A ministry of

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Saint Andrew’s Preschool
September 2020 to June 2021
WELCOME TO
ST. ANDREW'S PRESCHOOL

St. Andrew's Preschool is a child-centered program that offers a safe, creative and loving environment for children's learning to unfold. Founded as an outreach ministry of St. Andrew's Catholic Church, the school exists to serve the community at large. Our curriculum fosters all areas of child development - cognitive, emotional, spiritual, physical, and social. The children participate in reading and writing activities, math and science activities, theme-based centers, social studies activities, dramatic play, songs and finger plays, field trips, painting and other art projects, stories, outdoor play, baking, sensory play, prayer and bible stories, problem solving and socialization activities that include learning to take turns and conflict resolution. The learning experience is enjoyable and prepares the child for future growth and development.

St. Andrew's Preschool promotes simple faith lessons with the underlying theme that God loves us and expects us to do good things. We avoid any complicated theology. We welcome families of all faiths and cultures who are comfortable with our approach.

The preschool serves families with children three to six years of age with morning and afternoon sessions.

PROGRAM OFFERINGS

3 & 4 year old class

In this class children will develop their social skills, cognitive ability, and level of independence. Learning is acquired through hands-on experiences. Concepts of literacy, math, science, and art are brought together using literature, music, experiments, cooking, and crafts. We help students identify themselves as learners through fostering a sense of curiosity and a desire to explore the world around them. Teachers help children make meaningful connections to the world around them so that learning is not compartmentalized.

One Head Teacher and one Assistant Teacher with a maximum class size of 10 children. Offered on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 8:30 to 11:00 am, September through early June.

4 & 5 year old classes

In this class we delve further into the world of learning as we work to develop school readiness skills. Children engage in learning center activities that broaden their ability to stay on task, problem solve, stretch cognitive ability, and introduce new concepts. Literacy, math, science, and social studies concepts are taught in a theme-based format. We work diligently to build confidence so that each child will be a risk-taker in his/her learning. Understanding the way young children learn best, we use play and hands-on experiences to make learning meaningful and fun.

One Head Teacher and one Assistant Teacher with a maximum class size of 12 children. Offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30 to 11:00 am as well as Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 12:00 to 2:45 pm, September through early June.
OUR GOALS

- To help children become independent and inquisitive learners by nurturing their social, spiritual, emotional, cognitive, and physical growth
- To provide a safe, supportive learning environment with responsive adults to assist the children’s growth and changing developmental needs
- To communicate the Christian faith with an emphasis on the love and grace of God

REGISTRATION

To register your child, please obtain a registration form from the parish office. After completing the form, return it to the parish office with the registration fee.

Please remember to keep your child’s personal information on file up to date during the school year (ie: address, phone numbers, authorized people to pick up your child, medical information.)

Registration will take place beginning March 1, of each year for currently enrolled children for the following year. Siblings are also allowed to register during this time. Beginning on April 1, of each year registration will then be open to the public. First-come, first-served. Class sizes are limited to 10 and 12 children, respectively for the 3 & 4 and 4 & 5 year old classes.

FEES & TUITION

- $40.00 non-refundable registration fee due with the application
- $110.00 monthly tuition for two days per week class
- $130.00 monthly tuition for three days per week classes

Tuition is due monthly on the first day of class for that month. Please visit the parish office if you need to make other arrangements. The preschool is self-supporting, and relies on tuition being paid on time to support the expenses and staff of the preschool.

We accept cash, check, online Bill Pay through your bank and online through Vanco Services for payment. Please make notation of child’s name in the memo field and let the parish office know to expect these monthly payments. Please see parish office for information to access Vanco Services.

PARENT/TEACHER COMMUNICATION

Parents are encouraged to sign up for a www.remind.com account so they can receive notices and reminders by text or email. To sign up, go to https://www.remind.com/join/h9ck3 and set up your account. St. Andrew’s Preschool code is h9ck3.

A newsletter will also be sent home each month to let parents know about themes and activities and to remind parents about upcoming events and the snack schedule.
PRESCHOOL CALENDAR

St. Andrew’s Preschool will follow the Ellensburg School District calendar. We will have classes during the months of September through May/early June. If we have any other last-minute changes, you will be notified in advance.

The first day of preschool will be:
Wednesday, September 9, or Thursday, September 10, depending on which class your child is in.

There will be no preschool on the following dates:
Thursday, October 1: St. Andrew’s October Festival
Wednesday: November 11: Veterans Day
Thursday & Friday, November 26 & 27: Thanksgiving
December 21 through January 1: Christmas Break
Monday, January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
Monday, February 1: E.S.D. Semester Break
Monday, February 15: Presidents’ Day
March 22 through 26: Spring Break
Friday, May 24: E.S.D. Snow Day
Monday, May 31: Memorial Day

The last day of preschool will be:
Thursday, June 3 or Friday, June 4, 2021, depending on which class your child is in.

ADVERSE WEATHER

If the Ellensburg School District cancels school because of winter conditions, preschool will be cancelled. If they have a late start, morning class will be cancelled but the afternoon class will run as scheduled. You will receive a text message from the preschool director notifying you of closures. There are no make-up days.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Your child’s health is a matter of great importance to all of us. We require that your child have the standard immunizations. Please keep your child home from preschool if he/she:

- Has or had a fever, vomiting or diarrhea during the past 24 hours
- Has heavy nasal discharge (other than allergy symptoms)
- Has a constant cough
- Is irritable or lethargic

If your child is observed with the above symptoms at preschool, a parent will be contacted to pick up the child. By keeping your child home, you will provide him/her with the comfort needed and germs will not be spread from child to child.

POLICY FOR REMOVAL

1. No child will be removed from the preschool because of race, creed, or handicap.
2. Cause for removal will be one or more of the following:
   a. The child is identified as having behavioral problems which:
      i. Present a hazard to the child or others
      ii. Make the preschool experience damaging or unprofitable to the child
      iii. Cause disruption of the program
   b. Nonpayment of tuition
ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL OF CHILDREN

The child is to be brought into the classroom and SIGNED IN on the daily sign in sheet, and by the same token, will be SIGNED OUT on the daily sign in sheet at the end of class.

The preschool room will be open at 8:15 am with morning classes beginning at 8:30 am. Afternoon classes begin at 12:00 pm. It is very important that your child arrive on time.

Your child will only be sent home with authorized persons. Direct permission for someone else to pick up your child may be given over the phone for specific occasions. Identification of the named person will be asked for by the teacher. Please inform your child of any changes in the routine in advance.

We urge you to arrive to pick up your child promptly at 11:00 am for morning classes and 2:45 pm for afternoon classes. Some children are frightened when a parent is not there when dismissal time occurs. Please call 962-9819 or text 509-899-1366 if you know you are going to be late for an unforeseen reason.

SNACKS

Parents will provide a mid-morning/afternoon snack for the class on a rotating basis. Please sign-up on the posted Snack Calendar located on the bulletin board in the hallway outside the door. Suggested snacks are fresh fruit and vegetables, dried fruit, crackers, popcorn, cheese, milk or juice. Cups and napkins are provided by the Preschool. The snack schedule will be posted on the bulletin board and in monthly newsletter as a reminder. Please inform the teacher of any known food allergies.

BIRTHDAYS

We will celebrate your child’s birthday at preschool. If your child has a summer birthday, we will celebrate their “half birthday.”

We celebrate birthdays during snack time. Please, no full-sized cakes, cupcakes, ice cream, or popsicles. We prefer cookies, brownies, mini cupcakes, or individual ice cream cups. The teacher will have special songs or stories to make this a special time for your child.
CLOTHING

Please label all outer garments, including hats, gloves, and boots with your child’s name. Children will be exploring their world through indoor and outdoor play and crafts. Please dress children in comfortable play clothes that they can move around in and don’t have to worry if they are accidentally ruined. Also, please make sure children wear shoes that they can run and jump in. No dress shoes or flip flops. We play outdoors nearly every day. Please be sure your child has appropriate footwear and a coat or jacket for the weather.

SHARING TIME

Children will have the opportunity to bring special items to preschool to share with the other children. A schedule will be posted.

Toys are important to a child, so toys are a valid sharing item. We also encourage children to bring other items: things they have made, examples of family outings, a favorite book, vacation memorabilia and nature items, etc. If a toy is brought to share, it will be available only during sharing time.

A child may also bring a pet if it is properly contained or a parent brings it at the appropriate time and then takes it home.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips will be taken about 2 or 3 times per year with added trips to the library for the 4-5 year old classes. Parents will be asked to help drive on these trips. Parents will be informed in advance via a note home or the monthly newsletter.

CHAPEL TIME

Children will have a Chapel Time once each week for about 15 minutes. We will read a Bible story and sing songs.

CONFERENCES

The teacher will be available to chat after school or to set up a conference time if desired. Parents are encouraged to call the teacher after school or at home (899-1366) if they want to discuss something.

Parents will receive an End-of-Year evaluation in writing. Any problem areas will have been discussed before the end of the year.