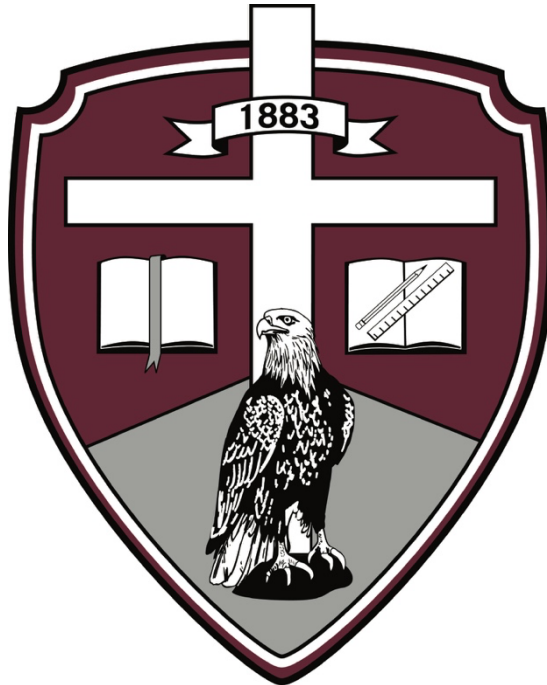


St. John the Evangelist
Preschool and Prekindergarten Parent Handbook
2025-2026



Welcome to St. John School Preschool (PS) and Prekindergarten (PK) program! We are delighted that your child will be part of our family. We can't wait to get to know you and your child. Our class will provide a safe and loving, learning environment filled with many exciting adventures. We are excited to begin our journey together!

-PS and PK each have a lead teacher and a full-time assistant teacher.

-Our curriculum is based on the belief that young children learn through play, so they will have time to explore and learn about their environment.

-Our classrooms are designed to create an engaging atmosphere that supports young children's social, emotional, cognitive, physical and spiritual development.

-Our teachers observe each child's activities to tailor and expand the curriculum to meet individual needs and interests, promoting the development of social skills, self-control, and problem solving.

-Our students receive a full range of specials, including music, art, STEM/technology, library, and physical education.

Structure

The PS program has 2 (T/Th), 3 (MWF), and 5 (M-F) day options as well full or half day options.

-Preschool students who are part time will not have the opportunity to participate in activities that are on days they do not attend. The only exceptions are whole school events such as the Christmas Concert and Christmas Shoppe.

The PK program is only 5 full day programs. No exceptions will be made.

Philosophy

Our philosophy is based on the recommendations of the NAEYC's (National Association for the Education of Young Children) developmentally appropriate practices for early childhood education. Our classes provide a variety of meaningful, concrete learning experiences that promote children's interest, engagement in learning, and conceptual development. Our goal is to create a strong sense of community within our class by providing enriching experiences that facilitate self-confidence, independence and strong cognitive skills. Our classrooms are designed to create an engaging atmosphere that supports young children's social, emotional, cognitive, physical and spiritual development.

Early childhood education is the foundation of a child's school experience. We hope to instill a love of learning that children will carry with them throughout their lives.

Curriculum

Each day begins with a large group morning meeting. We greet one another and prepare for the day through prayer, song and movement. Students engage in math and literacy mini lessons through calendar activities, morning messages and classroom job assignments.

A portion of each day is devoted to small group lessons focusing on phonemic awareness, number/letter recognition, math games and reading groups. Each themed unit encompasses literacy, mathematics, art, music, and science through hands-on activities. In preschool these activities will focus more on letter and number recognition as well as proper handwriting while in prekindergarten, these activities will focus more on blending letters and numbers together into words and larger numbers. Preschool large group lessons tend to be whole group while prekindergarten large group lessons may be a split class.

The main thread woven through our curriculum is the belief that young children learn through play. We realize the importance of providing ample opportunities for sustained play and its powerful benefits for cognitive development. Children will have time to explore their environment while choosing their own activities in various play centers. Meaningful learning opportunities will be offered using block building, books and puzzles, literacy materials, dramatic play themes, sensory play, creative art, music, math, and science activities. During free choice time teachers facilitate student interactions with one another and with their environment.

Religious aspects and prayer are woven into our daily routine. We highlight the importance of giving thanks and treating one another with kindness and love.

Behavior Management

It is our primary goal to create a safe learning environment that facilitates active learning. Three-, four-, and five-year-olds are developing important social skills, learning to interact with peers, solve problems and establish relationships. We facilitate this learning by offering problem solving strategies, and self-regulation activities through positive guidance and redirection. Teachers model and encourage expected behavior while setting clear limits through a patient and nurturing approach. Children develop positive self-concepts and self-regulation skills when they receive consistent, positive and nurturing support from adults.

If a situation arises when positive reinforcement and redirection are not effective, we will work together with parents to create a specific behavior plan for your child. We encourage parents to maintain close communication as we work as a team to develop strategies targeting specific behaviors. We will involve the principal as a support when necessary.

The behavior management policies of this handbook supersede the SJS Student Parent Handbook in that preschool and prekindergarten children do not follow the typical progressive behavior plan that older students do. Instead, we modify to meet the needs and development of early learners.

All students must be fully potty-trained to attend St. John School. Pull-ups are not allowed. Accidents do occur in school but not on a consistent basis. If a student has consistent accidents, we will work with families on shifting schedules and other options.

Communication

Each Friday, you will receive an email update with important highlights from our week. In addition to classroom news, the principal keeps parents well informed of important information through weekly email updates.

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns throughout the year. It is important to keep us up to date of any changes at home that may affect your child's time at school. Email is the best way to contact us.

Your child should bring a large backpack, a lunch box, and a plastic folder to school each day. The folder will serve as a communication tool that will transport important correspondence, so please be sure to check it daily. In addition, preschool students should bring in a blanket (not larger than cot-sized) and possible a stuffie for quiet time.

Preschool and Prekindergarten Hours

8:40 am - 3:00 pm (doors open at 8:20 am)

Half Day PS and PK dismissal is at 11:30 am

Please refer to the school calendar on the school's website for holidays, professional development days, early release days and school vacations.

Before school care: 7:15 - 8:20am.

After school care: 3:10 pm-5:30pm. We do not offer after care on half days.

Arrival

PS and PK students should be walked to the Main Entrance. They will walk into the school independently. Parents can park in the back of the school or across from the Church. If the child has an older sibling and can independently get out of a car, they may use the car drop line.

Dismissal

PS and PK will be dismissed from the side door opposite the Main Entrance. Teachers will dismiss students individually as they see parents arrive. This can take some time as we get to know parents. The parking lot is busy, and we want to make sure your child arrives safely to you. Students will not be dismissed to anyone who is not listed on the dismissal list in FACTS. If an adult is unfamiliar to a teacher, they may be asked to show ID and wait for confirmation from the office. After 3:05, students will be moved into aftercare and pickup will be at the Main Entrance.

Uniform and Dress Code

- maroon polo shirt with emblem (long or short sleeve)
- gray sweatpants with SJS logo
- white, black, or gray sneakers (no light-up sneakers, no sneakers with wheels, no sparkles, no bright/other colors), white or black shoelaces or Velcro, no boots, no heels/platforms
- white or black socks (quarter-crew length or below)

Warm Weather Uniform Option (September - October & April - June)

- maroon gym shorts

-Stud earrings, a watch, a simple medal and/or a cross on a necklace are the only pieces of jewelry allowed.

-Minimal nail polish is allowed – all nails must be a single solid color and not peeling, other nail accessories are not allowed (including fake nails or acrylics)

-Students may not change their hair color – only their natural hair color is acceptable (this means no dying, highlighting, or frosting of hair) and hair should not interfere with vision or distract others.

-Hats are not to be worn in the building.

-Only St. John School sweaters or sweatshirts are allowed during the winter months.

Birthdays

We love celebrating birthdays!!! If you wish to send in a treat on your child's special day, popsicles and slushies are the only option. If you are sending in an item, please make sure there are enough for the number of students in the class. Goodie bags are not allowed for distribution. We will not distribute birthday party invitations at school, but all parent contact information is available in FACTS. Don't forget students may dress down on their birthday!

Progress Reports

Please feel free to email the teachers anytime through the year to discuss your child's time at school. Progress reports will be sent home in November, January and June. Back to School Night will occur in September and Parent-Teacher conferences are scheduled in the fall.

Snack and Lunch

Students should bring a healthy snack each day. Please consider nutritious snacks such as fruit, veggies, cheese, yogurt, cereal bars, water, or juice. Nutritious lunches are also recommended and will help sustain your child throughout his or her day. Snacks high in sugar will not provide your child with the energy they need to get through the day. Please avoid sending candy or soda. Labeling items as "snack", "lunch" and "aftercare" is very helpful for students and teachers. Plastic containers are great. Also, only water is allowed in the classrooms.

Please keep in mind that St. John School is an allergy aware school. If you have any questions, please refer to the Allergy policy from our school nurse.

Toys from Home

Children often want to bring toys to school. This may be helpful during the first few days of school to aid in transition. However, after this time, toys from home will not be allowed in the classroom.

Rest Time

Preschool will have an extended (60 – 90 minutes) rest time after lunch. Students will be provided a cot but should bring in a blanket and can bring in a stuffy.

Prekindergarten will have a short rest time after lunch as students transition from preschool. This will be at their tables. Rest time will phase out as the year progresses.

We look forward to watching your child grow, learn and flourish throughout the year!