marvelously Made's safety procedures, responsibilities, or accomplishment of its educational and Christian purpose or program, Marvelously Made reserves the right to dismiss the child and any sibling of the child from the community without regard to circumstances of why, when and where such conduct occurs. In addition, Marvelously Made reserves the right to place restrictions on the child's, parent's, legal guardian's, or other family members' involvement or activity at school, presence on school property or at school-related events, and/or communication with and/or to Marvelously Made or any Marvelously Made employee, agent, or Board member if the child, parent, legal guardian, or other family member engages in behavior or has a status (such as a criminal conviction or arrest) that would, in the sole discretion of Marvelously Made, reasonably suggest that such restrictions may be appropriate for the community.

As part of this cooperative relationship, all families are expected to actively participate in school life. Families are expected to fulfill the Family Volunteer Commitment outlined below. Families are also expected to attend Parent Conferences, one Campus Clean Up Saturday per semester, and Parent Education Night as an essential part of the home-school partnership. Consistent participation in these responsibilities strengthens our partnership with parents, reinforces the mission of Marvelously Made, and supports every child in our community. Failure to meet parent participation expectations and/or fulfill volunteer commitments may affect a child's continued enrollment or eligibility for re-enrollment at Marvelously Made.

FAMILY VOLUNTEER COMMITMENT

Marvelously Made is a community made possible, in part, by the time and talents our families generously contribute. Parent volunteering helps support our teachers and classrooms, care for our campus, prepare materials, make special events possible, and accomplish many of the behind-the-scenes tasks that allow us to provide the Marvelously Made experience while keeping tuition more accessible for our families.

As part of enrollment at Marvelously Made, each family is expected to fulfill eight volunteer commitments during the school year—four during the fall semester and four during the spring semester. A variety of opportunities are available throughout the year, including year-long and quarterly roles, one-time projects and events, on-campus opportunities, and tasks that may be completed from home. Certain approved year-long volunteer positions fulfill a family's entire volunteer commitment for the school year.

Families will be asked to select volunteer opportunities that best fit their schedules, interests, and abilities. While every effort will be made to honor a family's preferences, volunteer assignments are based on the needs of the school and the availability of each opportunity. Families who do not select their volunteer commitments may be assigned where help is most needed.

The volunteer commitment is an expectation of every Marvelously Made family and an important part of the cooperative relationship between the school and parents. Families are responsible for completing their assigned commitments or communicating with the school when circumstances arise that affect their ability to do so. Failure to fulfill volunteer commitments may affect a child's continued enrollment or eligibility for re-enrollment at Marvelously Made.

Current volunteer opportunities, descriptions, and sign-up information are available on the Family Participation page of the Marvelously Made website.

CLASSROOM VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

Parents are welcome visitors to Marvelously Made! Marvelously Made thrives with the dedicated support of our classroom volunteers. Visitors may be asked to participate in classrooms by helping and cleaning. Those who give one day a week throughout the year to support the children and teachers in the classrooms help us better meet the children's needs and interests. We perform background checks on these "Parent Teachers," and they will receive training and support from the school.

Any parent who wishes to strictly observe in a classroom should request a meeting with the Executive Director to determine the possibility of accommodating the request.

FUNDRAISING

Throughout the year, there will be opportunities to participate in fundraising for the school. Money raised through fundraising will be used to meet yearly budgetary needs in a variety of ways, including adding equipment to classrooms and/or playgrounds, paying for teacher training, bringing resource visitors to the school, and building funds for the school's long-term needs.

We expect all families to support the school by participating in fundraising opportunities. Parent volunteers are crucial to the success of our fundraisers. If you can help with fundraising, please contact the office.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

Meetings and conferences help parents better understand their children's involvement in our program and give our teachers an opportunity to learn ways to support individual children as they learn. It is best NOT to discuss problems concerning your child in front of the child. Accordingly, we do not allow children to attend conferences.

We welcome parent-teacher conferences any time during the year. If you would like to schedule a conference with your child's teacher, please contact him/her directly via email or call the school office to arrange a time. Conferences are held during previously arranged times, not during drop-off or dismissal. The teacher's first responsibility is to her class.

If a child admitted to our school cannot benefit from our program, the Executive Director may hold a conference with the parents and require other arrangements for the child.

ANIMALS AT SCHOOL

FAMILY PETS

Occasionally, the school may invite children to bring a pet to show the class. If/when this happens, only pets that have proof of up-to-date vaccinations and written confirmation of good health from a veterinarian will be allowed to visit the school. For the health and safety of all children attending our programs, this is the only time family pets may be brought into the school.

If you allow or need your pet to travel with you to or from school, plan to leave him/her in the car and make appropriate weather-related accommodations. Pets not approved by school personnel MAY NOT be brought onto campus, on or off a leash.

However, Marvelously Made seeks to reasonably accommodate persons with disabilities who require the assistance of service animals, as appropriate. We will evaluate requests on a case-by-case basis, considering the individual's needs and the concerns of the Marvelously Made community. See the section titled Child Accommodation Requests for more information regarding this process.

PETS IN THE CLASSROOM

We have lots of pets at Marvelously Made! These pets are not limited to but usually include rabbits, pigs, goats, bearded dragons, alpacas, sheep, cats, snails, hermit crabs, rats, fire-bellied toads, a tarantula, a tortoise, chickens (which we hatched!), and betta fish. All pets are in good health and receive appropriate vaccinations and veterinary visits. We may add other pets to the school at any time. If your child has any allergies to any kind of pet or pet supplies, please let a teacher and the office staff know so we can support your child's safety and comfort at school.

BEE HIVES

Marvelously Made maintains beehives on campus as part of our science and nature exploration program. The hives provide children with a unique opportunity to learn about pollination, ecosystems, and the vital role bees play in God's creation.

For the safety of all children, the hives are in a secure area and are only accessed during supervised lessons led by trained professionals. When children are invited to interact with the hives up close, they will wear protective gear such as bee suits or veils to ensure their safety.

If your child has a known bee allergy, please document it on their enrollment forms and share it directly with the school office and classroom teachers so they can take appropriate precautions.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

It is the policy of Marvelously Made to maintain a school environment free from unlawful discrimination and to conduct its educational practices, admissions programs, financial aid policies, and other school-sponsored programs on the basis of an individual's qualifications and abilities without regard to race, color, sex, age, national origin, citizenship status, disability, or any other protected characteristic as established by federal, state, and local law, unless a particular status protected by such law contradicts the deeply held religious convictions of Marvelously Made.

PHOTO AND VIDEO GUIDELINES

Our school staff takes photographs daily to record the children's learning and development. We use these photos in a variety of ways to make learning visible to families and friends of the school. As staff, we are extremely thoughtful in how we use our digital images. We obtain photo

releases and work hard to protect children whose parents do not want them photographed.

Due to the vast use of digital cameras (cell phones, point and shoots, notebooks, iPads, etc.) and video recording by most people today, and in the interest of protecting the privacy of the children, staff, and Marvelously Made program, we have found it necessary to implement the following policy regarding the recording and use of digital images taken while on the Marvelously Made campus.

Marvelously Made is a cell phone-free zone, and only school staff may use cameras during school days. Parents, other adults, and visiting adults may not use any device to take pictures while inside the school grounds (including indoor and outdoor classrooms) or from a distance into the school grounds (no photos should be taken of the Outdoor Classrooms from over the walls or fences). Photos are only allowed outside the gates before and after school or at the following events:

Back to School Picnic	The Primary Nativity Play	Art Show	The Cottage Fairy Tale Plays
Spaghetti Dinner & Science Night		Cornyval Parade and Picnic	

Individuals may not photograph activities or curriculum we offer at the school without the verbal or written consent of the Executive Director or Administrative Director. If consent is allowed, all posts made on social media or other platforms must reference and link to Marvelously Made. Images taken at school events may never be used in any way for the financial gain of any parent or school visitor. This includes blogs and other publications.

We strongly urge families who choose to post photos and/or videos on blogs, Facebook, Instagram, and other social and digital networking venues to use extreme caution and good judgment. You should never post a photo that includes a child other than your own without the express consent of the other child's parent. Our photo releases do not protect others from liability, and we will not share which families have declined consent for photographs.

Please note: To protect childhood and avoid digital distractions during the school day, children may not bring or use cell phones, smart watches, or other personal electronic devices at school. We will collect devices brought in and return them to parents at dismissal.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS & SNACK

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS (CELEBRATION OF LIFE)

Birthdays are important and exciting for young children. Each child at Marvelously Made will be honored on her birthday at gathering time during a "Celebration of Life." On this day, the child will have the opportunity to wear the birthday cape and/or crown, and the teacher will read a narrative of his/her life completed by his/her parents. Afterward, we sing a special and unique birthday song.

The school will schedule all celebrations, and whenever possible, they will take place on the school day closest to the child's actual birthdate. Children with summer birthdays will be assigned a celebration sometime during the school year.

Parents of children in the Farmhouse are invited to volunteer on their child's Celebration of Life Day. If you choose to, plan to spend the entire day. No photos are allowed, but the teacher will take one and email it to you. Siblings are not allowed to attend school on birthday celebration days.

Parents of children in the Cottage may come into the classroom when arriving at school and stay through their child's celebration. Parents must leave during the transition to snack time (10:15ish). No photos are allowed, but the teacher will take one and email it to you. Siblings are not allowed to attend school on birthday celebration days.

Children in Primary celebrate with their classmates. Parents do not attend their celebration.

Send a snack with your child as you normally do. Our focus is on the celebration at Gathering Time rather than the food. No cupcakes, no frosting, no kidding!

Staff, parents, and children may not pass out invitations at school for birthday parties. We encourage you to use the school directory for addresses and mail or e-mail all party invites.

As is Marvelously Made tradition, families who wish to donate a book to the school in honor of their child's birthday are welcome to select one of their child's favorites from the Marvelously Made Amazon Wish List (search Amazon Wish List name: Marvelously Made School Birthday Books). If you would like to donate a book not on the list, please check with the school office to ensure it is not already in our library. We place bookplates in each donated book, and a teacher reads each book before adding it to our library.

SNACKS

All children should be fed breakfast before arriving at school each morning. Each child must bring his/her snack to school each day using the snack pail issued by Marvelously Made.

Snacks must be chosen from the approved snack list, which is provided to the parents at the Back-to-School Parent Meeting. Snacks should be healthy, nutritious, and contain as little sugar as possible. All fruits and vegetables should be pre-washed and cut before sending them to the school. We cannot serve snacks that are NOT on the snack list.

Grapes and carrots are of special concern because they can be a choking hazard. Grapes and carrots must be sent to school cut lengthwise for children at the **Farmhouse**, or they will not be allowed to be eaten.

In the Farmhouse and the Cottage, the school provides water for the children to drink each day, so you should not send a drink. The Primary class is encouraged to send their children with a reusable water bottle for use throughout the day. Water is available for refilling as needed.

We cannot serve snacks that are not on the snack list. If you send an item that is not on the approved snack list, your child will be given an alternate snack option, and you will be charged \$10.

CHILDREN'S POLICIES

CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENT & PROGRESS

Marvelously Made is committed to respecting and celebrating each child's individual development. We know that each child is uniquely designed by God with gifts and attributes of their own. We will honor every child as an individual, recognize that their development is specific to them, and never pressure or expect a child to perform beyond his/her developmental abilities. Children do not develop at the same rate, and neither age nor maturity guarantee a certain level of performance. So, while age may be our initial guide for placement, we will focus on each child's developmental stage and individual needs when considering advancement.

CHILD GUIDANCE AND DISCIPLINE

At Marvelously Made, we strive to show God's loving kindness and to be Christ-like examples to each child every day. We use a positive discipline approach that fosters self-control, builds self-regulation, and teaches children strategies and skills to help them in times of conflict or emotional strife.

We use many positive discipline strategies based on each child's age and personality. Through positive reinforcement, we teach listening skills, patience, orderliness, taking turns, sharing, politeness, proper manners, and respect for others.

When conflicts arise, we teach the children to express their feelings and resolve issues through constructive conversation. We do not believe corporal punishment is an acceptable way to discipline children at our school.

Redirection and verbal communication are some discipline methods our staff may use. We will treat your child with courtesy and respect. If your child's behavior endangers others, he/she will be separated from the rest of the group for a sensible period.

Positive verbal rewards that reinforce a child's good decisions and behavior encourage acceptable behavior. Our staff places great emphasis on children expressing their frustrations verbally rather than physically. Those who do not yet possess physical constraints will be asked to stop, and the teacher will explain the unacceptable behavior that the child is displaying. The teacher will discuss other acceptable behaviors the child can use in that situation in the future. If the unacceptable behavior continues, the child may be removed to a "safe place" to regain control of their emotions and calmly resolve the situation before returning to the group.

If behavioral actions are beyond developmental norms, the parent may be asked to attend a conference with the teacher and/or Executive Director to discuss ways to support the child. If the school determines it cannot support a child's behaviors, the Executive Director will work with the parents to recommend an alternative schooling option.

CELL PHONE AND SMART WATCH POLICY

At Marvelously Made, we are intentional about protecting childhood and ensuring that our classrooms and Outdoor Classrooms remain places of focus, creativity, and authentic connection. For this reason, children may not bring cell phones, smart watches, or other personal electronic devices to school.

- If a child brings a device to school, the teacher will collect it and send it to the school office for parent retrieval at dismissal.
- Teachers and staff will not be responsible for monitoring, charging, or safeguarding these items.
- Repeated disregard of this policy may result in a conference with parents and could impact continued enrollment.

We ask for parent partnership in keeping these devices at home so children can be fully present in their learning, play, and relationships.

ENROLLMENT, WITHDRAWAL, OR CONTRACT TERMINATION

WITHDRAWALS

A family may need to withdraw a child during the school year or after signing the Parent and Enrollment Agreement for the next school year. The family must submit a written request for withdrawal to the Administrative Director. If enrollment is canceled for any reason, the family is financially responsible for and obligated to pay the full annual tuition and fee charges unless the school receives 30 days' written notice, the class is at capacity, and the vacancy is filled immediately from the waitlist.

RECORDS RELEASE

If a child is withdrawing from Marvelously Made, parents/guardians must pay all bills and then arrange with the school office to sign a release statement before the school can process any official records. Records will be sent directly to the child's new or prospective school.

ENROLLMENT CONTRACT TERMINATION

Marvelously Made's Executive Director shall have full discretion to determine appropriate action and/or other requirements of a child. Marvelously Made reserves the right to suspend or terminate the attendance of any child for reasons set forth in this Handbook (or other published document), for reasons that Marvelously Made's administration considers detrimental to the school community, child, or to other children of the school, for the parent's failure to pay all or any part of the financial obligations for the child's attendance, or for the actions of the parent or other family member that is detrimental to the school community, the child, or to other children of the school.

Expulsion is determined at the discretion of the Executive Director. Expulsion for behavior that negatively affects the school community may be for the remainder of the academic year or

permanent. If Marvelously Made suspends or terminates the child's attendance, the parent understands and agrees that he/she/they are liable for the entire year's tuition and fees.

HARASSMENT AND BULLYING

Marvelously Made prohibits any type of bullying or harassment-type activity among our children. Marvelously Made is dedicated to fostering a Christian environment that promotes kindness and acceptance and embraces differences among individuals. All children are expected to treat one another courteously with respect for the other person's feelings, avoid any behaviors known to be offensive, and stop these behaviors when asked or told to stop.

Marvelously Made expects parents to honestly identify any concerns about their child's treatment of others and help prevent any form of bullying or harassment, starting in their own home.

SEARCH OF CHILDREN'S PROPERTY

In the interest of preventing and investigating potential violations of school policies and preserving a safe and healthy school environment, The School reserves the right to inspect desks, electronic systems, and other facilities provided by the school for the children's use. The school further reserves the right to inspect children's handbags, backpacks, wearable devices, phones, computers, and other items brought on campus or to school-related, off-campus events. Children will be required to grant access to wearable devices, phones, and computers by giving Administration passwords to protected systems. Accordingly, children should not have an expectation of privacy with respect to material brought to campus or school-related events. The school may confiscate material that it believes is in violation of school policies or rules, poses danger to the child in possession or others, or violates the law. Children responsible for the presence of such material will be subject to the school's disciplinary procedures and may be reported to appropriate legal authorities.

CHILD ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS

The school understands that there may be circumstances when a parent requests the school to provide an adjustment or accommodation for a child's medical needs or physical, mental, or learning disability. The following comprises the school's policy and general guidelines for addressing such requests.

GENERAL POLICY

Marvelously Made seeks to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act regarding its children with disabilities. No child shall be denied access to or participation in services, programs, and activities solely based on his/her disability. To accomplish this goal, Marvelously Made shall provide, upon written request, reasonable accommodations for children who have a physical or mental impairment that limits a major life activity.

Federal law requires that requests for accommodations for children with disabilities be considered on an individual, case-by-case basis. Marvelously Made will make reasonable adjustments or modifications to its practices, policies, and procedures unless doing so would

fundamentally alter the nature of the program or result in an undue burden to Marvelously Made. The parent of a child with a disability who needs accommodation is obligated to provide notice of the nature of the child's disabling condition to Marvelously Made and to assist Marvelously Made in identifying appropriate and effective accommodations. As such, it is the responsibility of the parent to provide information that verifies that the child's condition meets the definition of a disability as defined by applicable laws.

Marvelously Made also asks parents to realize that, given the size of the school and its available resources, it may not be able to provide all requested accommodations. To the extent the parent requests additional support in addition to the reasonable accommodations granted, the school may require the parent to be financially responsible for the additional support.

REQUEST FOR ACCOMMODATION

For any type of accommodation (including administration of medication at school), the parent must contact the Executive Director regarding the need. The Director will then advise the parent of the type of documentation needed, which will state the child's diagnosis, how the condition limits the child, the recommended accommodations, and the length of time that the accommodation(s) will be needed.

Sometimes, the documentation received from the physician may raise questions or be unclear as to the recommendations. For that reason, the parent(s) must sign a Release of Information form, permitting the school to contact the medical professional, when necessary. In addition, if there is any cost associated with the physician's cooperation (i.e., to answer a set of questions submitted, etc.), the parent must agree to bear the cost of such processes.

ASSESSMENT OF REQUEST

Once the parent's request and medical documentation has been received by the school, appropriate persons within the administration will meet with the parents to clarify information and discuss whether the school will be able to implement the accommodation(s) requested. In some cases, if the request is over and above a reasonable accommodation(s), the parent may be asked to provide (at the parent's cost) any special equipment needed, training for the school's staff, or other associated matters. In addition, the school may advise the parent that the school will allow a particular support, but the full responsibility for doing so will rest with the parent. For example, if the child needs to be tested or have certain types of medicines administered during the day, the school may allow the parent to make arrangements to visit the campus for the purpose of testing and administering.

LIMITATIONS OF REQUESTS

Please understand that the school is not a medical facility and does not have the personnel, training, or equipment to handle certain types of medical procedures best left to the child, parent, or physician. In addition, the school reserves the right to deny a request for accommodation that it determines is unreasonable or to modify any consent to previously granted accommodation requests based on changed circumstances.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING ACCOMMODATIONS

Depending on the nature of the request, the school may agree to provide the accommodation directly. If deemed a reasonable, the school may require the child to provide the accommodation (such as taking prescribed medications with observation), or may require that the parent provide all aspects of the support if such support would fundamentally alter the nature of the program or result in an undue burden to Marvelously Made.

WEAPONS AND THREATS

Marvelously Made takes all threats seriously, including when children make comments in jest, on the internet, by text, or away from, toward, or about another child, employee, or the school. Children are prohibited from bringing any type of weapon, e.g., knives, guns, fireworks, etc., to school or to a school-sponsored event. Any such items may be confiscated and if appropriate, turned over to law enforcement. Any pictorial depictions of weapons or verbal or written comments that the administration determines at its discretion appear to be threatening in nature will result in disciplinary consequences.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS POLICIES

FOOD AND NUT ALLERGIES

If your child has an allergy of any kind, including a nut allergy, or requires a special diet, you should notify the school office and your child's teacher. You will then be required to complete a Food Allergy Emergency Plan. If your child's allergy is severe and/or your child has a disability, and you would like to request an accommodation, please refer to the additional information about requesting an accommodation for your child in this handbook.

Keep in mind that while Marvelously Made tries to maintain a nut-free environment, we cannot guarantee that any of our school environments will be nut-free. Nor can Marvelously Made guarantee any of our school environments will be allergen-free.

HEALTH INFORMATION SHARING

As a condition of continued enrollment, parents must consent to the release of any of the child's health-related information, including information relating to drug treatment, testing, and medical and mental health records, to employees or agents of the school, as determined by the Director or his or her designee, to meet the medical or safety needs of the child and the community or the legal responsibilities of the school.

The school will maintain appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to protect the security and confidentiality of all health-related information within its care or custody. While the school must safeguard children's medical information, we must also balance privacy and confidentiality with safeguarding the interests and well-being of our children and our community. Thus, parents/guardians and children consent to allow school employees and agents who need to know to receive and/or share medical and/or psychological information necessary to serve the best interests of the child and/or community. If a disclosure is required by law, we will make every effort to notify the child and/or parents/guardians in advance.

HEAD LICE

Children who have contracted head lice may not return to the campus until they are nit-free. The parent of a child identified with lice or nits will be immediately contacted by phone and asked to pick up their child within the hour.

We will email parents of each child in an affected class within 48 hours to notify them of a lice outbreak in the class.

ILLNESS

We can allow only healthy children to attend the school. WE DEPEND ON YOU TO HELP US MAINTAIN THIS POLICY. If your child is ill and will be absent, please make a courtesy call to the school office (210-338-5699) or email the child's teacher as soon as possible. If a child becomes ill during the day, we will contact the parent/emergency contact to pick up the child.

A child who exhibits upon arrival, or develops throughout the day, any of the following symptoms will not be permitted to remain at school:

- An illness or condition preventing the child from participating comfortably in activities.
- An illness or condition that results in a greater need for care than teachers can provide without compromising the health, safety, and supervision of other children.
- The child has one of the following unless medical evaluation by a healthcare professional indicates that the child can be included in the school activities:
 - Oral temperature above 101 degrees, accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness.
 - Tympanic (ear), underarm, or temporal (forehead) temperature above 100 degrees, accompanied by behavior changes or other signs or symptoms of illness; or
 - Symptoms and signs of possible illness, such as a cold, runny nose (nasal discharge that is not clear), an uncontrollable runny nose, severe cough, sore throat, lethargy, abnormal breathing, uncontrolled diarrhea, two or more vomiting episodes in 24 hours, rash with fever, mouth sores with drooling, behavior changes, or other signs that the child may be severely ill; or
- A healthcare professional has diagnosed the child with a communicable disease, and the child does not have medical documentation to indicate that the child is no longer contagious. Parents should also notify the school office when they learn their child has contracted a communicable disease.

If a child becomes ill while at Marvelously Made but does not require immediate treatment by a healthcare professional or hospitalization, we will:

- Contact the parent to pick up the child;
- Care for the child apart from other children and provide appropriate attention and supervision until the parent picks the child up; and

- Give extra attention to hand washing and sanitation if the child has diarrhea or vomiting.

To protect all children and staff, a child who is kept home or sent home due to illness may not return to school until the child is **symptom-free for 48 hours** without symptom-control medications (Tylenol, Imodium, etc.). The only exception to this policy may be at the administrator's discretion, with a letter from a healthcare professional stating that the child no longer has an excludable disease or condition.

PANDEMICS AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

In the event of a pandemic or other public health emergency, Marvelously Made reserves the right to include additional policies and procedures related to protecting the health and safety of the Marvelously Made community. This includes but is not limited to, the implementation of policies and procedures related to face masks, temperature checks, vaccination requirements, social distancing, visitor policies, self-quarantine protocols, medical testing, school closures, etc.

If the administration initiates a full school closure, the entire campus will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and all children and faculty may be required to participate in remote learning. Marvelously Made will notify the Public Health Department of the school closure, and the length of the closure will be determined by the situation and/or current federal, state, and local guidelines. If circumstances require closure of certain building(s) or class(es) only, the impacted building(s)/class(es) will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, and all children and faculty from the impacted class may be required to participate in remote learning. If non-affected classes remain open, Marvelously Made may implement preventive procedures to help ensure the health and safety of the non-affected divisions.

SUNSCREEN & INSECT REPELLENT & LIP BALM

Spending time outside is a vital part of childhood! At Marvelously Made, we intentionally honor this by providing beautiful Outdoor Classrooms where children can play, learn, and explore in all kinds of weather.

We also recognize that sunscreen, insect repellent, and lip balm are part of many families' routines. Our policy regarding these products is as follows:

- **Application at Home:** Unless a medical need is documented in the school office, we do not apply sunscreen, lip balm with or without sunscreen, or insect repellent during the school day. Parents who wish to use these products should apply them before drop-off each morning.
- **Lip Balm for Extreme Cases in the Cottage and Primary Classes:** Because children are outside daily, chapped lips may occur. In more severe cases, children may bring a clearly labeled, non-medicated, non-scented, colorless lip balm (no lip gloss or lipstick) in their tote to use independently.
 - The lip balm must be labeled with the child's name, and

- The teacher must be notified at arrival if a child has brought lip balm to school. Send lip balm only in extreme cases.
- Lip Balm for Extreme Cases in the Farmhouse: Parents/Legal Guardians of Farmhouse children will need to speak with one of the Farmhouse teachers to arrange lip balm if ever required. Sending lip balm to school should only be for extreme cases of chapped lips.
- Insect Repellent Accessories: Children are welcome to wear insect-repellent bracelets or stickers. Please ensure your child understands that these items are not toys and must not be played with or shared with others.

MEDICATIONS

School personnel cannot administer any medication to a child. Please do not ask your child's teacher or the Director to give over-the-counter or prescription medications for any reason. Asthma inhalers, EpiPens, or other rescue medications are the only exceptions to this policy, and the parent/legal guardian must provide written permission and directions for administering these items to the office.

Please ensure no medications are stored in your child's belongings; staff may dispose of any found.

EMERGENCIES

HEALTH EMERGENCIES

To provide the safest environment possible, most of our staff—including at least one teacher, and often more, in every classroom—are CPR and First Aid certified. If your child is seriously injured while attending the school, we will call 911 immediately for assistance, and CPR and/or the appropriate first aid will be administered until help arrives.

After we ensure the safety of your child, we will notify the parents immediately when the child:

- Is injured and the injury requires medical treatment by a health-care professional or hospitalization.
- Shows signs or symptoms of an illness that requires hospitalization.
- Has been involved in any non-routine situation that placed, or may have placed, the child at risk for injury or harm.
- Has been involved in any situation that renders the school unsafe, such as a fire, flood, or damage to the facilities because of severe weather.

If a parent is not available, school staff will make decisions about securing medical assistance based on the information provided on the child's enrollment forms. Please remember to keep your child's records updated.

Due to the nature of childhood and the active experiences children enjoy at Marvelously Made,

minor scratches, scrapes, bumps, bruises, and bug bites are inevitable and considered common occurrences. Our staff will always provide immediate comfort and first-aid care as needed.

Because these minor incidents are a normal part of play and exploration, we will not notify parents of every occurrence.

OTHER EMERGENCIES

Our school has an emergency preparedness plan in place to address emergent situations, including but not limited to fire, severe weather, health emergencies, communicable disease outbreaks, and volatile persons on the premises. This plan addresses staff responsibilities and facility readiness.

If children must be relocated from the property, we have two designated relocation addresses.

If we need to relocate within walking distance, we will walk the children to:

First Baptist of Helotes Church (210-695-3143)
14889 Old Bandera Road
Helotes, TX 78023

If we must relocate further away, we will transport the children (using personal vehicles) to:

Helotes Elementary School (210-695-3827)
13878 Riggs Road
Helotes, TX 78023

IMMUNIZATIONS

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Texas law requires that all children entering, attending, or enrolling in and/or transferring to a public or private primary or secondary school be vaccinated in accordance with the immunization schedule determined by the Texas Department of State Health Services. Marvelously Made reserves the right to require proof of supplementary vaccinations in addition to those required under state law.

Exclusions from compliance with the state's immunization requirements are allowable on an individual basis for those on active duty with the armed forces of the United States or who have medical contraindications and/or a conscientious objection, including a religious belief. For some diseases, a child who previously had the disease and is naturally immune may qualify for an exception to the immunization requirements for that disease.

MEDICAL EXEMPTION

The parents or legal guardians must present an exemption statement to Marvelously Made. It must be dated and signed by a physician (M.D. or D.O.), properly licensed, and in good standing in any state in the United States who has examined the child. The statement must state, in the physician's opinion, that the vaccine required is medically contraindicated or

poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of the child or any member of the child's household. Unless the statement states that a lifelong condition exists, the exemption is valid for only one year from the date the physician signs it.

CONSCIENCE OR RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION

The child's parent or legal guardian must present a completed, signed, and notarized affidavit on a form provided by the Texas Department of State Health Services to Marvelously Made. The affidavit must state that the child's parent, legal guardian, or the child declines vaccinations for reasons of conscience, including because of the person's religious beliefs.

The affidavit is valid for two years from the date of notarization. A child who has not received the required immunizations for reasons of conscience, including religious beliefs, may be excluded from school in times of emergency or epidemic declared by the commissioner of the Texas Department of State Health Services or at the discretion of Marvelously Made.

International children shall provide or have on file a certification of screening for tuberculosis (QuantiFERON Gold blood test). This test must be performed after arriving in the United States. The test must show no disease. If the child tests positive for TB, provide documentation of treatment and a statement of admissibility from the Health Department before the child begins classes.

Parents must have their child's medical records/immunizations on file and up to date by the beginning of each school year. Children whose records remain missing or incomplete at the start of school may not be allowed to continue attending until the requirement is met. To verify that your child's immunization records are current, please contact your child's physician

CONTACT INFORMATION

Marvelously Made School Office: 210.338.5699

Please contact the School Office at office@marvelouslymadeschool.com any time you need help or have questions regarding any aspect of the program.

Executive Director: Jennifer McCarville

Email: jennifer@marvelouslymadeschool.com

Contact Jennifer for questions or concerns regarding your children, the classrooms, the school's philosophy, teachers, or other school personnel.

Administrative Director: Allison Poole

Email: allison@marvelouslymadeschool.com

Contact Allison regarding school facilities, enrollment, or tours.

Administrative Assistant: Sandy Aley

Email: sandy@marvelouslymadeschool.com

Contact Sandy about children's allergies and other safety concerns and Stay & Play.

First Impressionist: Lisa Neitzel

Email: lisa@marvelouslymadeschool.com

Contact Lisa regarding children's files, including but not limited to, immunizations, authorized pick-up persons for your child, and Stay & Play.

Bookkeeper: Nancy Redding

Email: nancy@marvelouslymadeschool.com

Contact Nancy regarding any fees or payments, tuition or otherwise.

ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT

Parents are expected to support and uphold school program policies. If misunderstandings develop between the school and the home, both entities are obligated to resolve them. Parents are expected to support and uphold school program policies and mutually resolve any misunderstandings with the school. Please email, stop by, or call the school office to make an appointment.

We want to work closely with all parents in the education and care of their children and recognize that parental investment is essential to a successful partnership. In cooperation with the school, parents are expected to attend the annual Back to School Parent Meeting, fall and winter Parent Education Nights, requested Parent/Teacher Conferences, Campus Clean Up, and parent workshops as offered and/or requested. Families are also expected to fulfill the Family Volunteer Commitment as outlined in the Parent Handbook. Parents are encouraged to participate in other school activities and opportunities as they arise. Active and informed parent participation strengthens the home-school partnership, increases understanding of the school's philosophy, and supports the education, health, and well-being of both the child and the school community.

Any parent who openly demonstrates a lack of support for school policies or philosophy to school staff, children, other parents, or community members undermines the school's positive intent and hinders its effectiveness. We reserve the right to dismiss a child from our program if the parent/guardian fails to honor school policies or shows a lack of support or respect for school staff, philosophy, or programs.

Termination of a child's enrollment in the program may occur if the Executive Director determines:

- The program is unable to meet the child's needs.
- It is not in the best interest of the program or other children enrolled in the school for the child to remain in attendance.
- The parent/guardian exhibits a lack of support or respect for the school, its staff, philosophy, policies, or programs.
- The parent/guardian fails to attend required Parent Education Nights, Parent/Teacher Conferences, Campus Clean Up, or other requested meetings.
- The family fails to fulfill the Family Volunteer Commitment as outlined in the Parent Handbook.
- The family's tuition account becomes delinquent.

The Executive Director and/or Board of Directors has the sole right and responsibility to determine the need for the termination of any child's enrollment in the school program.

Parents will receive a copy of the Parent Handbook before the school year begins or, if enrolling after the school year has begun, at the time of enrollment. By executing this Enrollment Agreement, parents/guardians acknowledge that they have received, read, and understand the Parent Handbook and agree to abide by the policies, expectations, and responsibilities contained therein, including the Family Volunteer Commitment and parent participation expectations. If policies or procedures change during the school year, parents/guardians will receive written notice of the changes and may be required to acknowledge that they have received and understand the revised policies.

Marvelously Made is a non-discriminatory Christian school which admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities accorded or made available to students at the school. The school does not discriminate based on race, color, national and/or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational or admissions policies. The school will not discriminate based on race, color, national and/or ethnic origin if it offers scholarships, loan programs, and/or athletic and other school-administered programs in the future.

PARENT HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - MARVELOUSLY MADE

I have received, read, understood, and agreed to comply with the Marvelously Made Parent Handbook, including those for:

Check each box and sign below:

Child Guidance and Discipline

Release Procedures

Complaint Procedure

Expectations of Parent Involvement

Family Volunteer Commitment

Snack Guidelines

Health & Wellness Policies Immunization

Requirements for Children

Procedures for Dispensing Medication

Illness Policy

Emergency Plans

Enrollment Agreement

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Name(s) of Child(ren) enrolled in the school:
