

Sts. Philip and James School
359 Clinton Avenue
St. James New York 11780

September 5, 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome! I hope you had a wonderful summer. My name is Patricia Avanzato and I am thrilled to start this 2023/2024 school year with your child. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be starting my fifth year at SSPJ. I am married to a wonderful man and we have 5 amazing children. I am very excited about this school year and the opportunity to share this time with you and your child.

The first day of school is an exciting milestone in your child's life. Your child is embarking on a journey that will lead him/her on many roads of discovery and learning. As wonderful as this new experience may be, it can also be quite stressful for your young child. New situations and change, at times, may be unsettling for all of us. For many children this may be their first experience of separation from parents or caregivers at home. It is common for even the most outgoing child to be anxious the first day of school.

The Pre-Kindergarten curriculum includes:

- Religious education and faith experiences.
- Reading and Math Readiness.
- Development of communication/social skills.
- Participation in group activities, projects, and discussions.
- Large/small motor skill development.
- "Specials", which include Gym, Library, Spanish, Computer, and Chorus.

Snack/Lunch Policy and Procedure:

- ❖ Snack must be provided daily from home. Students will eat snack around 9:45am. Snack needs to be sent in **separately** from lunch in a **disposable** brown paper bag/plastic bag labeled with his/her name. Snack must also be totally disposable and should consist of something **healthy**. Snack suggestions: small water bottle/juice box, dry cereal, yogurt, granola bars, fresh fruit, crackers, small packaged snacks.
- ❖ Students are scheduled to eat lunch at 11:30am. Students eat lunch in the classroom. Students should be able to open lunch box, containers, snacks and drinks independently. Assistance will be given to children when

needed. When packing your child's lunch please remember to pack a napkin and utensils if needed.

- ❖ If choosing to order lunch through FoodDays.com please see information on this program on our school website or the school handbook. Please be advised that lunch orders are to be placed by Thursday evenings for the following week. There are no refunds for absences.

Bathroom Policy and Procedure:

All students are expected to be fully potty trained before the start of school. As we all know accidents do happen!

- ❖ If your child has a #1 accident, he/she will be coached on how to take off soiled clothes and will be given an extra set of clothes to wear. Soiled clothes will be sent home in a plastic bag. Please return extra change of clothes the following school day.
- ❖ If your child has a #2 accident, he/she will be sent to the nurse's office to wait for a parent, guardian, or caregiver to come and change them. Once cleaned, the student then may return to class.
- ❖ Please keep an extra pair of underpants in a Ziploc bag (labeled with your child's name) in the side pocket of your child's schoolbag.

Drop Off and Pick Up Procedure: 8:50 AM / 2:45 PM

- ❖ Students are dropped off at the side door. Students will be walked down to the classroom by a staff member. Morning care students will be brought to the classroom.
- ❖ Students will be walked out the side door and will remain in line until excused. Parents/guardians/caregivers should line up on the path between the school and the parking lot.
- ❖ A written note is needed if your child is being picked up by someone new. Please advise the person who is picking up to have a driver's license or some form of identification.
- ❖ On scheduled **early dismissal days**, the children will be dismissed from the side door at 11:45am.

Attendance Policy

- ❖ If your child is absent from school a written note or email explaining the absence is required upon return.

Dress Code

- ❖ Students are required to wear the SSPJ gym uniform and sneakers. Sandals, dress shoes, crocs, boots are not permitted.

Homework Policy

- ❖ Homework packets will be sent home on the first day of the week and should be returned on the last day of the week.

- ❖ One or two pages should be done in a sitting.
- ❖ A pencil should be used for all writing and tracing activities and crayons/colored pencils for all coloring activities. NO MARKERS

Thank you for allowing me to lead your child's class. I am looking forward to a fun and exciting school year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. A.