

Welcome to PreK 4s

August 2019

Dear PreKindergarten 4s Parents,

Welcome to St. Joseph's Preschool!

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

September will be a busy time for you and your child as new routines are established and become an important part of your day. Preschool is an exciting time for all of us. I want you to know how happy I am to have your child part of our PreK4s class. I am looking forward to working together with you. It is in your child's best interest that we work together in a relationship of cooperation and openness. I am so 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 filled with excitement for the year approaching us. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your child. Once again, welcome to St. Joseph's Preschool.

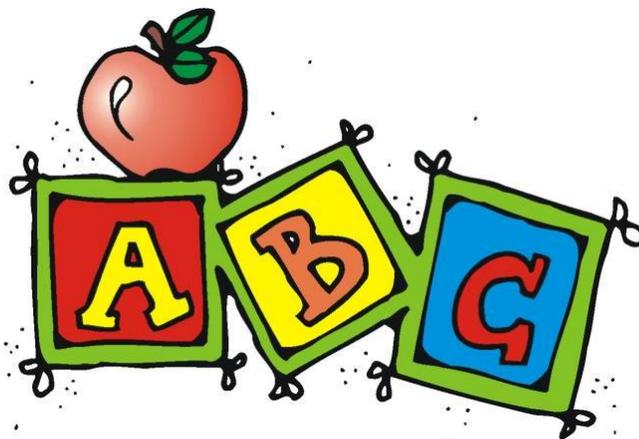
Peg Dierberger

Preschool Teacher

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School website: stjosephwsp.org

651-789-8300



PreK4s 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.

Morning Drop Off and Pick Up Procedure:

Our day starts at 9:00 am. 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 9:00 am. 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!

Our day ends at 11:30 am. Please come to the lobby area to pick up your child. The classroom door opens at dismissal time. I will be dismissing one child at a time to a parent or authorized person. I will only be able to dismiss a child to a parent or an authorized person that is listed on the Alternate Pick-Up Authorization Form. It is important to keep this form updated. Please help us provide a safe and prompt departure for all the little ones. Note: The Lunch Bunch program will be starting as our day is ending, so the lobby has the potential of being very busy.

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. These types of foods can be a choking hazard for young ones.
- *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 giving attention to the snack policy.

Birthdays:

Birthdays are a part of our preschool days. The special birthday boy/girl 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. It is encouraged to follow our low-sugar format when choosing a birthday snack at the grocery store.

I formally invite 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. If you are interested in being a birthday reader, please contact me when the birthday is approaching and a time will be figured out between us. 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 corresponds to the Letter of the Week. The PreK4s may bring one 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 area. 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:

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 4s class!

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