

Perea's Place

Fall 2017



 **Perea Preschool**
A Ministry of Church Health

A Word From Ms. Alicia...



Welcome back students, parents and staff! A hearty welcome to all new and incoming students and families. We are off to a great start. We are excited about the new possibilities and opportunities that each new school year brings. We look forward to building strong relationships with our students and their families to make the most of this year.

Looking back over last year, makes us realize how blessed we are. It was a year of great accomplishments, challenges and victories. Perea has been successful due to the collaborative partnerships between students, staff, families and community partners. We are so grateful for our sole funder, who has faithfully supported and trusted Perea for over 18 years to provide high quality instruction serving over 1500 families. We love you! We thank Church Health for supporting Perea as one of their outreach ministries since 1999. Thank you to all our community partners, as we could not possibly be as successful as we are without each of you. We thank First Baptist Church Broad for again hosting our 2017 Promotional Celebration and Raymond James for making our Family Zoo Day possible. This year, 85% of our PreK 4 graduates exited the program performing at or above Kindergarten level. We pray and expect that this foundational gain will be an advantage for each of them as they continue in higher grades with higher expectations.

As we look at the everchanging landscape of education in our city and the closing of K.P.A., we look forward to the opportunity to continue work in this North Memphis community and to partner with Shelby County Schools to serve the most underserved but most deserving residents of our city. We are also very excited and hopeful in our partnership with the ACE Foundation and the Universal Parenting Place at Perea Preschool. We will continue to serve this community as we collaborate with our partners throughout the city.

Please enjoy the recap of our spring semester on the next few pages and remember to like us on Facebook. We would love to have you volunteer with us as we continue to change our community and our world, one child, one family at a time.

For His Children!

Upcoming Events

Monday, September 11th
Granolas with Grandparents

Thursday, September 14th
Parent Meeting

Friday, September 15th
Kidz Kountry Petting Zoo

Monday-Thursday, Sept. 18-21st
Home Visits, 3:30 - 5:00

Friday, September 22nd
Home Visits, no school

Monday, October 2nd
Donuts with Dad

"Then little children were brought to Jesus for Him to place His hands on them and pray for them, but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.' When He had placed His hands on them and blessed them, He went on from there and the region was that of Perea."

Matthew 19:13-14



Spring Events



CUMC Women's Easter Dresses & Easter Egg Hunt

The Princess Project, by United Methodist Women at Collierville United Methodist Church, made summer dresses for our Perea girls. Every little girl is a princess, the daughter of the King of Kings! The goal of the Princess Project is to provide a new dress to little girls in need. CUMC women's group wants every girl to know that they are loved and cherished. Each dress is made with love, prayed over, and a prayer card is included with each dress.

The Princess Project Sewing Group has made 674 dress since the launch of this project in August of 2015! Dresses have been gifted to Reelfoot Rural Ministries; Haiti; Rio Bravo, Mexico; Delize; Collierville Elementary School; United Methodist Neighborhood Centers; Moriah House, Uganda-SOZO, Nicaragua, Costa Rica. And now, CUMC Women's group is honored to give 82 dresses to Perea Preschool!

Boys wearing fedora hats, girls in their carefully sewn summer dresses, and candy filled eggs covering the grass behind the school are what you will find during Perea's annual Easter Egg hunt. The students ran through the field quickly collecting their prized eggs and joyfully ready to open them just to taste their treats. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who donated eggs and helped stage each Easter Egg hunt for all the classrooms!



Memphis Mumbai Connect

During Memphis Mumbai week, Perea students bring in their coins to raise money for the children who attend Memphis-Mumbai Connect Preschool in India. Mrs. Shaila Karkera, founder of Memphis-Mumbai Connect Preschools, and friends taught our students the Hindi greeting, about the many different Indian languages, the Dandhia and Bhangra dances, the commonality between children in India and Memphis, and how to wear a sari, the Indian dress. Our students also got to sample rice pulao, a favorite snack in India. We ended the week with each student receiving a book that Mrs. Shaila wrote entitled, *Giving Thanks*. Thank you Mr. Jim Boyd for making this possible! And a big thank you to Mrs. Shaila and friends for bringing India to Perea.



Spring Events

Perea's 17th Annual Promotion

Our students really are unforgettable, as the processional began, they walked into the church dressed in white dresses and button down shirts and ties. The program began with students from each classroom saying thank you to their parents and teachers for a jubilant year filled with learning their numbers, letters, shapes, and more! After the welcome and prayer, the room transitioned to giggles and joyful laughs as the students performed their hip-hop remake of 1, 2, Buckle My Shoe. Another class danced with cowboy hats and lassoed imaginary horses. We so enjoyed the Shapes Are Everywhere song and wiggly bodies, while another group shouted letter sounds to "Who Let The Letters Out? WHO, WHO?" Students playing inflatable guitars also rocked the house while counting. Thank you again to all our teachers, staff, and parents who made this possible!



International Love Day & Dr. Seuss Birthday

Perea celebrated our annual International Love Day on Valentine's Day. Students take the day to celebrate humanity from all different countries and develop a broader understanding of cultures including tasting different foods, seeing different attire, and even speaking some of the local dialect. Perea students traveled to France, Mexico, Australia, India and China!

Perea celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2nd. The famously known, Theodor Seuss Geisel was an American writer and illustrator who wrote under the pen name Dr. Seuss. Our students enjoyed having a special guest, Mr. Pat Halloran, the former President & CEO of the Orpheum Theatre, portray Dr. Seuss while reading one of his books. Afterwards, they enjoyed a special birthday treat in honor of Dr. Seuss.



Fall Semester

First Day of School



Well dressed in their best Perea school uniform, little boys and girls came through the school doors ready for the school year. Shirts tucked in, bows in their hair, and tied shoelaces with backpacks loaded with their school supplies. Staff stood in the hallways smiling, welcoming the parents and students and offering their “good morning” gestures to the excited little faces. Our teachers prepare throughout the summer with trainings and professional development to offer the best pre-k program to our students and families. Perea staff could not be more excited to welcome our Pre-K 3 students and our returning Pre-K 4 students this academic year.



Parents in Prayer & UPP

Every Thursday over 30 parents gather for a brief devotion led by different local pastors. Parents share prayer requests and the pastor prays for the group, our school, our community and more. Ms. Alicia kicked off the first Thursday and the room was packed! These parents know the power of prayer and make it a priority to get their day off to a great start. If you would like to lead a brief devotion and pray for our families, please contact Ms. Amy Pearson at PearsonA@churchhealth.org. Likewise, the UPP at Perea kicked off their first parent meeting with a full house. Ms. Molly, the UPP Family Coach for Perea, shared information about the ACE work in Shelby County and how important it is to understand the effect of trauma. We are grateful for this partnership.



Momentous Institute Partnership with Perea

For the next four years, Perea will be partnering with Momentous Institute from Dallas to develop best practices related to the social emotional health of our students. In doing so, we are making a commitment to help them grow in the ability to understand and manage their emotions, reactions, and relationships. While research has shown that a deficit in this area is one of the greatest barriers to long-term success, few schools are equipped to support students in this area. With Momentous' help, Perea is working to create a school culture of health that is unique and unprecedented in all of Memphis.

Using a proven Momentous curriculum, teachers at Perea have already begun to educate students about their brains, regulating their emotions, being sensitive to others, and how to persevere and be resilient when faced with challenges and setbacks. If you stop by one of our classrooms, you may hear a conversation about how mindful breathing can help us calm our bodies or how we need to "settle our glitter" before we can think clearly and learn. You also might hear students singing, "My hippocampus helps me remember" or "This is the amygdala in my brain, and it controls my feelings" as they transition between activities.

Our goal is for an understanding of social emotional health to permeate all our practices every day, all day. We are convinced that by empowering our students with these strategies and skills, they will have a greater opportunity to reach their full potential and experience lifelong success.

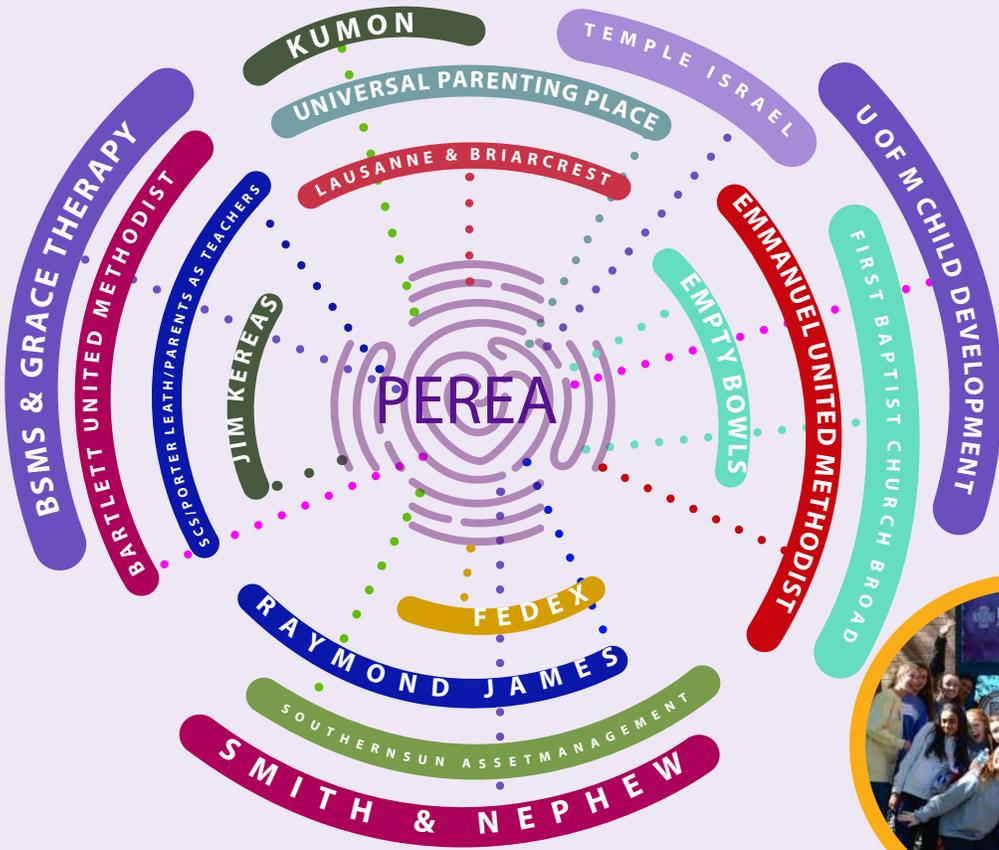


Baptist Residents

Baptist Memorial Residents partner with Church Health every year to do a Brigance screening on our students twice a school year. Brigance helps identify potential development delays and giftedness, determines each child's specific strengths and needs, and assesses school readiness.

It also can be a predictor of academic/cognitive development and social-emotional skills. The data collected from the screening is used to help facilitate conversation with parents and to take that child to the next level academically.





Volunteer Hours for Spring Semester:

Community Volunteers: 860.5

Parent Volunteers: 2,027.5

Total Hours: 2,888!!



IT TAKES A VILLAGE.....

Follow us on Facebook to stay connected!



Perea Preschool
 1250 Volland Avenue
 Memphis, TN 38107