

St. Mary's Grade School

Preschool & Jr. Kindergarten Handbook



**"All that is good, all that is perfect, is given to us from above."
James 1:17**

807 E. Thayer

Bismarck, ND 58501

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.

Program Information

Preschool

3 & 4 Year Olds

- Must be 3 by August 1
- 3 days a week
- Monday, Wednesday, and Friday - 8:15 to 11am
- Book Fee: \$55
- Tuition: \$1405/year

Junior Kindergarten

4 and 5 Year Olds

- Must be 4 by August 1
- Monday-Friday (5 afternoons)- 12:10 to 2:55pm
- Book Fee: \$55
- Tuition: \$1594/year

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

Your child will participate in a comprehensive curriculum that incorporates age-appropriate technology and balances teacher-centered and student-initiated activities. The curriculum addresses physical health/well-being, motor, social/emotional, approaches to learning, and language development.

The curriculum builds knowledge and skills in the following areas:

Language and Literacy:

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

Science and Social Studies

The Arts

Gross and Fine Motor 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 outcomes 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/Learning Centers

Your child will have an opportunity to plan, initiate, and make choices as appropriate for his or her developmental level during a variety of learning centers, which may include:

- Dramatic Play
- Puzzles/Games/Manipulatives
- Art/Writing
- Library/Listening
- Math and Language
- Blocks/Building
- Sensory
- Science/Discovery
- Technology
- Music/Movement

General Information

Name Printing

When teaching your child to print his or her 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). You may also request additional material from your teacher regarding activities to promote fine motor skill development and pre-writing skills.

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. We ask that you pack a fruit or a vegetable. We also ask that you help keep 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.

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

There will be a brief, ten to fifteen minute recess each day. Please label all outdoor clothing and make sure your child dresses 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 pickup 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 your child's teacher 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

- Identify basic shapes
- Recognize and name 8 basic colors
- Recognize and print numbers 1-10
- Count objects with understanding
- Repeat given patterns
- Understand size and spatial words and relationships

Language and Literacy

- Recognize his/her name in print
- Recognize that a spoken word/speech can be written and read
- Attend to books and use picture cues to tell what is happening in a story/text
- Identify letters of the alphabet (upper and/or lowercase)
- Listen attentively to a conversation, story, or song
- Use sentences of varying length to communicate ideas with others
- Follow simple step-by-step direction
- Use a variety of writing tools and materials
- Copy or write familiar words, such as name

Social/Emotional

- Know his/her first and last name and age
- Recognize appropriate and inappropriate behavior of self in different situations (classroom, playground, etc.)
- Use materials safely and purposefully
- Follow classroom rules and routines
- Accept guidance/direction from familiar adults
- Make transitions between activities with teacher cues
- Develops friendships with peers
- Works with others in play and group activities
- Stay on task (age appropriate attention span)
- Clean up after work/play
- Take care of materials

Fine and Gross Motor

- Move with balance and direction when running, walking, and jumping
- Combine large motor movement with the use of equipment (throw/kick, pedal trike, use playground equipment)
- Exhibit control, strength, and dexterity when using tools (pencils, crayons, paint brush, etc.)
- Use hand-eye coordination to complete task (string beads, put together puzzle, cut on a straight line, reproduce shapes and pre-writing strokes)

Approaches to Learning/Cognitive

- Initiate preferred activities and make independent choices
- Show eagerness to learn
- Choose to participate in an increasing variety of experiences
- Persist and complete tasks
- Plan and follow through with the plan
- Use trial and error, active exploration, or seek help from others to solve a problem
- Classify, contrast, and compare objects, events, and experiences (things I do at home and school, compare his/her birthday party to a friend's, etc.)

Creative Arts

- Coordinate movement with a tempo
- Participate in listening, singing, finger plays, games, and performances
- Experiment with a variety of musical instruments
- Use detail, creativity, and realistic characteristics
- Use a variety of media, materials, and textures for creative expression
- Show creativity and imagination in using materials and in assuming different roles in dramatic play situations

Physical Health/Well-Being

- Identify basic parts of the body
- Perform basic hygiene and self-help tasks (eating, dressing, washing hands, brushing teeth, toileting, blowing nose) with reminders
- Follow basic health and safety rules (fire, playground, pedestrian and traffic)
- Respond appropriately to potentially harmful objects and substances (medicine, hot objects, poisonous substances, broken glass, etc.)

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

