



Humble TX

# 2020 – 2021 Early Childhood Handbook

## Mission Statement

*St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School exists to develop students who have academic strengths, strong moral values and a deeper understanding of their Catholic faith, so that they may succeed as individuals who make wise choices, serve others and attain a deep relationship with Christ.*

## GOALS

- To establish a framework for teachers that correlates with current state and national standards.
- To equip students with the necessary skills and tools to interpret and express themselves proficiently in both written and verbal communication.
- To provide students with an awareness of the constantly evolving nature of technology in such a way that it is integrated into written and spoken English as well as the areas of mathematics, social studies and science.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD BELIEFS

- **We Believe** that parents are the primary educators of their children.
- **We Believe** that the school is in partnership with parents in the task of educating children.
- **We Believe** that early childhood is a special time for children and parents to experience the joy and wonder of discovery.
- **We Believe** that children should be in an environment that fosters love of God, love of self and love of others.
- **We Believe** that early childhood is a time of exploration in an environment of trust.
- **We Believe** that early childhood is a time of constant growth and development.
- **We Believe** that children develop at different rates and should not be compared with others.

The curriculum of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School exists within a total Christ-centered environment. This environment enables the community to live and model Catholic values. We believe in the dignity and uniqueness of each individual. Therefore, we strive to provide a curriculum that supports the development of the whole person, **mind, heart** and **spirit**. We believe that all learning experiences in our Catholic School form students in Christ to become lifelong learners and productive citizens. Students in St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School will...

### **Use their Minds to. . .**

- acquire the intellectual, moral, creative and organizational skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in high school and beyond.
- articulate ideas clearly and effectively in oral, written, kinesthetic and artistic expression.
- be effective communicators and critical thinkers with the skills necessary to interact justly in a global community.
- use technology competently and responsibly.

**Use their Hearts to . . .**

- act on gospel values and live generous lives of loving service.
- show respect for others and understand the value of diversity and multiculturalism.
- build community.
- recognize the value of and participate in service for the good of the community.
- live and act with reverence for the earth as God's creation.

**Use their Spirits to . . .**

- recognize their call to holiness as prayerful individuals, who actively participate in their faith communities.
- develop a personal spirituality based on a clear understanding of the Catholic faith and traditions.
- proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- engage in the liturgy and sacramental life of the church.
- come to know and love scripture.
- recognize and use their God-given gifts.
- achieve mental, physical, emotional and spiritual wellness.

## **PRINCIPLES OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT**

**Learning that Informs Developmentally Appropriate Practice**

1. Domains of children's development (physical, social, emotional and cognitive) are closely related. Development in one domain influences and is influenced by development in other domains.
2. Development occurs in a relatively orderly sequence, with later abilities, skills and knowledge building on those already acquired.
3. Development proceeds at varying rates from child to child as well as unevenly within areas of each child's functioning.
4. Early experiences have both cumulative and delayed effects on individual children's development and learning.
5. Development proceeds in predictable directions toward greater complexity, organization and internalization.
6. Development and learning occur in and are influenced by multiple social and cultural contexts.
7. Children are active learners, drawing on direct physical and social experience as well as culturally transmitted knowledge to construct their own understanding of the world around them.
8. Development and learning result from interaction with the environment, which includes both the physical and social worlds that children live in.

9. Play is an important vehicle for children's social, emotional and cognitive development, as well as a reflection of their development.
10. Development advances when children have opportunities to practice newly acquired skills, as well as when they experience a challenge just beyond the level of their present mastery.
11. Children demonstrate different modes of knowing and learning, and different ways of representing what they know.
12. Children develop and learn best when they have secure, consistent relationships with responsive adults and opportunities for positive relationships with peers.

## **ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL**

Arrival time is 7:40 – 8:00 A.M. Children should arrive no earlier, as teachers may be elsewhere in the building. The K3 and K4 parents **must** “Park and Walk” their students to the school from the courtyard entrance. Temperatures will be taken at the door and each student be given hand sanitizer. The students will then be escorted by staff to the classroom. All doors to the school are locked at 8:00 A.M., and any student entering the building after that time must enter through the main entrance of the school. Please telephone the school at 281-446-8535 so the nurse can come out to your car and check your student's temperature. ***There will be no exceptions.***

All K3 & K4 students dismiss between 3:25 – 3:35 P.M. We ask that parents stay in their cars at pick up. The teachers will open car doors and help the children into the cars. Please pull forward to buckle your child in. Promptness at pick up is essential.

***\*\*Please use caution when driving in the parking lots!\*\****

## **Clothing**

The children will have the opportunity to paint and participate in art activities daily. Please send your child in comfortable, casual clothing which will allow him/her freedom from the worry of “getting dirty.” All girls must wear bloomers or modesty shorts under skirts and dresses.

It is essential that adequate outerwear be worn during the cooler seasons, as the children will play outside regardless of the temperature (within reason). Please send a change of clothes for your child. Each piece needs to be clearly labeled with his/her name and placed in a large Ziploc bag.

All children must wear tennis shoes and socks to school. Tennis shoes will allow the children to walk and run safely on the playground as well as in music/movement class.

K4 will begin attending Mass on Wednesdays after Christmas break. Please send your child in proper attire for Church.

## **Naptime**

The school provides a nap mat for each child. Please send a small blanket for your child to use during naptime.

## **Restrooms**

All children must be fully potty trained and able to use the restroom independently. Restrooms are located within your child's room. The children are free to use the restrooms as needed. Teachers will also take their class as a group for scheduled restroom breaks.

## **Toys from home**

Our preschool program offers many exciting learning activities on a daily basis. Please keep all personal toys at home.

## **Conferences**

The conferences scheduled on the school calendar will not include Pre-K. The children will still be dismissed early as shown on the school calendar. We will give you the dates for the Pre-K conferences as soon as possible. Teachers will send an email when we are nearing those dates. You can contact the teacher with your time and date preferences. All conferences will be conducted using Zoom or Google.

## **Discipline**

The teacher will seek to maintain discipline by preventing problems through effective planning, reinforcing appropriate behavior, and consistently dealing with misbehavior through positive child guidance techniques.

## **Lunch**

Students must bring a lunch each day in a disposable bag. Once lunch is over, the entire bag will be thrown away.

## **Snack time**

From time to time, the children will make their own nutritional snack as part of our learning activities. The recipes will be passed on to you so you can make them at home. It is amazing what they eat when they take part in the making of the treat!

**Revised 09/15/2020**

# Pre-K HANDBOOK

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We have received a copy of the 2020-2021 PreK Handbook, containing the operating procedures and policies of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School. We have reviewed the contents of the PreK Handbook. We agree to abide by the policies and procedures contained in the PreK Handbook.

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Parent/Guardian's Signature

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Date

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Parent/Guardian's Signature

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Date

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Student's Name

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Street Address

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City

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_

(Staff Member's Signature)