



Art4Life
Parent Handbook
2023-2024

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SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION AND HOURS

- Art4Life Abernethy is open in the morning before school begins at 7 a.m. (There is no morning care at Access, Winterhaven or Richmond Schools) and ends when the school day begins. See all hours of operation below.
- If there is severe weather, Art4Life's hours may change. Please see our "Inclement Weather Policy"
- Art4Life is open for extended hours on most early dismissal days.
- Art4Life offers all-day (7 a.m. - 6 p.m.) care during in-service days and spring break. Attendance for these days requires additional, monthly sign-up and fees. If at least 10 children are not signed up at your particular school, Art4Life schools will combine for the all days.

ABERNETHY

AbernethyA4L@Gmail.com
(971) 998-3352
SE Orange St
Art4Life is located in the cafeteria
and the auditorium.
Morning hours: 7 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.
Afternoon hours: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

RICHMOND

RichmondArt4Life@Gmail.com
(503) 962-9466
2276 SE 41st Ave
Art4Life is located in the cafeteria
Afternoon hours: 2:15 p.m. - 6 p.m.

ACCESS ACADEMY

Art4LifeAccess@Gmail.com
(503) 245-6985
6318 SW Corbett Ave
Art4Life is located in the gym
Afternoon hours: 2:10 p.m. - 6 p.m.

WINTERHAVEN

Art4LifeWinterhaven@Gmail.com
(503) 803-8368
3830 SE 14th Ave
Art4Life is located in the portable
building behind the school.
Afternoon hours: 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.

PROGRAM AND SCHEDULE

General Routine

Before School (Abernethy only)

- During the morning hours, books, games, art materials, and other activities are set up. Children may engage in any activity they choose: they may have quiet time alone or in small groups, read, or work on a personal project.
- During this time, the staff circulates supporting the children by suggesting ways to use materials, explaining game rules, seeking out one-on-one interaction.
- Kindergarteners are escorted to their classrooms by an Art4Life teacher.

After School

- The afternoon hours begin with attendance, then outdoor recess. There may also be structured activities available for any interested children.
- This period is followed by a nutritious snack.
- After snack, we participate in a teacher-led arts project.
- Following project time, we gear down for homework/storytime. The younger students will have a story read to them or they may read to a teacher or the group. The older students are required to do homework or quiet reading. If your child needs extra time for homework, they may work on it during recess and free time. While at Art4Life, children will not be allowed to use Chromebooks or laptops.
- Our day ends with group clean-up and free play.

Sign-In / Sign-Out

Parents are required to escort their child (or children, if applicable) to the Art4Life space every morning that their child attends Art4Life. Parents are required to escort their child (or children, if applicable) from the Art4Life pick-up area every afternoon that their child attends Art4Life. **Any individual other than the parent picking up children must present a photo ID to an Art4Life staff member. In this event, parents must notify an Art4Life staff member and have that person listed as being authorized to pick up their child.**

Late Pick-Up

- If your child is not picked up by 6 p.m., a \$1.00-per-minute late fee will apply.
- Such fees should be paid directly to the Art4Life teacher on duty when you arrive to pick up your child. Your child will not be allowed to attend the Art4Life program until these fees are paid.

NOTE: If your child is not picked up by 7 p.m. without notification or a phone call, Services to Family and Children (“SFC”) will be notified. Once SFC is notified, it is the parent’s or guardian’s responsibility to pick up the child at the facility. SFC is located at 529 SE Grand Ave, Portland, Oregon 97214 and may be reached at (503) 731-3134.

Cooperation with Other After-School Activities

Children enrolled at Art4Life also participate in other after-school clubs such as Brownies, Chess Club, Cub Scouts, language/tutoring classes, intramural sports, and SUN programs. We are happy to work and support your children’s schedules. **Completion of a [contracted class form](#) is required.** These forms can be found at the parent board at your child’s school or you can [download them in the forms link](#). Children should always check in with Art4Life before attending any contracted class or club.

Snack/Nutrition

- Art4Life serves a nutritious snack every afternoon.
- All snacks meet or exceed USDA standards.
- Monthly snack schedules are available on the parent board.
- If your child requires additional food or has certain dietary restrictions, please send healthy alternatives to Art4Life with your child. We are happy to store and serve those alternatives.
- Typical snacks include milk or juice, fresh fruit or vegetable, cheese or yogurt, and crackers or bread.

Art Projects

Each month, Art4Life teachers create and implement projects that explore different disciplines (visual art, movement, dance, music, theater, writing, etc.), as well as studying a different country/culture monthly. A schedule of our daily art projects is posted monthly on the parent board. Children registered in the Art4Life program are expected to participate in the project every day.

Movies

- Movies are rarely shown and usually viewed on a Friday or during All Days.
- All movies shown will be G rated and will not encourage or portray violence.

Toys and Other Devices

- Art4Life does not allow toys, cellular phones, or electronics of any kind in the program.
- This is in line with PPS policy and general Art4Life policy as well.
- We have experienced that toys tend to create more conflict than joy among our students. Please make sure your children do not have phones or toys when attending Art4Life.
- Art4Life follows the school's guidelines for Magic Cards and Pokemon Cards.
- If your child uses a fidget or focus tool, please let us know so we can ensure expectations are clear for those items.

Art4Life Daily Schedule:

Access and Richmond

AFTERNOON CARE:

- 2:15 - 2:30 Students arrive; announcements and attendance
- 2:30 - 2:45 Snack time
- 2:45 - 3:30 Outdoor recess
- 3:30 - 4:30 Teacher led project
- 4:30 - 4:45 Clean up time
- 4:45 - 5:15 Homework/Quiet Reading/Story time
- 5:15 - 6:00 Free time

Abernethy Only

MORNING CARE (Abernethy Only):

- 7:00 - 8:20 Students arrive; indoor choice time (includes games, puzzles, drawing, writing, reading, and building)
- 8:20-8:40 School breakfast. If children would like school breakfast, they are released to the cafeteria. See PPS nutrition services for prices.
- 8:30-8:40 Clean up and dismissal. Kindergarteners are walked to their classrooms

AFTERNOON CARE:

- 3:00 - 3:15 Students arrive, attendance, snack
- 3:15 - 4:00 Outdoor recess
- 4:00 - 4:45 Teacher-led project
- 4:45 - 5:00 Clean up/chores
- 5:00 - 5:30 Homework/Quiet Reading/ Story Time
- 5:30 - 6:00 Free time

FIELD TRIPS and ALL-DAYS

- Art4Life is open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. at its Richmond location on in-service days and most vacation days.
- Art4Life is closed on federal holidays and winter break.
- Sign-ups for the All-Days will be posted at least two weeks prior to the All-Days on the parent board – otherwise, you will see the additional \$50 all-day fee on your next bill even if your child does not attend.
- Sign-ups or cancellations for All-Days must occur at least one week prior to the day.
- Children are required to bring lunch, weather-appropriate clothing, and a small fee to cover bus tickets and admission costs.
- All days can accommodate a maximum of 30 children.
- Attendance of these days is **NOT** included in regular tuition at the beginning of each month.
- All-Day tuition information may be found on our fee schedule and will be charged to the following month's bill.
- We will notify you in advance of all field trips.
- Field Trip Release forms are located within the enrollment packet.
- Details regarding departure and return times will be on the parent board and the sign-in/sign-out sheet.
- We will increase the adult/child ratio well above the minimum through added staff when possible, and by asking parents to attend when possible.
- Each child will wear a name tag with an Art4Life phone number.
- Art4Life uses the public bus system for school-age field trips on All-Days and on some regular afternoons, as well.
- Typical field trips include attending the Symphony, visiting the Chinese gardens or the Portland Zoo, touring the Pearl District galleries, roller/ice skating, swimming, going to the library, hiking at local parks, and frequenting museums.

Goal: To provide interesting, safe, and FUN field trips, with an emphasis on exposing children to the arts, our city, and other cultures.

Destination: Generally within the Portland metropolitan area.

Transportation: Walking, City bus or Max train, when needed.

Length: Typically, field trips begin at 10:30 a.m. and we return before 4 p.m. Parents are to provide their child with a healthy lunch and fee for the field trip and bus fare if needed.

Parents will be notified in advance of exceptions to these hours.

Staffing: The program ratio of 1 adult for every 10 children will be maintained for field trips. Parents are always welcome to accompany the group on field trips.

Notification: Spontaneous field trips rarely occur, but if they do, they are within walking distance and we will leave a note as to our location. You can contact us by cell phone at all times. See School Contact Listing on Page 1 for the contact telephone number for your child's school.

Additional Fees: Parents will be asked to supply their children with the admission price for the trip.

NOTE: IF SIGN-UP IS BELOW 10 CHILDREN, PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CANCEL THE ALL-DAY. WE WILL NOTIFY YOU ONE WEEK IN ADVANCE.

ALL DAY SCHEDULE (No Field Trip)

7:00-8:30 - Morning arrival, quiet activities, morning project

8:30 - Review the day's expectations

8:45-9:00 - Wash hands and breakfast

9:00-9:45 - Recess

9:45-11:15 - Project(s)

11:15-12:30 - Wash hands, lunch, and recess

12:30-2:00 - Project(s)

2:00-2:30 - Quiet time (reading / free art / continue project)

2:30-2:45 - Wash hands and snack

2:45-3:30 - Recess

3:30-5:00 - Project(s)

5:00-5:30 - Recess

5:30-6:00 - Free time / second recess

ALL DAY SCHEDULE (With Field Trip)

7:00-8:30 - Morning arrival, quiet activities, morning project

8:30 - Go over the day's expectations

8:45-9:00 - Wash hands and breakfast

9:00-9:45 - Recess

9:45-10:30 - Project (s)

10:30-10:45 - Prepare for field trip and go over expectations

10:45-2:00 - Field trip, lunch, recess, etc.

2:00-2:30 - Quiet time (reading / free art / continue project)

2:30-2:45 - Wash hands and snack

2:45-4:00 - Project(s)

4:00-4:45 - Recess

4:45-5:30 - Project wrap-up

5:30-6:00 - Free time / second recess

BILLING AND CHANGE OF SCHEDULES (“COS”)

Payment and Late Fees

Monthly bills are emailed before the 1st of each month to the first email address in your child’s enrollment packet. If you would like a different email or an additional email to be included, please let your site director know. There is a two-email limit to each child’s billing information.

- Art4life is a non-profit tuition-based program that issues monthly invoices.
- Art4Life does not prorate based on individual schedules.
- Drop in services are available for a \$25 fee for children registered in the program if space allows.
- As a courtesy, Art4Life does not charge for August or extra for months with more than four weeks.
- Art4Life only prorates the months of December and June.
- Art4Life does not prorate or refund tuition for severe weather closures or unpredicted closures such as pandemics.
- Art4Life operates several after-school locations; thus, it is important that parents label all payments with their child’s first and last names, as well as the school where the child attends. All billing is under the CHILD’S NAME
- You can hand-deliver your payment to an Art4Life staff member, bill pay, or mail your payment to our mailing ONLY address at 3405 SW Naito Parkway, Portland, Oregon 97239.
- Parents are responsible for their bills regardless of their child’s attendance.
- Art4Life does not offer automatic credit card withdrawal services or credit card payments of any kind due to fees.
- Most banks and credit unions offer a service that provides electronic check services (bill-pay). If you choose to set this up with your financial institution, please make sure those payments are labeled with your child’s full name and school and sent to our mailing address at 3421 SW Naito Parkway, Portland, OR 97239.
- Failure to pay in full any tuition payment by the 1st of each month will first result in a \$25.00 late fee. An additional \$25.00 late fee will be applied monthly until the balance is paid.

- After three months of nonpayment, all information and accompanying documentation supporting Art4Life's claim for nonpayment will be forwarded to Art4Life's attorney and the child will be removed from the program.
- Any questions or concerns regarding billing and payment can be directed to Art4Life.Billing@gmail.com
- There will be no refunds after the first day of school.
- THERE ARE NO REFUNDS FOR SNOW DAYS, SICK DAYS, PANDEMICS, OR UNEXPECTED ABSENCES.

Change of Schedule

Art4Life is a tuition-based, non-profit organization that issues billing statements at the start of each month. We can accommodate schedule changes if we receive written notification in the form of a [Change of Schedule \(COS\)](#) by the 10th day of the month prior to the next billing cycle. COS forms can be found at the parent board or [HERE](#).

- To change a child's schedule, parents must submit a COS form by the tenth day of the month prior to the next billing cycle.
- COS forms can be found at the parent board of your school.
- To change a child's monthly schedule permanently, parents must submit a COS form by the tenth day of the month prior to the next billing cycle.
- To change a child's monthly schedule just for a particular month we require a COS by the tenth day of the month prior to the next billing cycle.
- To discontinue a child's care we require a COS by the tenth day of the month prior to the next billing cycle.
- Verbal notifications will not be honored.
- Art4Life does not refund for sick days, vacation days, inclement weather closures, or unforeseen closures such as pandemics.

Scholarships

- Art4Life offers partial scholarships to those families who qualify.
- Applications for partial scholarships are available at the parent board or [here](#).
- Enrollment fees are not included in partial scholarships.
- Payment is due on the first of each month.
- Families must reapply for a new scholarship each year.
- Families must reapply for a summer scholarship for our summer program.

BEHAVIOR POLICIES

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports

Art4Life participates in district-wide training for Positive Behaviors Interventions and Supports. Our staff supports the children in learning responsibility and respect for themselves and others. Our role is to help children learn to cooperate with one another, to develop self-control, and to learn problem-solving skills. If problems arise, we follow this three-tiered course of action:

- Children are welcome to take a break from the group if they are feeling frustrated, tired or overwhelmed. Safe spaces for children to take a break both inside or outside will be discussed with the children. We hope children can recover and rejoin the group after 10 or so minutes.
- If your child uses an accommodation, please let us know.
- Art4Life is unable to provide one on one care for children. If your child requires one on one assistance, please let us know.
- When a child requires redirection, a member of the staff will restate the agreed-upon expectations.
- If a redirection is needed a second time for the same behavior problem, a teacher will discuss how the group is being affected and will work to create a strategy for success. This reflection may be a written or a verbal discussion and will be communicated with the child's parents at the end of the day.
- If redirection is still needed for a third time, the staff of Art4Life will

meet with the parent and work with the school principal, the child's school teacher, and any other school support staff to help the child return to a respectful and positive space at Art4Life.

You know your child best, so please let us know of any specific approach you would like us to take when discussing behavior and progress with your child. Your participation is key to your child's success.

Art4Life reserves the right to skip any of these steps if the severity of the behavior or circumstances warrant it.

- Continued enrollment in the Art4Life program is at the sole discretion of Art4Life. Notwithstanding the Behavior Contract referenced in the Enrollment Packet, any behavior by the parent(s) or the student(s) that is detrimental to the Art4Life program or its employees may result in immediate expulsion from the Art4Life program.

Behaviors Considered Serious Infractions

- Punching
- Kicking
- Biting
- Enticing students with the intent to hurt another person, an animal or someone's personal property, etc.
- Uttering verbal abuse or using inappropriate language directly at another person.
- Consistently defying rules: not listening to the teacher, hiding, going where the student cannot be seen by teachers, leaving the group.

When on field trips, children's behavior must be exceptional. Complaints from host organizations or unsafe conduct will be considered a serious infraction.

Behavior Contract

If your child repeatedly engages in unsafe behavior, it may be necessary to place your child on a behavior contract. Because of safety and discipline concerns, it is important that your child understands how future incidents of this manner will be handled. This contract is not intended to remove your child from the program, but to find solutions for positive behavior.

Protocol Regarding Serious Infractions

If a child carries out any serious infractions, they will need to be picked up immediately by a parent, guardian, or someone authorized in the enrollment packet. Parents are expected to reiterate why these actions are unacceptable and dangerous and help the child to understand what actions are appropriate while at Art4Life.

If this behavior occurs again, the child will be sent home. In order to return to the program a meeting with the child's parents, school teacher, school counselor, principal, and the Art4Life Site Director will take place to discuss strategies to support your child.

These meetings are intended to help your child succeed in the program. This meeting will often include the school teacher, school counselor, Art4Life Site Director, school principal and/or the home-room teacher.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

- If your child is injured while at Art4Life or becomes very ill, you will be notified immediately.
- If you are unavailable, the emergency contact person on your child's application will be notified.
- If the child requires immediate medical attention, he or she will be taken to the nearest hospital by ambulance, with his/her medical release form.
- Every attempt will be made to reach you before any medical procedures are applied.
- You will meet us at the hospital as soon as possible.

In the event of a fire in the building, the children will be evacuated to the field next to the school.

- If possible, you will be telephoned.
- If we cannot re-enter the building safely, the children will be evacuated to the following locations listed below. Or where officials direct us to go.
- Please report to the below-listed location to retrieve your child and please be sure to check in with Art4Life staff before leaving with your child.
- Parents should list an emergency contact with Art4Life that can safely and promptly pick up their child in the occurrence of a natural disaster or sudden weather emergency.
- Children will only be released to those listed on the child's enrollment packet. If you would like to add additional people to that list, please email your school's site director or submit this in writing.
- Your child's school and Art4Life do not share information regarding those people authorized to pick up your child.
- PLEASE MAKE SURE TO CHECK IN WITH AN ART4LIFE TEACHER WHEN PICKING YOUR CHILD UP FROM AN EMERGENCY LOCATION.

Emergency Locations to Retrieve Children

Abernethy St. Philip Neri Catholic Church at 2408 SE 16th Ave

Access Our main offsite location for evacuation is the Willamette Dog Park. If we were evacuated to a shelter, it would be a nearby school campus.

Richmond Central Christian Church at 1844 SE Cesar Chavez Blvd

Winterhaven Cleveland High School at 3400 SE 26th Ave

STAFFING

Since we are an arts and culture program, the majority of our staff members have degrees in Fine Arts or Performing Arts.

Art4Life exceeds the state-required ratio of one teacher per 15 children by providing one staff member per 10 children.

Our staff members carry out the policies and protocols of the Early Learning Division of Oregon as well as the policies and protocols of Art4Life in order to provide a safe and fun after-school environment.

Three professional references are checked prior to hiring staff and all Art4Life staff must successfully pass a state-issued and FBI background check which includes fingerprinting prior to working with the children. In addition, all staff maintain current CPR and First Aid certification, have current food handler's cards, and obtain 15 credit hours of training, eight of which are in Early Childhood Education.

Within the first 90 days of employment with Art4Life, staff must complete training on recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect based on Oregon law and practice. In accordance with Oregon law, Art4Life staff are required to report any "reasonable suspicion" of child abuse to the Department of Human and Child Protective Services. After filing a report, the Department will assess the information and take further action if necessary. Art4Life staff are also required to complete yearly online training regarding recognizing and reporting child abuse.

All of these requirements are regularly monitored by a licensing representative from the state of Oregon's Education Learning Division (ELD).

Early Learning Division Licensing

Art4Life is licensed by the Early Learning Division Office of Childcare (ELD) and participates in yearly inspections of all staff qualifications, the completion of children's records, as well as program observation and inspection of each site. We are also required to have yearly fire and sanitation inspections. The school principal is the only person who can assign us space and the ELD is the only agency that can certify the space and determine capacity. It is important to note that the capacity for after-school programs differs from space capacity during the school day.

Current copies of relevant sanitation, fire, and Child Care Division inspection forms are available upon request. Questions regarding compliance with licensing, regulations, or complaints can be directed to the Child Care Division at (503) 669-7112.

INJURY, ILLNESS, AND MEDICATIONS

All Art4Life staff are trained and certified in First Aid, CPR, and AED use. In addition, clear expectations regarding behavior and boundaries are instilled in each program with safety in mind. First Aid kits are on site with each group of children and comply with ELD standards.

If a child sustains a serious injury or becomes ill while in the care of Art4Life, staff will follow first aid protocol, find a comfortable place for the child to rest, and call the parents to notify them of the situation. If needed, 911 will be called. An Accident/Injury/Incident report will be filled out by Art4Life staff and a copy will be given to the child's parent(s).

If a child needs to take any type of medication while at Art4Life, parents should submit a medication form along with the medications. Art4Life staff will keep these items in a safe, locked location as well as supervise and document when these medications are used.

If a child enrolling in the program has a chronic illness issue, Art4Life will request a meeting with the parents to discuss any Emergency Action Plans or specific protocols.

ENROLLMENT

Art4Life has two lotteries for registration- the first lottery is for families that are currently enrolled in Art4Life, and the second is for families who are new to the program. Both returning and new families must complete a new registration packet in order to be included in the enrollment lotteries.

Enrollment packets for the upcoming school year are released in the Spring and can be accessed through our website, Art4Life.net. Please email completed packets to your school's Art4Life Site director or deliver a completed packet to an Art4Life staff no later than the last day of school.

Art4Life will use the order determined by the first lottery to begin to fill enrollment spots in the program. We will use the order determined by the second lottery to fill any spaces remaining in the program.

Your school's site director will let you know via email if your registration is confirmed. You will have two weeks to make both the enrollment fee and the first month's tuition payment.

If payment is not received within those two weeks, your spot will be released to the next person on the waitlist.

Art4Life prioritizes families that qualify for [Oregon's Employment Related Day Care subsidy program](#). If you qualify for this subsidy, please submit a completed registration form with confirmation from your caseworker that assistance will be provided no later than the last day of school.

Art4Life cannot guarantee that all returning students will be offered a spot for the following year. Availability may change from year-to-year based on space and staffing.

If the program is full, families will be notified no later than June 23. A waiting list will be maintained throughout the summer and into the school

year. If any of the days that a wait-listed family requests become available, the family will be notified and the child will be able to start on those days immediately.

There is no deadline for turning in enrollment packets but space is limited. If space is available, children can register at any time during the school year.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

Art4Life encourages and appreciates direct and clear communication. Please follow these steps for communication:

1. Verbal discussion, email or phone call with the Site Director. The Site Directors have access to enrollment information, attendance records, and have direct contact with the staff and children.
2. Email or phone call with the Director.

Art4Life works to connect with parents daily to let you know how your child's day was. We want to tell you about the best part of your child's day and also expect parents to be a part of any communication to problem-solve behavior issues if they arise.

Parents are responsible to let us know if their child is absent as the school does not inform Art4Life of absences. Please communicate this information via parent book, email, or phone call. If we have not heard from you, we will call you. If you do not respond, we will call your emergency contacts. If your emergency contacts do not respond, we will call 911. Note that when we spend time tracking down your child, we will charge a \$15 finder's fee.

Parent involvement and observation are welcome anytime. Please join us for a project or for Festival Friday!

At our gallery [Splendorporium](#) we have an art opening and exhibition every first Friday of the month and invite all our families to see what the children are displaying each month in the Children's Gallery, as well as view what the community of Portland artists are exhibiting. A special event occurs in

the month of May when the entire gallery is dedicated to exhibiting the works of all Art4Life children to celebrate what they have accomplished throughout the school year.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY AND CLOSURES

- Art4Life follows Portland Public School's ("PPS") decisions regarding inclement weather. Please check the PPS website for the latest school closures and delays: www.pps.k12.or.us
- If your school is closed due to inclement weather, Art4Life is closed.
- If your school opens after a delay in the morning, Art4Life will not be available for morning service.
- If your school closes early due to inclement weather, Art4Life will not be available for afternoon care.
- Parents should list an emergency contact with Art4Life that can safely and promptly pick up their child in the occurrence of a natural disaster or sudden weather emergency.
- Art4Life may also act independently from the PPS decision to close due to inclement weather. Safety is our greatest concern.

As per other programs we offer no refunds for scheduled program cancellations due to emergency school closure or inclement weather. Art4Life programs follow local school district closures for snow or inclement weather and do not operate if the school is closed. **Art4Life does not prorate program fees resulting from a school closure.** Please have a back-up plan for your child in case of emergencies and communicate this with your school staff.

Art4Life is closed for all legal holidays and winter break.

EJO4/27/23

SS 4/26/23

KS 7-25-17

ZH - 7/26/16