

St. John Fisher Preschool Handbook 2025-2026



CLASS HOURS

Part Time Preschool 7:55 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Full Day Preschool 7:55 a.m. – 2:55 p.m.

MORNING ARRIVAL TIMES

The following is our staggered start times:

Last Name A-L can arrive at 7:45 a.m.

Last name M-Z can arrive at 7:50 a.m.

SUPPLIES

Most school supplies, including a daily take home folder, will be provided for your preschooler. In an effort to make the back to school experience as easy as possible and ensure all students have the same materials, we will be purchasing most of the necessary supplies needed, including crayons, glue, pencils, scissors, watercolor paints, tape, binders, cardstock, playdoh, etc. You will notice a \$35 charge on FACTS that covers the cost of these items. Each child will need a large, easy to open backpack to carry home creations/school mail. The following are supplies we ask each child to bring to school on supply drop-off night or anytime during the first week. Thank you so much for your help!

3 rolls of paper towels

1 Hand Sanitizer

3 Packages of Baby Wipes

3 Packages Clorox Wipes

2 Boxes of Kleenex

1 Gallon or Quart size Ziploc Bags

1 Sandwich size Ziploc Bags

Over the ear, labeled headphones (please no ear buds)

Full Change of Clothes to stay at school in case of accident or spill (shirt, pants, underwear and socks clearly labeled in a Ziploc bag)

CLOTHING

Preschoolers should dress suited to active and sometimes "messy" play. Please keep in mind that children are expected to use the bathroom by themselves. One-piece overalls, tights and belts can be difficult for some students. Gym shoes/closed-toe shoes are requested since the preschoolers are up and down the stairs as well as on the playground during the school day. We ask that children please only wear shoes that have no laces. Velcro gym shoes or slip-on, enclosed shoes would be wonderful! Gym shoes are required to participate in gym class. It would also be helpful if you could label any clothing that might be left behind, such as sweaters, hats, jackets, boots, etc.

BATHROOM

All Preschoolers must be fully potty trained in order to attend Preschool (pull-ups are not allowed.) Any accidents that do occur must be rare. If accidents are recurring, parents will be called in to meet to discuss changing schedule (i.e. full time to part time) and/or staying home from the program for a specified period of time until the child is potty trained. If your child has an accident at school and cannot easily change himself/herself, a parent will be called to pick up the child. Each child will keep a change of clothes at school in the case of a bathroom accident or a lunchtime/snack spill. **Please send a full change of clothes (shirt, pants (not shorts), underwear, socks) in a large Ziploc bag with your child's name clearly labeled on it to stay at school throughout the year.**

ALLERGIES / MEDICAL

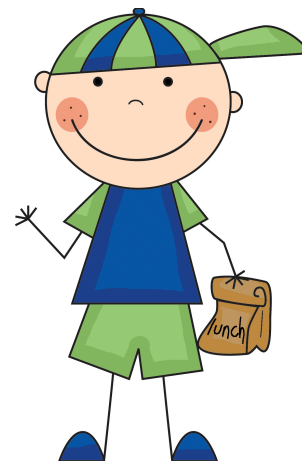
If your child has or develops any specific allergies or medical conditions, please be sure to notify the teacher in writing/e-mail as soon as possible.

ATTENDANCE

If your child is sick or showing signs of potentially being sick, please keep them home. **Per the school handbook, parents are required to keep children home if there has been an episode of vomiting, fever, rash or diarrhea in the 24 hours before the school day begins.** When reporting your child absent, please e-mail both your child's teacher and attendance@sjfschool.us. We are counting on and thank you for your help and cooperation in ensuring a healthy year for all our little ones and their families!

SNACK/LUNCH

Both the part-time and the full day preschoolers have a short snack time each day. Please send a small, nutritious snack along with a juice or water bottle each day for your child. If sending a reusable water bottle, please label your child's name and make sure it is an easy to open and close lid. Full Day Preschoolers will also need a lunch each day. It would be so helpful if you could please place your child's snack in a separate bag or pocket of their bookbag than their lunch. Since the Preschoolers eat lunch in our classrooms daily, it is not possible to order the school wide daily hot lunch program. The full day Preschoolers are however able to order the once a month Special Lunch (more information to follow!)



ARRIVAL

Please do not arrive more than five minutes before class starts. Ms. Surin, Mrs. Bullington and Ms. Fadden's classes will meet at the west side doors underneath the bridge (door #6.) Mrs. Garza and Ms. Condon's classes will meet at the doors just off of Fairfield and directly across from the convent/playground (door #7.)

DISMISSAL

If you know that you are going to be detained, please notify the school office so we can reassure your child. If you will not be picking up your child, please let us know beforehand who to expect or if they are to attend Extended Day. Preschoolers will be dismissed one at a time to their parent or caregiver from the same doors they arrive in.

EXTENDED DAY

Before and after care is available to all preschool students through our Extended Day Program. You will need to let your child's teacher know in writing/e-mail if your child will be attending Extended Day.

TOYS

Thankfully, we have more than enough toys to play with at Preschool! Please keep toys from home at home. Thank you for your help!

REST TIME

The Full-Day Preschoolers have a rest/nap time each afternoon. Each child will have their own cot to use each day and may bring one small, thin blanket/loveys. Please only send blankets/loveys that can stay at school daily. All rest time belongings will be sent home periodically on Fridays (or Thursdays if T/W/TH student) to be cleaned.

BIRTHDAYS

Children's birthdays are special days! We are looking forward to celebrating each child's birthday in school. If you wish, you may send in a birthday treat for the entire class. Any food treats must be store bought and not homemade.

PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES

While no two days are the same in Preschool, here is what a typical day in PreK might look like for us!

- * Free Play
- * Centers
- * Religion/Bible Stories/Prayers
- * Computer/iPad Usage
- * Outdoor Play
- * Finger Plays
- * Fine Motor Skills
- * Social Emotional Learning
- * Science/STEM Activities
- * Thematic Unit Learning
- * Whole Group, Small Group and Individual Instruction
- * Morning Meeting
- * Calendar Activities
- * Math Readiness
- * Foundations Literacy Instruction
- * Gross Motor Skills
- * Story Time
- * Creative Art and Exploration
- * Songs & Movement
- * Journals
- * Playground

Our preschoolers will also attend certain specials classes throughout the week depending on their days of attendance. Your child's teacher will be sending home the class specials schedule soon!

The following is a brief overview of the skills we work on in Preschool, laying the foundation in three year old Preschool and progressing throughout four year old Preschool.

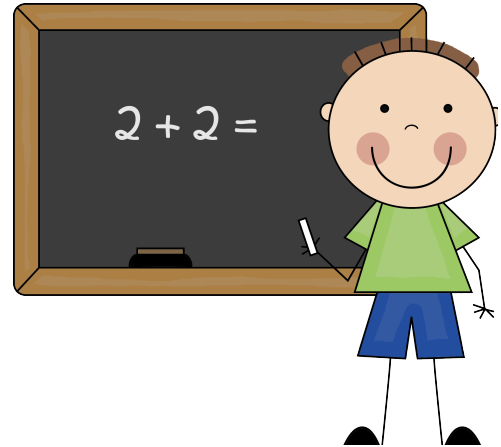


Literacy Instruction

- Foundations
- Important skills we work on throughout the year...
 - o Upper and lowercase letter identification
 - o Upper and lowercase letter formation/printing
 - o Letter sounds
 - o Recognize/spell/print first and last name
 - o Rhyming
 - o Syllables
 - o Beginning sounds
 - o Recognizing basic sight words
 - o Understanding that print is read from left to right
 - o Sequencing and comprehension

Math Instruction

- Calendar math and question of the day
 - o Estimation, comparing more/less, graphing, etc.
- Important skills we work on throughout the year...
 - o Number recognition
 - o Number formation/printing
 - o Counting to 100
 - o One to one correspondence
 - o Patterning
 - o Shapes
 - o Sorting and measurement
 - o Subitizing



Religion Instruction

- Bible stories
- Daily prayers

Social Emotional Learning

- Intertwined in our daily discussions, read aloud stories and lessons.
- We are working on the following important skills throughout the year...
 - o Being a loving and kind friend to everyone
 - o Sharing and taking turns
 - o Mindfulness and calming strategies
 - o Being respectful
 - o Being a good listener and following directions
 - o Demonstrating positive behavior

WAYS TO HELP AT HOME

To prepare your child for preschool, you can help in the following ways.

- * Teach your child to dress him/herself (Putting on shoes, zipping their coats, button their pants, etc.)
- * Guide your child to show independence in taking care of his/her own bathroom needs.
- * Be sure your child knows his/her full name.
- * Keep encouraging good listening and being a kind friend to all.
- * Practice following directions.
- * Have a cheerful, positive attitude when the child leaves either at home or school with "Goodbye, I'll see you later!"

* If your child cries upon being dropped off at school, please do not remain too long. If your child continues to cry and does not calm down, we promise we will give you a call. The school adjustment is rapid once the parent leaves and the day's activities begin. Prolonged goodbyes make transitions difficult.

We look forward to partnering with you to make this school year as wonderful as possible. Please keep us posted of anything we should be aware of regarding your child to allow us to best teach him/her. You are welcome to email us or set up a meeting at any time! We will also be sending out a weekly newsletter to keep you updated on all of the exciting learning and fun happening in Preschool. Thank you so much for sharing your incredible children with us this school year!

