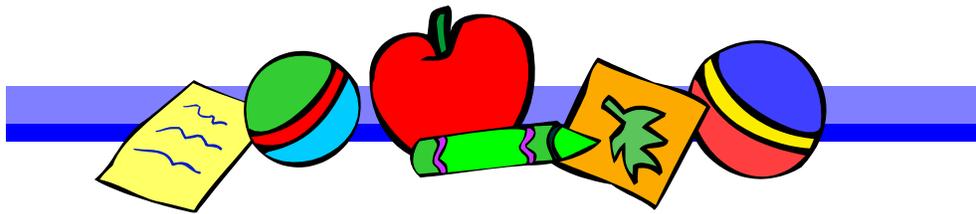




STA PRE K



*St. Thomas the Apostle
50 Byrd Ave.*

Bloomfield, N.J.

973.338.8505

www.staschoolnj.org



"When we enroll your child, we enroll your family"

WELCOME TO SAINT THOMAS THE APOSTLE PRE-SCHOOL

One of our most important goals at Saint Thomas Pre-School is to promote independence in your child. We want your child to feel that “I am a CAN DO KID” through the rest of his or her life!

Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Drop Off Procedure:** All Pre-K students must enter through the gym door. Please walk your child to the classroom. Quick good-byes work best!
2. **Parking:** Parking is allowed in the back parking lot only. Please help others who have small children. **Please refer to the Student Drop-Off Policy for complete details.****
3. **Schedule:** Pre-School begins at 8:10 a.m. Half-day students should be picked up at 11:10 a.m. Full-day students should be picked up at 2:40 p.m.
4. **Food:** **As per school policy all food items must be peanut /tree nut free.****
5. **Snack:** Each family will please provide one snack per month for the class. (Please speak to the teacher if this poses a problem or hardship.) A suggested snack schedule will be posted.
6. **Lunch:** Please send your child’s lunch in a labeled lunchbox. We suggest a sandwich, yogurt, fruit, a drink, and a small treat for lunch. Please do not send in any glass items, soda, or candy. **All** containers must be labeled.
7. **Birthdays:** are celebrated at snack time, as the children enjoy their snacks. Families may contribute a special book, game or CD to the class as a birthday treat. One small simple healthy food item may be brought in for the celebrations. It is not required. Parents are welcome to participate in celebrating by simply visiting while we sing and/or staying to read to the children. Parents need only speak to the teacher to arrange the special visit. In order to avoid hurt feelings, please do not distribute personal party invitations at school unless all students are invited to your party.
8. **BeforeCare/Aftercare:** BeforeCare will provide a safe place for your child to be when you need to get to work early. It begins at 7:00 a.m. and costs \$5 a day. AfterCare begins at dismissal and ends at 6:00 p.m. The cost (\$5 per hour) depends on the time your child is picked up. This service can be used every day or as needed, as long as your emergency information is on file. **

Allergies: Please notify us of any allergies or health issues.**

Health: Please do not send your child to school if he/she is sick. It is not fair to the other children. We will send them home if they are sick.**

Bulletin Board: Located in the hall at our entrance. This board is used for communication to Pre-School families. A weekly newsletter and important notices will be sent home in your child’s backpack. Sign-up sheets for holiday celebrations will be posted here.

Toileting: All children must be potty trained! Please encourage children to wipe themselves, discuss bathroom privacy, and dress them in clothing that is easy for them to get on and off.

Class Lists: All parents will receive a class list. This is only to be used for Pre K purposes. Let us know if you do not want your child's name to be shown here.

Fundraisers: Not mandatory, but we certainly appreciate your help.

Dress Code: Please have children dress to have fun and be creative for indoor and outdoor activities. Rubber sole shoes are a must. Please label all outer clothing.

Class Parents: We work on a rotating schedule, please sign-up on the classroom board, if you are interested. All parents are welcome to come to STA Home and School meetings.

Show-n-Tell: We have show-n-tell the first Monday and Tuesday of each month. All containers of items must be labeled. This activity encourages speaking aloud to the group. Please **NO WEAPONS!**

Absentees: If your child is going to be absent, please call the main office, 973.338.8505 by 8:15 a.m. Extended absences or vacations should be written in note form.**

Problems: If a problem arises, please tell the teacher so that the situation can be remedied. We work to keep our lines of communication open.

Schedule Requests: Requests for schedule changes are usually honored. They must be presented in writing.

Supply List: A supply list is on the bulletin board. This is a suggested list and is not mandatory.

School Calendar: Each family receives a school calendar at the beginning of the year.

Inclement Weather: An instant alert message will be sent to the phone numbers you provide. Information on how to set up your account will be provided. Also note that the instant alert system is used to inform parents of any changes to the calendar or upcoming events.**

Rest Mats: Rest mats are available through the school and billed to your Smart Tuition account. All full-day students are required to rest quietly on the mat for a while. The cost for mat is \$20.

Discipline Policy: The goal of positive discipline is active engagement and the teaching of appropriate social behaviors by means such as role modeling, praising children and showing interest in their positive efforts. This allows children to negotiate with others within their ability ranges and stresses behaviors necessary to maintain a safe school environment. If we notice that

there is a problem going on between two children, we remind them to “use your words” to express their feelings. Children at Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish School are not allowed to hurt themselves or others. Our number one rule is **never hurt anyone on the inside or outside**. If a child is “out of sorts”, disruptive, or behaving in an inappropriate manner, a teacher will remove the child from the situation and talk one-on-one with the child. The teacher will offer reassurance and provide a calming influence by talking to the child. If necessary, the child may need to remain apart from the group for a short time, always under supervision.**

** Please see our Student Handbook printed in the School Calendar, also available on the school website for full details.

A Day at St. Thomas the Apostle School Pre-K

A typical day has time for prayer, free play, small group instruction, whole class meeting time, story time, physical education and fun with classmates. Our goal is to provide a nurturing and stimulating environment which addresses the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development of our students.

Religion serves as the core of the curriculum at every grade level. Each day Pre-K includes prayer time and a religion lesson. Program sheets go home twice per week.

Free play: A time for less structured play.

Centers include building, dramatic play, computers, fine motor, math, letters, art, toys, and books. Work at the centers incorporates playing with only those items designated by teachers.

Whole class meeting time: Circle time includes calendar, songs, show and tell, and lessons in math or language arts.

Small group instruction: A time to learn more about the letter of the week, create a related art item, write a book, explore something in science, or work with math concepts.

Story Time/Reading Readiness: We read lots of great stories, including all the best in children's literature integrated with our curriculum themes. The children will discover print concepts with big books and act out stories in a variety of fun filled ways. The experience also encompasses Bible stories and character education.

Physical education: The children enjoy outdoor play or indoor games while developing gross motor skills.

Music: The children enjoy movement and games as they learn favorite songs.

Saint Thomas the Apostle

Pre K Prayer

Now before I run to play
Let us not forget to pray
To God who kept me through the night
And woke me with the morning light.
Help me Lord to love thee more
Than I ever loved before
In my work and in my play,
Be thou with me through the day.

Amen



“There is in every child at every stage a new miracle of vigorous unfolding which constitutes a new hope and a new responsibility.”

Erin Erickson