

St. Mark Catholic School

Preschool



Parent Handbook

2019-2020

Rev. Brian Hecktor, Pastoral Administrator

Mrs. Julie Bingham, Principal

Mrs. Mary Miller, Teacher

Thank you for choosing St. Mark. We are happy to say, “Welcome Home.” The information covered in this handbook is preschool specific. You will also receive the St. Mark Parent-Student Handbook which offers details information concerning St. Mark policies and procedures.



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St. Mark Catholic School

Our Mission

St. Mark Catholic School is dedicated to educating students of all faiths in a Catholic, Christ-centered environment. We accomplish our mission by preparing and inspiring students to become respectful and responsible, encourage leadership, foster teamwork, and practice faith-based activities all the while preparing them to go forth and serve the community.

Our Philosophy

We believe parents are the first educators of their children and we work in conjunction with our parents to build and strengthen the child's knowledge and independence, foster their faith journey and service to others. St. Mark integrates faith and knowledge enabling students to be lifelong learners and Christians.

St. Mark Preschool

St. Mark Preschool is a comprehensive program for three, four, and five year olds. Part-time and full-time programs that include half days and full days are available. We offer a program that provides a warm, loving Christian environment that helps each individual child grow intellectually, social, emotionally, and spiritually. Our preschoolers develop a love of Jesus, the Church, and the knowledge of the presence of God in their lives. Our goal is to provide a welcoming, safe, and developmentally appropriate environment for every child.

The preschool balances teacher-planned and child-initiated learning. Our activities reflect on each student's strengths, interests, needs, and learning style. Our curriculum promotes each child's progress in all developmental areas.

The preschool class participates in Spanish, Art, Music, and Physical Education classes. This gives each student an opportunity to explore other areas and other teachers throughout the day.

We strive to work closely with parents in a partnership that will facilitate the transitions between home and school. Daily communication and a sense of trust between parents and teachers are vital.

The teachers at St. Mark are advocates for children who love and encourage them to develop academically and socially. We focus on the total unique growth and development of each child. We promote:

Cognitive Development:

- Learning to solve problems and form concepts
- Discovering and exploring their environment

Social-Emotional Development:

- Developing self-esteem and personal adjustment skills
- Achieving self-confidence in relationships
- Developing a sense of responsibility and persistence in completing tasks

Physical Development

- Developing hand and body coordination
- Learning physical skills
- Learning good health habits

Creative Development

- Expressing ideas through creative skills
- Developing the ability to think and act in different and unique ways

Faith Development

- Developing an understanding that Jesus loves us and always forgives us.
- Learning and participating in prayers.

Preschool Hours

7:30am -7:45am – Students may enter the classroom

7:45am – School begins

2:40pm- preschool dismissal

Before care is available beginning at 6:45am in the gymnasium.

After care is available until 6:00pm,

Drop Off and Pick up

Drop-off occurs at the doors nearest the ball fields. Preschool parents should park and walk their child into the classroom.

Pickup also occurs at the doors nearest the ball fields. Parents are asked to park and get out of your car to get your child from the doorway. Preschoolers with older siblings can be walked to the sibling's classroom for normal 3:00pm dismissal. Preschoolers can also be walked to after school care.

Any changes to the way your child normally goes home need to be submitted in writing in advance.

Snack

A snack fee of \$5.00-\$15.00 is collected two times a year depending on the number of days your child attends. Students will be provided with a snack each day at 9:30am.

Rest Time

Preschoolers will have a daily rest time. Children will rest on mats that can be purchased through St. Mark at the beginning of the school year.

Dress Code

Preschool students are asked to follow the St. Mark dress code. However, pull on style pants are acceptable and belts should not be worn unless the child can buckle and unbuckle it without assistance.

Backpack suggestions

All students will need a backpack large enough to hold a 1 inch binder.

Many backpacks look alike, please label your child's backpack with his/her name.

Extra Clothes

All children in the classroom are fully potty trained, but we know accidents can happen. We ask that you provide a weather appropriate change of clothing including underwear, socks, shirt, pants, and shoes. The extra clothes will be stored at school.

Food Allergies

Please be sure to notify us of any allergies your child may have.

Show and Share

Students will have the opportunity on Fridays to bring in an item to show and share with the class. This helps children become more comfortable in the classroom setting and promotes sharing among friends.

Guidance and Discipline

In keeping with the mission and core values of St. Mark, our discipline policies guide children in the development of developmentally appropriate social skills. We want each student to grow in kindness, honesty, respect, and consideration for others. The teachers carefully plan the classroom environment to encourage and foster cooperation and collaboration. The day is carefully orchestrated to provide the routines and consistency children need.

Helping Your Child

Please work with your child on the following skills at home:

- Sharing
- Cleaning up
- Recognizing colors
- Recognizing shapes
- Recognizing/identifying numbers
- Recognizing/identifying letters
- Cutting with scissors
- Buttoning, snapping, and zipping