



# TINY RAMS TIMES

## SUMMER 2020

### Hello!

Welcome back, everyone! We really missed each and every one of you and are ecstatic to see your bright, smiling faces! We hope that everyone was able to make the most of their time at home. We are so excited to get back into the swing of things and a small sense of normalcy. We are going to spend lots of time outside enjoying and observing the summer weather. Although we cannot go to the farm or the zoo like we wanted to, we will still learn all about life on the farm and the animals we may see in the zoo. We are going to sing "Happy Birthday" to America and learn all about the forest and which animals live there. Lastly, we are going to enjoy a fun picnic outside.

Day-to-day life at Tiny Rams is going to look a bit different than normal, thanks for COVID-19. Parents will only go to their child(ren)'s classroom doors when dropping-off and picking-up everyday. You will NOT need to clock your child(ren) in/out in the toddler room. Using a touch-free thermometer, we will take the temperature of each child upon arrival. We will NOT combine classrooms at all. If your child is not feeling well, please keep them at home to keep others safe.

Did you know that July is National Picnic Month? July is a great time for National Picnic Month because fresh air stirs the appetite and garden-fresh fruits and veggies make eating outside easier. Picnics date back to the mid 18th century. Picnics are a great way to enjoy the company of those we love. You don't even need to leave your home- you can have a picnic in your backyard or even on your living room floor! Picnics don't need to include fancy food. You can keep the food simple with juice boxes, sandwiches, cheese and crackers, fresh fruits and veggies, and/or salads (i.e. pasta, egg, chicken, tuna, etc).

- Your Tiny Rams Team

### SAVE THE DATE:

June 1<sup>st</sup>: 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Summer!  
July 3<sup>rd</sup>: CLOSED for Independence Day  
August 7<sup>th</sup>: Last Day of Summer

### HEALTH & SAFETY:

Parents will drop children off and pick children up at a designated location at each building and will always maintain social distancing

Each child will have their temperature taken before entering the site. Temperature threshold will be set at 99.1 or lower for daily attendance

Evidence of any outbreak of disease among staff, children, or children's relatives who they are living with or seeing frequently will prompt Ralston Schools Foundation administration to promptly close the facility

### TUITION:

Tuition will be pulled from your account every Friday. The first deduction date is 6/5, the last deduction date is 8/7

Due to our limited enrollment, we will not be utilizing the summer vacation credit.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

If you need to reach your child's teacher, please contact them by their classroom's direct phone number shared in the WAYS TO CONNECT section of this newsletter.

### REMINDERS:

Please send your child with a spray sunscreen and face stick as we will apply sunscreen each and every time we go outside.

Please be sure your child's extra clothing is size and weather appropriate.

Ralston  
Schools Foundation

# WAYS TO CONNECT

**Sara Ryan**  
District Director  
402-898-3491  
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**Lori Lenderts**  
Asst. District Director  
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**Center Director**  
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**Infants**  
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**Toddlers**  
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**Preschool**  
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Shannon Elkins  
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## REMIND

Subscribe for text message reminders and updates

To receive messages via text, text @tinyra to 81010. You can opt-out of messages at anytime by replying, 'unsubscribe @tinyra'.

Trouble using 81010? Try texting @tinyra to (402) 888-8125 instead.



## OUR WEBSITE

Check it out for important information



ralstonschoolsfoundation.org

## FACEBOOK

Like us on Facebook for important updates and pictures



facebook.com/lilandtinyrams/

## STEP UP TO QUALITY

Tiny Rams is Step 4 Rated, learn more here



education.ne.gov/stepuptoquality/

# CLASSROOM HAPPENINGS

## Infants

**Teachers: Megan, Shelby & Anesa**

This summer we will keep busy with lots of fun activities! We will have fun water activities such as collecting rain water and an animal water rescue. We will spend lots of time outside and while we are out we will collect items to make natural paintbrushes and have a special picnic. Summer is a great time for all kinds of arts and crafts, and we will make beach towels, suns and some patriotic dancing rings. Of course we will do lots of dancing and singing!

When we get to see everyone's smiling faces again this summer, we will try to get right back into the swing of things as a whole class! We will reestablish everyone's school routines. We will also welcome new friends to our classroom, and prepare our oldest friend for a transition into the toddler room. Lastly, our older friends will work on having "gentle hands/nice touches" and learning new baby sign language.



## Toddlers

**Teachers: Hadassah, Kalli & Heather**

This summer we will work on gross motor skills by playing in the sprinkler. For the farm theme, we will look at different pictures of farm animals, making their sounds, and moving like them. For Independence Day, we are making fireworks art with toilet paper tubes and paint. We will put down a blanket in our classroom and practice having a picnic. We will also learn about ourselves and what makes us special and important. We will look at different feeling faces and learn to help other classmates when they are sad or upset.

This summer we will work on showing awareness of and responding to the feelings of others. We will try to be a good friend by helping our friends when they are upset. We are also going to demonstrate a basic awareness and use of scientific concepts by naming familiar objects, animals, and body parts. Most importantly, we will work towards adjusting to being at school again.

## Preschool

**Teachers: Emily (Miss E.), Shannon & Anesa**

We will be welcoming our Tiny Rams friends to enjoy our summer by having picnics with our favorite stuffed animals, having fun with our new summer routine, dancing to music and playing instruments. We will enjoy reading books that go along with our themes and also reading social and emotional books from our Tiny Rams library. We will create a science lab and have lots of fun with experiments. Our class develops art skills to use their imagination to make their own masterpieces. We are going to enjoy the company of the friends and teachers we missed so much when we were at home. We will enjoy some water play, obstacle courses, and nature walks, as well as celebrate birthdays that were missed due to Covid-19 by having a birthday party with games!

We are going to work on getting back into the swing of things and remember the rules we have at school. We will try to help our friends who are having a hard time coming back to school. We will continue to work with our kindergarten bound friends to make sure they are ready to go to kindergarten. The preschoolers will develop social skills by raising our hands, interacting with friends, and playing in centers. Please bring in photos of your time at home so we can discuss what we did during this unprecedented time.



# MEET OUR STAFF

## KATIE WATKINS

Hello, I'm Katie, Center Director here at Tiny Rams. I have been working for Ralston Schools Foundation since December 2003 and have my CDA. My favorite thing about working for Tiny Rams is building relationships with the children, parents, and fellow teachers. I have a son, Clark (3 years old). I am the youngest of five children. I have nine nephews and two nieces. When I'm not at work, I enjoy being Clark's mom, reading, cooking, organizing, and working out.



## MEGAN HAZELWOOD

Hi, I'm Megan, Assistant Director. I have been working at Tiny Rams for the past 12 years or so and have my CDA. My childcare experience includes being in every classroom at Tiny Rams, taught preschool in Missouri, nannied, and babysat. The best part of working here is getting to watch a child develop and grow from a very young age until they are ready for kindergarten. My husband, Ruben, and I have been married for five years and we have two dogs, Finn and Titus. In my spare time I enjoy playing games, sewing, and crafting.



## EMILY BODENSTEDT

Hi I'm Emily, Preschool Teacher. I've been working for Tiny Rams for almost 6 years, but have 10 years of experience working with children. My favorite thing about my job is that I have been able to see the kids grow and develop friendships. My husband, Dave, and I have been married for 7 years and have 2 children, Kailey and Keegan. My hobbies include outdoor activities with friends/family and being a mom.



## SHANNON ELKINS

Hey, I'm Shannon, Preschool Teacher. I have been working for Tiny Rams for almost a year, but I have 22 years of experience working with children. I have experience in daycares, respite care, as a school para, and even had my own in-home daycare. The best thing about working for Tiny Rams is the kids! I love being a part of their lives and making a difference. My husband, Jeff, and I have four children; Kale (16), Eva (14), Mia (6), and Eli (3). In my free time I enjoy going to the gym and working out, photography, and crafting. I am also super active in my kids lives and their sports/activities!



## HADASSAH SCHMITT

Hello, I'm Hadassah, Toddler 2 Teacher. I have been working at Tiny Rams for a year and a half, but have a lot of experience working with kids. My mom had an in-home daycare when I was growing up and I had my own for 9 years. I also nannied throughout college. My favorite part of working for Tiny Rams is watching how quickly the kids learn and develop. My husband, Ed, and I have been married for 12 years and we have three boys, Brody (10), Linken (9), and Torin (6). I really enjoy baking, but my favorite thing to do is follow my boys' interests.



## KALLI KIRSHMAN

Hey, I'm Kalli, Toddler 2 Teacher. I've been working here for nearly 3 years. I volunteered in a preschool at Bellevue East for 2 years when I was in high school. The best part of my job is helping the kids learn and grow. My boyfriend, Jamie, and I have 2 rabbits, Salem and Ash, a cat named Ramona, and a betta fish, Bones. When I'm not working, I love to read, run, and hike.



# MEET OUR STAFF



## SHELBY VANDER VORST

Hi, I'm Shelby, Infant Teacher. I have worked for Tiny Rams for almost 4 years. The best part of working for Tiny Rams is watching the children grow! My husband, Kyle, and I have a 2 year old son, Grayson, and a dog, Khloe. I like to work out and spend quality time with family and friends.



## HEATHER KREIN

Hey, I'm Heather, Infant/Toddler Teacher. I have been at Tiny Rams for almost a year. I have been working with children for seven years. I love working here because of the family atmosphere and the teamwork with my co-workers. My husband, Wes, and I have two sassy beagles. My hobbies include sand volleyball, reading, and walking my beagles.



## ANESA ESPENOSA

Hey, I'm Anesa and I work in all of the classrooms. I have been working for Tiny Rams for about six months, but I worked at another child care center for a year and a half. The best part of my job is interacting with the kids and building a bond with the kids. I have two older brothers and my parents in my family. In my spare time I like to shop, play softball, paint, and photography.