



Saint Ambrose Catholic School  
6310 Jason Street  
Cheverly, MD 20785

Mrs. Taylor Baker, Principal  
**Pre-Kindergarten**  
Mrs. Darlyn Alvarado, Teacher  
Mrs. Carolyn Rivas, Assistant Teacher

### **Curriculum:**

The curriculum emphasizes learning as an interactive process. Our classroom is set up in play-based learning centers that provide a developmentally appropriate learning environment. Our centers include: art, listening, blocks, reading, puzzles, sensory, science and dramatic play. Centers promote learning through hands-on activities that are challenging. Students become creative as they solve problems.

At Saint Ambrose School, we believe that a high quality early childhood program should provide a safe and nurturing environment that promotes the emotional, social, physical and cognitive development of young children while responding to the needs of families. The appropriate curriculum is developed based on teachers' observations and recordings of each child's different needs, developmental progress and special interests. The teachers develop an environment for the age span of the children within the group to learn through active exploration and interaction with adults, other children, and materials

*-Language* is built through songs, story time, phonics lessons, learning literacy centers and activities (mostly hands-on).

*-Math Skills* practiced include sorting, counting, measuring, shapes, complex shapes, patterns, positions, comparing numbers, estimation and data, combining sets, subtracting sets, and other daily hands on activities.

-*Art* is the main means of expression in the early childhood classroom. Children tell stories, answer questions and propose ideas through drawing, writing, painting and other creative means.

-Children participate in *music* during the day as greeting, transition, self-expression and entertainment.

-*Religion* permeates our entire program in a way that we ask children to look at themselves, each other and the world.

-*Motor Skills* are worked on daily as students engage in many activities to train and strengthen small muscles to work efficiently before we teach handwriting. Students do a lot of coloring, beading, lacing, painting, rolling of clay, play dough, cutting, working with legos, tearing paper to make art projects, etc.

### **Specials:**

Monday- P.E.

Tuesday- Library

Friday- Music/Art

\*\*During Specials (P.E., Library, and Music/Art), students must go to the Special Teacher's Google Classroom and click on the Google Meet link on the header of the page.

### **Google Classroom & Google Meet**

- All students should have a designated, distraction-free work area for distance learning days.
- All students must use Google Classroom.
- Students using Google Meet must wear a headset with a microphone to reduce background noise. Students should be able to independently turn their microphones on and off (muting and unmuting). We will practice this!
- Students must follow the virtual code of conduct.
- Attendance will be taken for each class period. Students must be logged into Google Meet and present for the whole class period, otherwise they will be marked "absent" for that class.

### **Classroom Safety: COVID-19**

- Students must wear masks in the school building.
- Students must maintain social distance while in the school building.
- Students are not permitted to share supplies.
- Each student has their own labeled supplies.
- Books, toys, and other manipulatives are wiped down in between use.
- Desks and other frequently touched surfaces are wiped down multiple times per day, including before and after eating.
- Students wash their hands multiple times a day, including before and after eating.
- Students sanitize their hands before entering the building from recess or any other outdoor activity.

### **Assessment/Report Cards**

Pre-Kindergarteners are assessed according to the Archdiocese of Washington Pre-Kindergarten standards. Students will receive a report card once each semester (January and June). Grades are based on formal and informal assessment procedures, as is appropriate for this particular age group.

**Grades are:**

- **NE: Not Meeting Expectations at this Time**
- **AE: Approaching Expectations**
- **ME: Meeting Expectations**
- **EE: Exceeding Expectations**

### **Homework**

Because of the circumstances and the climate we are currently learning in please see below for homework assignments.

1. **Happy Numbers-** Please log in weekly for 45 minutes.

Happy Numbers is a new tool that will be used this year. It is a great assessment tool for myself and a great reinforcement tool for students.

Happy Numbers technology allows for hands-on modeling with a diverse range of manipulatives. Students approach math from different angles and move from concrete to abstract thinking. New concepts are introduced strategically — students acquire new learning while reinforcing prior knowledge and forging connections between the two.

2. **Reading-** Please read to your child for at least 15 minutes each night. Reading helps children build their vocabulary and become familiar with words during the reading process. **(No need to submit anything)**
3. **Journal-** Students will receive journal assignments. **Please upload and submit on Google Classroom every Friday.**
4. **Optional Choice Boards-** I will upload weekly optional choice boards in case students need more activities at home. (No need to submit anything)

### **Behavior**

It is expected that students use good manners. Saint Ambrose emphasizes good character by encouraging trustworthiness, respect and integrity. In Pre-Kindergarten students are expected to follow directions, pay attention, share and show kindness to others.

### **Dress Code**

Pre-Kindergarten students are required to wear school uniforms; however, they may wear the Physical Education uniform every day or the dress uniform with black athletic shoes. No light up, slip on, or knee high tennis shoes are permitted. Belts are not required for Pre-K students. Students must wear the gym uniform and an athletic shoe for physical education class and on all field trips. A seasonal change of clothes (shorts or pants) is kept in the classroom and does not have to be a school uniform.

Pre-kindergarteners **MUST** wear their P.E. uniform on our scheduled P.E. days (Mondays). Gym uniforms are also worn on all class field trips. Please refer to the student handbook regarding the school uniforms.

On special occasions out of uniform days, please dress your child in clothes that he/she can manage by himself/herself in the bathroom. Teachers do not assist children in the bathroom. So children must be able to undo belts, snaps, zippers, etc. on their own. Elastic waistbands work wonderfully for pre-kindergarteners.

Please label everything with your child's name- backpacks, coats, sweaters, jackets, hats, etc. Misplaced items are usually returned if it is labeled with the child's name.

## **Rest Period**

Pre-K takes a forty-five minute to an hour nap. Beach towels/small blankets will be sent home every Tuesday to be washed and on Fridays when we are able to return to school permanently. Please return on the following Monday. **No sleeping bags please!**

## **Snack**

Our class has a snack break each morning. Please send a nutritious snack for your child every day. If your child is enrolled in aftercare they will need an additional snack for aftercare. No Crackers please. We have carpet and it tends to get very messy. Apple sauce, fruit, fruit snacks, veggies, yogurt, granola bars, etc. are all acceptable.

It is helpful if you label your child's snack with their name and AM or PM. Please provide a spoon or a fork for your child if it will be needed for their snack.

## **Birthdays**

If you are interested in having your child celebrate their birthday at school, please let us know!

We love to celebrate birthdays! Please make arrangements in advance with Mrs. Alvarado and/or Mrs. Rivas to celebrate your child's birthday at school. There are 9 students in our class. Please send cupcakes, cookies or rice krispies treats and/or juice boxes. Please do not send birthday cakes or individual goodie bags. Please refer to our Parent-Student Hand Book for additional information.

## **Field Trips and Special Events**

\*\*Please note this is normal communication and we may use these procedures once school events are approved to resume.

**Performances:** We participate in the Christmas Program (December) and Black History Program (February).

**Field Trips:** Saint Ambrose Catholic School follows the Archdiocesan policy, which requires all volunteers to be fingerprinted through the Archdiocese and to have completed all components of the Virtus Child Protection Program. Parents **will not** be able to accompany any field trip if they have not met the requirements. For more information on VIRTUS training please contact the school office.

Permission slips **MUST** be on file in order for your child to attend field trips.

## **Folders**

**Daily Folder:** An orange teacher communication folder will be sent home daily (if blended learning). All notes and student's work will be sent in this folder. Please check and return daily.

**Thursday Folder:** Thursday communication will go out electronically this year.

## **Illness**

If your child is sick during the night, please keep him/her home the next day. During these difficult times it is not healthy for other children if your child comes to school with a sore throat, cough, upset stomach or fever. Children who become ill at school and go home are not to return until cleared by their physician. Children with a contagious disease (strep throat, pink eye, impetigo, COVID, etc.) will not be admitted back to class without a doctor's note. **A written note or email needs to be sent to school following an illness.** Classroom teachers do not administer any medications. If your child requires around the clock medication, you must adjust the dosage schedule to at-home hours or submit a written doctor's note to the office. Please refer to the Parent-Student handbook.

## **Money**

All money for bake sale, out of uniform, ice cream, etc. MUST be placed in a baggie or envelope with the student's name, what is for and amount enclosed. Please place money in their orange folder or lunch bag.

We look forward to working together with you this school year!

Pre-Kindergarten Distance Learning Schedule  
Mrs. Alvarado & Mrs. Rivas

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:00-8:30	Morning Activity	Morning Activity	Mass	Morning Activity	Morning Activity
8:30-9:00	Morning Meeting & Story  ELA/Phonics	Morning Meeting & Story  ELA/Phonics  Religion	Student Work Day	Morning Meeting & Story  ELA/Phonics	Morning Meeting & Story  ELA/Phonics  Religion
9:00-9:30	P.E.	Library		Religion	Music/Art
9:30-10:00	Bathroom/Snack	Bathroom/Snack		Bathroom/Snack	Bathroom/Snack
10:00-10:30	Math	Math		Math	Math
10:30-11:00	Science	Social Studies		Science	Social Studies
11:00-11:30	Centers	Centers		Centers	Centers
11:30-12:00	Screen time Break/Clean Up/Lunch Prep	Screen time Break/Clean Up/Lunch Prep		Screen time Break/Clean Up/Lunch Prep	Screen time Break/Clean Up/Lunch Prep
12:00-1:00	Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess		Lunch/Recess	Lunch/Recess
1:00-2:00	Rest Time	Rest Time		Free Play/Small Groups	Free Play/Small Groups
2:00-3:00	Free Play/Small Groups	Free Play/Small Groups		Rest Time	Rest Time