

St. Mary's Grade School

Preschool & Jr. Kindergarten Handbook



"Do not let anyone treat you as if you are unimportant because you are young. Instead, be an example to the believers with your words, your actions, your love, your faith, and your pure life."

-1 Timothy 4:12

Preschool Philosophy

St. Mary's Preschool focuses on nurturing children to help them learn about themselves, others, and the world around them.

These experiences are provided in an atmosphere where children are valued and respected. This in turn, allows them to respect themselves so they can grow, learn, and enjoy life.

General Information

Preschool

3 & 4 Year Olds

- **Must be 3 by January 15, 2010**
- **3 day a week**
- **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday - 8:15 to 11am**
- **Book Fee: \$50**
- **Monthly Fee: \$145**

Junior Kindergarten

4 and 5 Year Olds

- **Must be 4 by May 15, 2010**
- **5 days a week - 12:10 to 2:55pm**
- **Book Fee: \$50**
- **Monthly Fee: \$166**

Together We Share...

Jesus Time

Your child will be nurtured and challenged in a Catholic/Christian environment, along with weekly activities from Stories of Gods Love, a religion program for 3, 4 and 5 year olds from RCL Benziger.

Group Time

For social, spiritual, academic and recreational growth, your child will participate in:

Reading Readiness Activities

Based on the Sounds and Symbols Early Reading Program. "The Sounds and Symbols Early Reading Program provides an entertaining introduction to reading." ~Dr. Ronald Goldman, PH.D., Creator of the Sounds and Symbols Early Reading Program.

Math Readiness Activities

Music Activities

Physical Education Activities

All based on The Creative Curriculum. The "Creative Curriculum for Preschool is a comprehensive, scientifically based early childhood curriculum that has been shown to improve cognitive and social/emotional outcome in young children. The Creative Curriculum meets all of the standards put forth for effective early childhood curricula by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)." ~Diane Trister Dodge creator of the Creative Curriculum.

Free Choice Time

Your child will be free to choose from a variety of activities:

- ✎ Dramatic Play Area
- ✎ Puzzles
- ✎ Art Center
- ✎ Writing/Coloring Center
- ✎ Library Center
- ✎ Many other manipulatives

Snack Time

Children are asked to bring their own snack daily. A back up snack can be stored with the teacher in case snack is forgotten. Healthy snacks are encouraged. Examples include: fruit, cheese and crackers, vegetables, or any snack of parent's choice. We also ask that you help make our classroom Peanut Free.

Birthdays

Each child's birthday is celebrated. They may bring treats, so if a parent wants to decorate cupcakes or do something special, they may do so. If your child's birthday is in the summer, we will pick a day during the year to celebrate your child's birthday.

Name Printing

When teaching your child to print their name, remember that only the first letter is capitalized. (Ex: Laura, not LAURA). For information on the formation of letters in the alphabet, please use the alphabet page found in this handbook. (We use D'nealian method for learning to print the alphabet).

Child Records

Each child's immunization, birth, baptismal and family information records are needed in the office by the first day of school.

Medication

If you send medication to school with your child, it should be brought to school in the original container, with signed instructions from parent or doctor that gives the school permission to administer.

Attendance

Please call the school office if your child will be absent from school that day, or let the teacher know through a note if it will be an extended absence.

Recess

Ten to Fifteen minutes each day. Please label all outdoor clothing and dress for the weather.

At the end of the day

Please look through your child's backpack each night and ask your child about his or her day. Please pick up your child in the front of the school on Thayer Street; also please inform your teacher if someone other than yourself or spouse will be picking up your child.

Parent/Teacher Conferences






We will have parent/teacher conferences after the first and third nine weeks. Please feel free to contact me anytime if you have any questions or concerns.

Information on Areas of Learning












Religion

-  Learn to enjoy Bible stories.
-  Learn that God made each person for a reason.
-  Learn about the world God created.







Math Readiness

-  Knows basic shapes
-  Recognizes and prints numbers 1-10
-  Counts objects with understanding
-  Repeats given patterns
-  Understands size relationships













Reading Readiness

-  **Prints first name**
-  **Can say letters in ABC order**
-  **Knows birth date and age**
-  **Cutting skills**
-  **Fine motor pencil grip and coloring**
-  **Know 8 basic colors**
-  **Knows phone number**
-  **Knows address**
-  **Knows day of the week**
-  **Prints letters**
-  **Knows months of the year**

Language and Developmental Skills

-  **Shows interest in books and words**
-  **Uses complete sentences**
-  **Speaks clearly and communicates ideas well**
-  **Names body parts**
-  **Dresses self**
-  **Gross motor, running, jumping and balance**

Physical and Social Development

-  **Plays well and shares with others**
-  **Participates in group activities**
-  **Follows classroom rules**
-  **Shows self-confidence**
-  **Displays self-control**
-  **Listens and follows directions**
-  **Stays on task (age appropriate attention span)**
-  **Completes activities promptly**
-  **Seeks help when needed**
-  **Works well independently**
-  **Cleans up after work/play**
-  **Takes care of materials**

D'Nealian Print Chart: Use this chart to practice letter formation.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee
Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk
Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp
Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu
Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz