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Welcome to Kindergarten at John F. Kennedy Catholic School

John F. Kennedy Catholic School recognizes that Kindergarten is an essential part of a child's educational experience. In kindergarten, a foundation for learning is established through a safe and nurturing environment.

Academically, there is emphasis on Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Students also explore the subjects of Religion, Science and Social Studies. In Reading, students are taught phonemic awareness, sight words, reading strategies and comprehension skills. Students learn to write complete sentences to express their thoughts. In Mathematics, students work with counting, the concepts of addition, subtraction, patterns, and comparing. Communication skills, such as listening and expressing ideas, are also an important part of Kindergarten. The students also enjoy weekly Art, Music, Computer and Physical Education classes, as well as learning Spanish.

An important part of our Kindergarten program is the social development of each child. It is our goal to promote positive attitudes and constructive relationships with both peers and adults. We teach them strategies to handle feelings in acceptable ways and how to participate appropriately as a member of a group.

Our philosophy is to provide a loving and nurturing environment that enhances the spiritual, cognitive, social, emotional and physical development of every child through active participation and hands-on learning. Learning is a process that each child masters at his or her own developmental pace and the skills necessary for them to be successful are infused in all they do.

Thank you for choosing John F. Kennedy Catholic School for your child's education.

Blessings,

Kimberly N. Stevenson
Principal



John F. Kennedy Catholic School

111 W Spruce Street

Washington, PA 15301

(724) 225-1680

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to our Kindergarten class! We are grateful that you have chosen John F. Kennedy Catholic School to begin your child's journey in education.

This year will be an educational adventure for your young student. We will be developing the students skills in reading and math in a positive and fun learning environment. We will also foster development in the arts through songs, poems, movements, and creative expression through drawings.

The handbook is to guide you through our year, answering questions you may have. You may also refer to the John F. Kennedy School website, <https://jfkatholic.com>. If you have additional questions, please contact us or the office.

Thank you for choosing JFK. We are looking forward to an exciting academic year. Thank you for your continued support of our classroom and JFK School.

Mrs. Bonner

Miss Janda

Kindergarten Teachers

John F. Kennedy Catholic School

Communication

Our Principal: Mrs. Stevenson kstevenson@jfkatholic.com

Our Secretary: Mrs. Thomas bthomas@jfkatholic.com

Advancement: Mrs. Bodart lbodart@jfkatholic.com

School Office: 724-225-1680

School Website: jfkatholic.com

Kindergarten: Mrs. Bonner abonner@jfkatholic.com

Miss Janda mjanda@jfkatholic.com

Please feel free to contact us via handwritten notes, emails, and Google Classroom. If you are contacting us via email, please be aware that we are not at our computers very often during the school day to check our email. If you need a change for the day, **please contact the office**. Also, please write a note in the morning concerning any dismissal changes. Please *do not contact* us on Facebook/social media or our personal cell phone numbers.



Kindergarten Supply List

pencil box or bag

Crayola crayons 18-24 count

10 pencils

4 glue sticks

2 dry erase markers

1 pair of scissors

1 folder for daily school papers

1 book bag - large enough to fit a folder

Paint shirt- an old adult dress shirt (long sleeves) is perfect

2 reams of copy paper

For Computer class as well as the classroom use: 2 pair of headphones with cord each in a labeled ziploc baggie with student first and last name and grade

A plastic ziploc bag will be sent for each child . Please place a change of clothes for your child in the bag.

Cleaning supplies for the classroom-

1 container of Clorox wipes

1 box Kleenex

1 roll of paper towels

(You may want to purchase extra sets of crayons, pencils, glue and a folder since these need to be replaced periodically during the school year.)



Uniform – Dress Code



The purpose of the dress code at JFK Catholic School is to make sure students have a sense of pride in their appearance and do not have the pressure of deciding what they should wear every day. All students are expected to follow the dress code every day. All clothing worn on dress down or dress up days must conform to the school dress code. Uniforms can be purchased at Pro3 Services or Southern Style on Fifth Avenue (gym and hoodie).

Please see the JFKCatholic website for the updated detailed dress code.

Uniform Exchange

JFK offers a Uniform exchange program. You may make a uniform request by filling out the Uniform Exchange Request Form found on jfkatholic.com and sending it to the office labeled: Attention Uniform Exchange Volunteer. The order will be filled and sent home with your child within 5 business days. If the items do not fit your needs, please return them to the school and they will be placed back into the Uniform Exchange. We also encourage you to pass on gently used uniforms directly to those families that can use them.

Arriving and Departing

Please notify the school of your child's regular dismissal information at the start of the new year. We understand that there may be changes from time to time, if a change occurs, please inform us by placing a note inside your child's folder. In case of a last minute change, please contact the office by 2:00.

***Please complete the following form regarding your child's primary way of dismissal, prior to the first day of school.

<https://forms.gle/bvCX4YgRVLpFJ5Sp6>

Bus Riders

**Please be sure to know your child's bus number and pass along the information to your child's teacher. It is helpful in the beginning if you pin the information to your child's backpack. The office nor the teachers will not have this information. If your child's bus number should change, please keep us informed.

Car Riders Arrival

If your child arrives between 7:00 and 7:45 they will report to morning care in the library for a fee. Please see the morning care section of the handbook.

The first week of school you will be permitted to walk your child to the door. Kindergarten will be using the middle doors (by the canopy) for morning arrivals to the school.

Car Riders Dismissal

Car riders will be dismissed along the sidewalk on Spruce Street. Please use the overview provided by the school (on the website - under transportation) when picking up your student. Please remain in your car, we will not be dismissing students to families walking up to the sidewalk. This is for the safety of all students. You will be given a name tag to display in your car windshield during pick up. Please place the name tag in the front window of your vehicle.

Morning and After Care

The Before Care & After Care Programs at JFK School were created with working parents in mind. For a small hourly fee, parents can rest assured that their child(ren) are in a safe and nurturing environment outside of the normal school hours. Regular hours of operation for Morning Care is 7:00– 7:45 and After Care is 3:00pm – 6:00pm. This year there will be a limited number of spots available each day, therefore you must register online to secure a spot. If you register and do not use the service, you will be billed so be sure to go to the website to delete your spot. Parents using the program on a regular basis will have 1 st priority.

Guidelines: ****RETAIN A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS****

The yearly registration fee for one child is \$25.00 and the family rate is \$35.00. This fee must be paid before you can use the service. To sign up for a spot for Before and After Care go to <https://.com/go/yEayXQg> Please sign up by your child's/ren's name not yours. Children must be registered prior to using this service. If you sign up and do not use the service, you will be billed for the time and day you reserved the spot. You must cancel 24 hours in advance on signup.com The program follows the school calendar. When school is closed for any part of the day the program is closed.

Before Care & After Care will begin on the first day of the school year which is September 8. Before Care drop off will be at the main door at 7:00am. If the school is on a 2-hour delay, morning care drop off will be at 8:00am.

After Care will be held in the Middle School in room 102. The doorbell is located on the left side of the glass doors. Your child will be brought down to you.

If school closes early due to an emergency or severe weather or if weather conditions become severe during After Care, parents should pick up their

child(ren) as soon as possible. Parents are responsible to keep all contact information current for contact and billing purposes. For our information and your child's safety, we must have on record who will be picking your child(ren) up. If the person picking up your child(ren) is not listed on your Registration form, you will need to send a note that day to notify the staff. Without this note, the staff cannot release your child(ren). Identification will be required for the person picking up your child(ren). Families will be billed via email at the beginning of each month for the prior month's service. Payment is due on the 10th of each month. If the payment is not received, the balance will be added to your FACTS tuition immediately and your child will be removed from the program for 1 month. Non-sufficient fund checks will be charged a \$40.00 fee.

The After Care program ends promptly at 6:00pm. A \$1.00 per minute charge will be incurred after 6:00pm. The After Care program begins with a gathering time and snack (which you supply) outside, followed by outdoor play if weather permits.

Monday- Friday

Fees:	1Hour	2 Hours	3 Hour
1st child	\$6.00	\$4.00 (\$10.00)	\$3.00 (\$13.00)
2 or more children	\$4.00 (\$10.00)	\$3.00 (\$10.00)	\$3.00 (\$16.00)



Sick Days

If your child is sick, please call the office by 10am to notify the school that your child will be out for the day. The phone number to call is 724-255-1680 and follow the prompts. For the benefit of all the students in our classroom, please abide by the following guidelines if your child is ill.

*Keep your child at home **24 hours** after a fever has broken without the use of medicine.

*If your child becomes sick the night before school or the morning of, keep him/her home.

*If your child has strep throat, do not send your child to school until you have received the results of the culture.

If your child becomes sick during the school day, you will be notified. Please keep updated phone numbers in the office where you can be reached if needed.

When your child is absent, you may pick up missed school work by calling the office before noon and placing a request.



Daily Details

Folders

Student folders are our means of communication . All notes for the teacher, dismissal changes, information to and from the office, and lunch money should all be placed in the folder. Please place any money in an **envelope and label them**. If you are sending in a note on a small piece of paper please use a paper clip to clip them to the inside of the folder. The classroom teacher will check each folder in the morning. It is extremely important to **check the folder daily** at the end of the school day. Homework will also be placed inside the folder. Please complete all homework in pencil. Please review and discuss homework with your student and encourage proper formation of letters and numbers. If the homework is too difficult for your child, please initial the paper and we will continue to work on this skill in class.

Snack Time

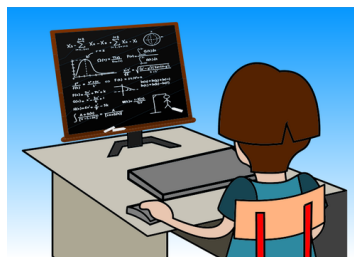
Due to allergies and personal preferences, we ask that you please pack a daily snack for your child. Please limit to one snack per day. Our mid-morning snack is just meant to hold us over until lunch, not replacing breakfast. Your child should not be full after eating their snack. Something light and nutritious is always encouraged. Please be aware that your child should be able to open their own snack.

Lunch

Lunch is available for purchase. If a student wishes to purchase lunch, payment should be submitted in an envelope and given to the homeroom teacher on the first day of the week. Please include the student's FULL NAME, grade and amount enclosed on the envelope. All checks can be made payable to JFK Cafeteria. Please refer to the comet or the school website for choices. The cost is \$3.25. Milk is available for purchase for \$.75 when bringing a packed lunch. Please make sure all lunches are packed appropriately, as we do not have a place to store lunches to keep them cold. We are encouraging students to pack their lunches this year. Please be sure to send in lunch items that the **students are able to open themselves**.

Special Classes

Spanish, Computer, Art, Music, and Gym classes will be provided to the students once per week..



Daily Instruction

Language Arts: Kindergarten students will develop skills in decoding, oral and independent reading, comprehension, and phonics skills.

We will be using the Wonders online companion to our reading series. You will be assigned a password. This will be used to complete assignments and is a great way to practice reading skills during the school year.

Below are two videos that will help you in navigating Wonders Online:

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fvimeo.com%2f400369837%2f49bb99c404&c=E.1_jLyghrnijbzVk_jtRGVqI7ERCq0zHBpJnrr7zCFm64CSPcQBBFOdG-aS6RCblxKH1q4iCBovBrYUOoa_L_9fIJ5HDC8z2TBVZK0kFk2zIYk.&typo=1

https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fvimeo.com%2f400368332%2f4fc6123012&c=E.1.SclGdTcVrWl3_fkqWNYh_Qsa0cUOGFGMO3YXwrbUzllpZHHzjcnmLD7jKjZibHoaZ7X56lgKb7N8iRhACE9zJeCoNxyW_y9-cyMiFfzO&typo=1

Math: Students will be introduced to shapes and geometry, sorting and classifying objects, breaking apart and adding numbers, time, and measurement. We use Sadlier Math Connect as an online component to our classroom learning.

Religion: Religion will be held 4 days a week along with mass on Friday. The Kindergarten Religion Program focuses on preparing the children to become aware of God's Love.

Science: We use the Lab Learner Program. <https://www.lablearner.com/parents/>

Students will have Science two days a week.

Each student will be assigned a log in.

Social Studies: will occur two days a week. Kindergarten students will be introduced to community helpers, seasons and months of the calendar year, emergency procedures for home and school, their addresses, American heroes and the American flag.

We are also using Google Classroom this year to complete assignments if working virtually..

Social Studies will be taught twice a week.

Homework

Homework will be listed on Google Classroom.

Typically homework will be a handout to practice writing or a Math workbook page.

Each student will be given a sight word ring to be **reviewed nightly**, we will continually add words throughout the school year.

All Treat bags for parties are to be non-edible items.

Halloween party

Thanksgiving collection

Valentine's Day party

Grandmother's Tea

Field trip

End of the year picnic

Graduation

Helping Hands

In order to volunteer for the cafeteria, recess, or participate in classroom events/field trips you must have all of your clearances up to date and notify the office once you are on the database.

No one can volunteer until the office completes a check of your clearances.

Most can be completed online at your convenience.

Please complete all parts:

REPORTING CHILD ABUSE & THE CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES LAW OF

PENNSYLVANIA: Please go to <http://diopitt.org/sites/default/files/ReportingChildAbuse.pdf>

Read the booklet. Sign and return the Acknowledgement of Receipt to the office.

STATE POLICE CLEARANCE: Please go to <https://epatch.state.pa.us/> and complete the SP_CRC. Print out 2 copies of the certificate and send one to the school.

CHILD ABUSE CLEARANCE: Please go to <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis>. Print out 2 copies for this report and send one to the office.

PROTECTING GOD'S CHILDREN: This class has two options. You can attend a three hour Protecting God's Children Class. Class dates and times can be found on the Diocesan website at www.diopitt.org. Please send in the PGC certificate to the office. You can also take this class online at www.virtus.org. Click on registration and complete form and then you will be able to choose the online session which is located at the bottom of the list. Please be sure to print out the certificate.

FBI CLEARANCE: Volunteers who are currently residents of PA but have not been a resident for a full 10 years need to obtain an FBI clearance check. Register for the check at www.pa.cogentid.com. If you have been a PA resident for 10 years, complete and return the waiver.

MANDATED REPORTER: All volunteers and coaches must go to www.reportabusepa.pitt.edu and view a video. After the video you will need to print out the certificate and send it to school.

DIOCESAN WEBSITE: Please be sure to register on the Diocesan website: www.diopitt.org Scroll down the left hand side of the home page to the "Protecting God's Children" menu and click on the "Safe Environment Database". This will take you to the application login. The Access Code is Protect.

Thank you so much for doing your part in providing a safe environment for our children and recognizing the importance of the Diocesan Safe Environment Policy.

Parent Responsibilities:

Volunteers Hours: Volunteers are a vital part of John F. Kennedy Catholic School. I urge you to share your talents and time with us. Recess and cafeteria volunteers are always in demand. To volunteer, complete all required clearances. Please refer to the school handbook for further information.

Fundraising: As a Catholic school who strives to keep tuition affordable, we rely greatly on our fundraising profit. . Our attendance at events such as the Festival, Gala, and Night at the Races, along with participation in purchasing, Lottery Calendar tickets, SCRIP gift cards, football pools, hoagies, and Sarris candy will help us to be successful. We have a variety of different ways to earn your assessment. Choose the fundraisers which work best for your family. Thank you in advance for recognizing the importance of the fundraising portion of the school budget and taking an active role in reaching the goal.

Fundraising Summary: To keep you abreast of the progress made toward our fundraising assessment, a fundraising summary quarterly report will be web blasted at the end of each 9 week period. The information on this form shows the projected and actual profit of the event or fundraiser. Several of the fundraisers are ongoing so you will see changes throughout the year.

Goal Tracker: The John F. Kennedy Catholic Goal Tracker online tool contains all of your volunteer hours and fundraising profits. You will receive your password shortly and can check your information at any time. Once an activity or fundraiser is over it takes a few weeks for your information to appear on the Goal Tracker site. Please keep in mind that parent volunteers are inputting the data and it takes time to complete the task. When report cards are issued, you will need to go to Goal Tracker and make sure your information is correct. The chairpersons of each event will have the hours and profits recorded. Information will be listed in the November Principal's Page as to the fundraisers, volunteer hours, and chairperson names and contacts for the 1st nine week report. Contact the chairpersons directly if there are any mistakes on your report. There is a 2 week window in which these corrections can be made.

SCRIP Please consider taking part in our SCRIP Program! We have many gift cards available for purchase. This program benefits the school and is a simple way to help fulfill your Fundraising goal. Forms can be found online or in the school office. This is a great way to help the school with no cost to you. Please refer to the school's website for more information.

Snow Days

If a snow day occurs, you will be notified through Option C automated calling. Virtual snow days will be completed on Google Classroom. More information to follow.



I Can.....

10 things to know before the beginning of Kindergarten

1. Print first name
2. Recognize first and last name
3. Say the ABC's
4. Identify capital letters
5. Identify and write numbers 1-10
6. Count to 20
7. Identify birthday (date and month)
8. Recognize shapes (circle, square, rectangle, triangle)
9. Recognize basic colors
10. Put jacket on by him/herself

