

Welcome to PreK 4/5s

August 2019

Dear PreKindergarten 4/5s Parents,

Welcome to St. Joseph's Preschool!

I welcome you and your child to a year of fun, discovery, growth and development.

September is such an exciting month! For teachers, children and families, it's a month of change and new beginnings---new surroundings, new friends, new experiences, new skills, and new challenges. I am looking forward to working together. I am happy to have your support. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions throughout the school year.

To get the year off to a good start, you will find lots of important information attached. **Please read it carefully so you are well informed. Please keep the information in a safe place for future reference.** Many times, parents find they have a question as the year goes on-- so by referring to this information letter it might be helpful in the future.

I am delighted to be teaching at St. Joseph's Preschool again this year. I will be teaching the Terrific Threes on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, the PreK4s on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, and the PreK4/5s on Monday-Thursday afternoons. I feel so blessed to be a part of your child's first school experiences. I just can't wait to get started!

I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child. Once again, welcome to St. Joseph's Preschool.

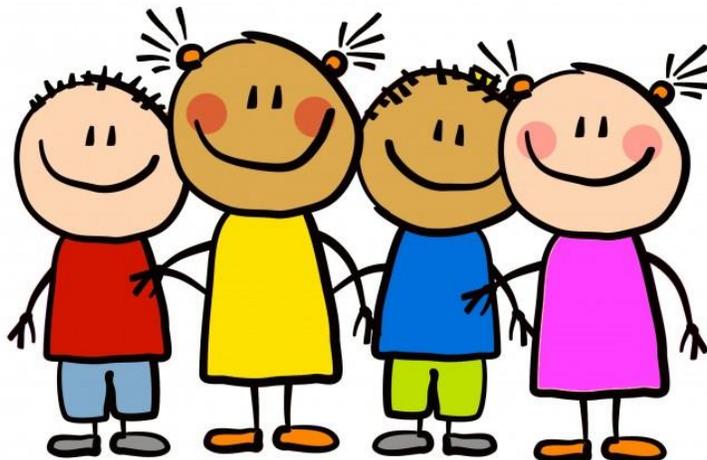
Peg Dierberger

Preschool Teacher

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School website: stjosephwsp.org

651-789-8300



PreK 4/5s Information

Communication:

I have a daily schedule posted outside the classroom indicating our plans for the day. I will also send home periodic newsletters which will explain our preschool activities in more detail. Communication will be distributed electronically. Please keep your email address current with us. Thank you.

If you have any handwritten notes for me, please hand them to me when your child arrives to school. It is best to not leave notes or items in your child's bag. You are certainly welcome to send a message to the director, Mrs. Vicki Young or give her a call if I am in class. I try my best to check emails once a day, but it is usually after 4pm.

Afternoon Drop Off and Pick Up Procedure:

Our day starts at 12:30pm. Please come into the lobby with your child to help him/her take off and hang up belongings in their cubby. Please be sure all outside clothing and any other items have been *labeled* with your child's name. It is very helpful to establish a routine at the beginning of the year. I encourage you to assist your child with his/her belongings, but as the year goes on, allow your preschooler to become more independent by placing belongings in the proper place without assistance from you. All of this takes time and patience, but it will be so rewarding in the end.

I will be greeting each child at the classroom door at 12:30 pm. The classroom aide will be helping with the hand-washing routine. Our goal is to have every child involved in a table activity after arrival. I recommend for you to give a kiss and hug at the door. This procedure allows our day to begin smoother and enables us to get right to our fun!

Note: if your child is in Lunch Bunch prior to our PreK4/5s class, then he/she will be escorted to the classroom by one of our staff members.

Our day ends at 3:30 pm. Please read our end of the day dismissal procedure carefully to ensure safety for all of our students. ***Parents or authorized pick up individuals will need to park in the back lot of the school far behind the orange cones, and meet the children near the building exit.*** My classroom aide and I will be helping the children prepare for dismissal by assisting them with their outer wear, placing larger projects in their school bags and walking to the back of the school together. Your child will wait with the teachers until dismissed—one student at a time to a parent or authorized person. I will only be able to dismiss a child to a parent or authorized person that is listed on the Alternate Pick-Up Authorization Form. It is important to keep this form updated. Help us provide a safe and prompt departure for all the little ones.

Snack:

Once a month a schedule will be sent home indicating when it is your child's turn to bring a healthy snack for the entire class. Please send store-purchased, nutritious, and easy-to-serve snacks.

Keep in mind

- *No peanut butter, peanuts, or nuts of any form. These types of foods are not allowed for any of our preschool programs due to highly allergic children.
- *Please pre-wash and cut any fruit at home. There is not ample time to prepare a snack during class.
- *Please avoid sending grapes or regular popcorn. It is best to stay away from these type of foods with young children.
- *St. Joseph's Preschool highly encourages healthy snacks. Please no cookies, cakes or other sugary snacks.
- *No beverage is needed. Water will be served each day.
- *Thank you for being attentive to the snack policy.

Birthdays:

Birthdays are a part of our preschool days. Your child will be scheduled to bring a snack for the class as close to their actual birthday as possible. We will celebrate the summer birthdays close to the child's half birthday. Please follow our low-sugar format when choosing a birthday snack at the grocery store. I formally invite all of you to be a special guest reader for your child's birthday. It would be wonderful to have you join us, but it is purely optional. All you need to do is make arrangements with me and bring one of your child's favorite books from home. Remember all of our volunteers must have Virtus training.

Large Muscle Time:

We will be heading outside to enjoy our beautiful Minnesota weather daily. Please dress your child in appropriate clothing for playing outside. In case of inclement weather, we will be playing indoors with the large muscle equipment. Note: closed toes shoes are a requirement at preschool. For further information: see the parent handbook.

Sharing Time:

An exciting activity that your child will participate in this year is Sharing Time. This activity will begin mid-September and will correspond to the Letter of the Week. The PreK4/5s may bring one (1) sharing object on Wednesdays only. Please look for the monthly calendar to find the letter we are focusing on each week. I will send out more information pertaining to sharing days in a few weeks.

Dramatic Play:

Each month our dramatic play area is magically transformed into an exciting theme. The month of September will be a time of housekeeping or in other words "playing house". The dramatic play area is always a favorite place during center time. The children learn wonderful skills along the way and have fun. The themes change monthly. I am always looking for items to enhance our dramatic play. Items such as old cellular phones, landline telephones, old cameras, washable baby dolls, purses, shoes, wallets, etc. are very valuable to have in the classroom. Remember to keep in mind when you are taking a trip to the Goodwill with "treasures" you do not want anymore. Thank you!

Extra Clothing:

As it states in the parent handbook it is important to have an extra pair of bottoms in your child's school bag in case of an accident. Thank you.

Visitors:

All visitors must wear a bright, orange badge when entering the preschool or main school. If you have additional questions regarding the visitor's policy, see the parent handbook.

Volunteering:

I am looking forward to having parent volunteers in the classroom. Please know you need to fulfill several requirements prior to volunteering at preschool. All volunteers in the church, main school and preschool must be Virtus trained. Please register at virtusonline.org. If you have been trained in the past, please note that your training needs to be updated every three years. This procedure for our volunteers is Archdiocese mandated.

Keep in Touch:

Feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns during the school year. I can be reached by email or phone. I am able to check messages at the end of the day or in the evening from home. I will do my best to get back to you as soon as possible. Please contact the preschool or main school office if it is urgent.

School Website:

Be sure to check out the school website for preschool information, as well as K-8. Go to: stjosephwsp.org. You will find a tab specifically for Preschool filled with information, forms, teacher pages and more.

Again, welcome to our PreKindergarten 4/5s class!

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