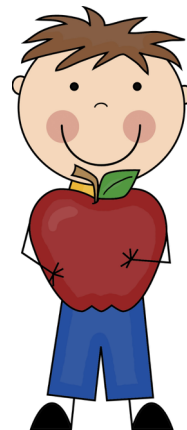


Welcome to Preschool!

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. John Fisher Preschool! I am thrilled to be your child's teacher and am very much looking forward to a wonderful year! This will be my seventh year of teaching Preschool at St. John Fisher and I could not ask for a better place to teach! I truly love teaching this age group, preschool is so much fun! ☺ To tell you a little bit about my background, I graduated from Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame, IN with a major in Elementary Education and minors in Early Childhood Education and Reading. Teaching preschool also runs in my genes – my mom has been teaching preschool for over 15 years at St. Catherine's and my grandmother and great-grandmother were also early childhood teachers. I am the luckiest daughter ever - my mom and I have so much fun collaborating with one another and sharing ideas to ensure our students have the best possible preschool experience.



Having attended Catholic schools throughout my life (St. Germaine, Mother McAuley and Saint Mary's,) I understand the sacrifice you are making to ensure your child has the best possible education. I want you to know that I am going to work as hard as I possibly can in order to give each of your children the most enriching, nurturing and loving education to prepare them for Kindergarten and beyond. I plan on teaching your child as if he or she were my own. I will be excited when they finish a puzzle, happy when they make a new friend and proud of them when they learn something new! We are going to have a great year together!



I am also so excited to be working with Mrs. Beth Furlong again this year who is our wonderful classroom aide. Mrs. Furlong is a mom of five children (two in college, one at Br. Rice, one at Mother McAuley

and one at Most Holy Redeemer School.) I am thrilled to be teaching with Mrs. Furlong again this year, she is simply the best! Together we are looking forward to making this a wonderful year! ☺

Preschool Goals

- * To develop in each child a positive self-image and a sense of adventure in the search for knowledge.
- * To provide developmental opportunities and experiences that meet the cognitive, social, emotional and physical needs of each child in order to reach their full potential.
- * To help each child adjust to school and become secure, happy and self-confident learners.
- * To prepare each child for future schooling by allowing development in various content areas at his/her individual pace.
- * To provide early education in an atmosphere that is safe, comfortable and enjoyable.

Class Hours

Full Day Preschool
Monday – Friday 7:50 a.m. – 2:20 p.m.

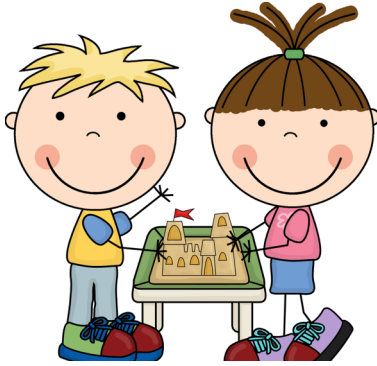


Supplies Needed

A large, easy to open backpack to carry home projects and school mail
A sturdy folder with your child's name on the front
3 rolls of paper towels
1 package paper plates
1 package Ziploc bags (boys – sandwich size, girls – gallon size)
3 packages of baby/wet wipes
3 containers of Clorox wipes
1 box of Kleenex
1 bottle of Hand Sanitizer
Full change of clothes (see Bathroom below)

Clothing

Children should dress suited to active and sometimes "messy" play.



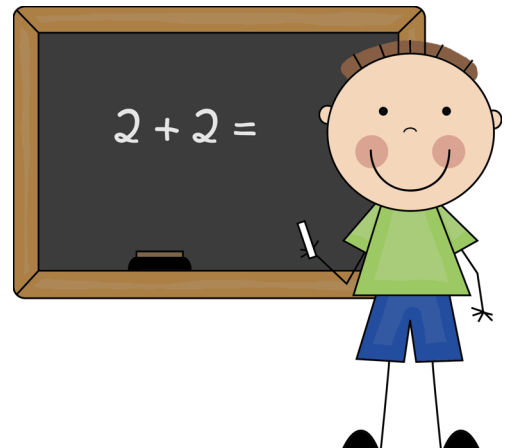
Please keep in mind that children are expected to use the bathroom by themselves. One-piece overalls, tights and belts can be difficult for some students. Gym shoes/closed-toe shoes are best since the preschoolers are up and down the stairs as well as on the playground during the school day. It would be helpful if you could label clothing that might be left behind, such as sweaters, hats, jackets, boots, etc.

Toys

We ask that you please do not allow your child to bring toys from home to school as they can be hard to share and easily lost.

Bathroom

Children are expected to be fully potty trained when they are admitted to preschool. However, we understand that accidents may happen and if one occurs at school the child's parents will be called to come and change their child if they cannot change themselves. 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, underwear, socks.) in a large Ziploc bag with your child's name clearly labeled on it to stay at school throughout the year.



Snack

We will have a short snack time each morning. Each child will be responsible for bringing their own snack on a daily basis. Please send

small, nutritious snacks as our snack time is very short. (For example, a banana, a couple strawberries, a few pretzels, goldfish, etc.) Also, please send a small juice box or water bottle with your child each day. If you choose to send your child with a water bottle, please label it with their name and make sure it is an easy to open and close lid. It would also be very helpful if you could use a separate bag or pocket of their book bag for their snack (so they don't get confused with their lunch!)

Folders

Each child will need one folder to relay communication from school to home and vice-versa each day. Please label the front of your child's folder with his/her name. After each class, please check your child's folder for any correspondence or student work.

Lunch

The Full-Day Preschoolers will eat lunch in our classroom. Please send your child with a lunch each day and a small drink. Each month, the preschoolers are able to order milk. Once a month, they are also able to order the school-wide special lunch. Forms will be sent home in their folders for milk and special lunch soon.



Allergies

If your child has or develops any specific allergies please be sure to notify the teacher in writing.

Rest Time

The Full-Day Preschoolers have a rest/nap time each afternoon. This is an opportunity for all our children to lie down and take a rest from our busy days while listening to some quiet music. Each child will have their own cot to use each day and may bring a small blanket and a small stuffed animal if desired. Rest time is typically 40-60 minutes per day (more or less depending on each child.)

Birthdays

Children's birthdays are special days! We will celebrate each child's birthday in school. If you wish, you may send a treat or small token (such as pencils, stickers, bubbles, etc.) for the entire class or donate a favorite book or toy to our classroom. Treats must be store bought and not homemade.

Discipline

Children will be encouraged toward proper behavior through positive tones of voice and praise. They will be reminded verbally in cases of inappropriate and/or disruptive behavior. Parents will be notified if a child's behavior is frequently inappropriate and discussions will be held in private.

Star of the Week



Each child will have the opportunity to be our "Star of the Week" for one week throughout the school year. I will send home a poster the week before your child's turn to be completed and returned. Star of the Week is a great way for our students to learn more about their friends, practice their public speaking skills and boost their self-esteem! Each child will have the opportunity to share favorite pictures, a favorite toy and a favorite story with our class when it is their special week.

Arrival

Please do not arrive more than five minutes before class starts. Mrs. Altman and Miss Fadden's classes will meet at the west side doors underneath the bridge.

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. If parents are late,

children will be brought to the school office. Preschoolers will be dismissed one at a time to their parent or caregiver from the same doors they arrive in. Please bear with me at the beginning of the year as I learn which child goes with which caregiver. ☺

Parent Volunteers

All parent volunteers, chaperones and room parents need to be Virtus trained. You can get all of the information on Virtus training from the St. John Fisher School web page at www.sjfschool.net.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school is very important. It helps the student obtain the maximum benefits from school. However, if your child is



sick, please keep them home. We ask that you use your best judgment and consider the other children in class. With the nature of preschool, we have lots of families who are either expecting or have new babies at home that we do not want to pass any illnesses along to.

Children must be fever free for 24 hours before they can return to school.

We cannot stress this enough. If your child is sick at school, parents will be notified and the child may be picked up at the school office. We thank you for your cooperation in ensuring a healthy year for all our little ones!

Emergency School Closing

As a general school rule, school will be in session unless very unusual circumstances warrant a change in this policy. Should an unscheduled closing be necessary, please check the policy in the SJF Handbook.

If the child's parents are divorced or separated, the school presumes that both parents have access to the children's records unless one parent can provide evidence that he/she has the sole rights.

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 toilet needs.
- * Be sure your child knows his/her full name.
- * 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.



Preschool Activities

Preschool activities will include...

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| * Free Play | * Calendar Activities |
| * Religion/Bible Stories | * Math Readiness |
| * Computer/iPad Usage | * Language Arts |
| * Outdoor Play | * Gross Motor Skills |
| * Finger Play | * Story Time |
| * Fine Motor Skills | * Creative Art |
| * Snack/Lunch Time | * Songs & Movement |
| * Science Activities | * Journals |

All of our preschoolers will also attend certain specials classes throughout the week depending on their days of attendance. Full-Day Preschoolers will attend gym class, computer class and art class once a week as well as alternating music and library classes once a week.

The St. John Fisher Preschool believes that the parents are the first and most significant teachers in the child's life. A good partnership between the parent and the teacher is a necessity for the optimum growth of the child. The preschool experience should be exciting and happy for both the child and the parent; Therefore, good communication between parents and teachers is essential. Parents are encouraged to share all information that could help in making the child's experience a better one! Please check our preschool blog for information and pictures of all the exciting things we are up to!

Please feel free to call and leave a message at the school office for me or email me at kfadden@sjfschool.net with any questions or concerns. We are really looking forward to a wonderful year!

Miss Katie Fadden and Mrs. Beth Furlong

