

Welcome to PreK- 4s

August 2021

Dear PreK 4s Parents,

Welcome to St. Joseph Preschool!

I'm so excited to have your child/children in our PreK 4s class this year. St. Joe's Preschool is a wonderful place where your child will learn and grow. My goal is to provide a positive, happy environment where your child can learn while having fun and practice "Preschool Skills" to help prepare them for their future career as a student.

September is a busy time of year with new faces, routines, and environments for your family to adjust to. I look forward to working with you to create the best experience for your child. To get the year off to a good start, I have attached important information for you to refer to throughout the year. **Please keep this as a quick reference for future use**, as it will be helpful to answer some of your questions in the future. Please note some procedures will look different this year due to our current life circumstances. We will work together to help the kids establish new routines.

Please contact me with any questions/concerns you may have. I am here to assist you in every way possible. **Again, I am so excited to work with you and get to know your families.** Thank-you for choosing St. Joe's Preschool!



Kirsten Abbott, Preschool Teacher

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Notes

Communication:

Newsletter- I will e-mail a newsletter once a month that will explain our upcoming activities and skills being worked on in more detail. If you wish to receive a hard copy of my newsletter, please let me know.

Contact Me: Please contact me with any questions/concerns you may have. I check my e-mail throughout the day and will get back to you as soon as I am able. If you need to send a note, it is best to give it directly to me instead of sending it in your child's backpack. If there is something urgent that needs immediate attention, please contact the main school office.

Procedures:

Morning Class Drop Off:

The Preschool morning arrival procedure will begin at 8:50 am. Families are asked to park their vehicles and bring their child(ren) to the outside entrance of Preschool. Other staff will be present to assist children to the lobby area, take off coats, hang backpacks and walk to the classrooms. The classroom teacher will be in the room waiting for the arrival of the children.

If your child has trouble with transitions, please know we will handle them with extra care to work through their feelings and move on with our school day. Although it is difficult, it is best for children to continue to practice routine and gain comfort from predictability.

Morning Class Pick Up:

The children will be dismissed from the classroom teacher at an outside location-- this might be from the park or outside the main Preschool doors. The children will be ready to go home with their belongings at the 11:30 am dismissal time.

Visitors & Volunteering

At this time, administration is determining how to move forward with volunteers coming into the building. After we get the year off to a great start, we will provide more specific information. We are also looking into Virtus training and what that will look like this year. As information is provided, I will share it with you.

Sharing:

We will have “sharing time” on a designated day each month, the day will be on our preschool calendar. The item to share will correspond with our religious theme of the month. We will assist the children in finding an item in our classroom or you can help your child find an item from home to bring on sharing day. The theme will be shared in more depth in the monthly newsletter and calendar.

Snack: Once a month a calendar will be e-mailed indicating when it is your child’s turn to bring a snack and drink for the class. Please send enough napkins as indicated on the calendar for the class.

Food- Please send a healthy choice for snack. It should be store bought. Please choose from 1-2 of the 4 groups from the provided snack list such as: fruit/veggies, meat/meat alternate, grains/breads, and/or milk/dairy. Please refer to the Snack letter for safe food options.

Note—No peanut butter, peanuts, or nuts of any kind. These foods are not allowed due to children in our school that may have allergies and allergic reactions to these foods.

Drink- Preschool will provide cups and serve water daily.

Thank-you in advance for sending your child’s snack on their snack day. It is often the children’s favorite and most anticipated time of the day. I always tell them “it’s their job as a kid to grow” and we can help by providing healthy food options for them!

Birthdays:

Birthdays are very exciting in preschool! We will celebrate your child’s birthday on or as close to their birthday as possible. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on the child’s half birthday.

Treats- Your child will bring snack the day we celebrate their birthday. If you choose to send a sweet treat, I suggest the mini sizes, such as muffins, cupcakes or donut holes. The miniature size is perfect for our littles ones.

Birthday Surprise- We will have a few special birthday surprises for your child, and we hope you can be one of them. At this time, procedures that are safe for the classroom and visitors are being modified. When our preschool is made aware of what we can do, the information will be shared with you! Let’s make the best of this and modify where we can!!

Large Muscle Time:

We will play outside daily in preschool. Please dress your child in appropriate clothing for playing outside. In case of inclement weather, we will play indoors with our large muscle equipment. During the winter months, we ask that you label your child's winter gear. The children practice putting on their outdoor clothes independently and with this comes hats/mittens all over! I check the weather often to determine if it is appropriate for us to go outside or not, but it is my goal to play outside as often as possible.

Extra clothing:

As stated in the parent handbook, it is helpful to have an extra pair of underwear and pants in your child's preschool bag in case of an accident. Thank-you.

Dramatic Play:

Each month, our Dramatic play area is magically transformed into an exciting theme. The month of September will be a time for housekeeping or "playing house." This is always a favorite area for the kids to play during centers time where they learn more skills than they even realize. We are always looking for items to add to our special themes of the month. Please keep us in mind as our dramatic play theme changes if you have items to donate.

Donations:

Throughout our school year, there will be wish list suggestions sent in a Signup Genius. The items listed are things the preschool may need during the year. You are not obligated to donate, but everything you bring in goes directly to use by the children. In advance, thank-you for everything. Every little bit helps so much!!!

Thank-you in advance for your patience and support!

Again, Welcome to our PreK 4's Class!!

