

# The **ABC'S** of Kindergarten

Here you will find many answers to questions you may have about the Kindergarten class.

## **Absences:**

If your child is going to be absent from school please call the school office before 9 am. The phone number is 715-262-5912. When your child returns to school he/she must bring a note stating the dates of absence and reason.

## **"Apple of My Eye":**

Each child will have a chance to be my "Apple of My Eye" for a week. When your child's "Apple of My Eye" turn arrives, I will send home an envelope for you to fill out. Just fill out the questionnaire and send in 5 or more family photos. They will be displayed on a bulletin board and will be returned the following week.

## **Attendance:**

Consistent attendance is essential for your child to obtain maximum benefit from a carefully planned program. Please try to have your child here on time by (8:05).

## **Backpacks:**

To help carry messages in and information to and from school, you are asked to provide a backpack for this purpose. Please find a backpack without wheels and also make sure that it is large enough to hold a folder. Please have your child share the contents of the backpack with you daily.

## **Birthdays:**

I will make your child's birthday a special one. As a class we sing "Happy Birthday". Your child gets to be leader for the day, and he or she gets to sit in the birthday chair. If your child's birthday is in the summer, we will celebrate the birthday as a half birthday (6 months) from actual birthday. To make the birthday extra special, many families have helped by having a birthday child bring a small gift to class (marking pens, note cards, glue sticks, stickers, or small books). You are not obligated to do this but, the concept of a child sharing his or her birthday by being a giver makes a statement.

## **Computer Lab:**

We will be going to the computer lab once and/or twice a week for 30 minutes. We will be working on math and reading skills.

## **Conferences:**

Parent/Teacher Conferences are a time to discuss your child's accomplishments, strengths, and overall progress. We will have one scheduled conference around the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> grading period and another in spring. Please feel free to schedule conferences at any time throughout the year if the need arises.

### **Differentiation:**

Because all children are unique and special, they may be at many different instructional levels. Since it is my responsibility to take each child from where he or she is to a higher level, students may be learning concepts different from his/her peers. With this type of teaching in the classroom, you can be sure that your child's individual needs will be met.

### **Dress:**

Please label all coats, jackets, backpacks, and sweaters. Have your child wear tennis shoes appropriate for Physical Education activities on Gym days.

### **Email:**

Emailing me is a one way to stay in touch. You may contact me at [dironside@stjosephprescott.com](mailto:dironside@stjosephprescott.com). If you need to inform me of timely matters then send a note or call the school.

### **Field Trips:**

One or more field trips are planned during the school year. Please sign and return both sides of the permission slip and return it along with money promptly. Chaperones are always needed and appreciated. Chaperones must have approved background checks.

### **Footwear:**

Please have your child wear shoes that are appropriate for running and active movement. Cowboy boots, dress shoes, or flip flops for example, are not good for school activities because they are slippery and inappropriate for the gym and playground.

### **Gym:**

We will be going to gym twice a week. Please have your child wear tennis shoes on gym days.

### **Health:**

Please let me know of special circumstances which may affect your child. These could include medication your child is taking, not getting enough sleep, a death in the family, etc. Also please let me know of any allergies your child may have.

### **Help at Home:**

By the end of the year your child will be expected to know and print his/her name, address, telephone number, basic color words, number words, count to 100, count by 2s, 5s, 10s, identify letters and sounds, and many more skills. With all of that you can see why helping at home really makes a difference in your child's learning.

### **Homework:**

Homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday. Please refer to weekly newsletter for assigned work.

### **Illness:**

The question of when to keep your child home from is often a difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. It is important, however, to keep your child home if he/she is ill. This helps to make them more comfortable and prevents others from becoming ill. Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy. Children must be FEVER FREE for 24 HOURS before returning to school.

### **Journals:**

We will begin writing in our journals on the first day of school. Your child will be given a prompt when he/she will answer the prompt in their journal. When your child brings home his/her journal at the end of the year you will see how in the beginning usually only pictures were used. Soon you'll see letters for words, and labels for pictures, and by the end of the year a sentence or two.

### **Join our Home and School Organization:**

Our Home and School Organization is fantastic!!! They will do so many wonderful things for the students, faculty, and staff here at St. Joe's. Without their support our school would not be as great as it is. Please consider joining and become an active member and all the numerous projects they are involved in.

### **Kindness:**

Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class as well as others with kindness and respect. Hitting, fighting, name calling, and making fun of others will not be permitted.

### **Library:**

We will go to the library once a week. Your child will be allowed to check out books during this visit only if he/she has returned the previously checked out book. If your child forgets the book on Friday, return it as soon as possible then he/she will be able to check out books the next time. If you damage or misplace the book and cannot find it, the cost for replacing it depends on the book.

### **Love:**

I love children and I will love your child as if he/she were my own! I am very dedicated to teaching and I become very attached to each and every child. I will do everything possible to make sure that your child is successful academically as well as socially.

### **Math:**

We will be following the Saxon Math program. Students will be working on the same skill, but they may be learning it a different way depending on their needs.

### **Money:**

When sending in money, please put the money in a Ziplock bag, envelope or something with your child's name on it and what the money is for.

### **Newsletter:**

I will be sending via Email weekly newsletters to help you stay informed of what we're learning and doing in the classroom. I will offer homework suggestions, reminders of upcoming dates and events, and general information.

### **Outside Play:**

The children will be going outside each day. Please dress appropriately for the weather (coats, mittens, boots, and hats).

### **P.O.P.S-(Praise Of Positive Students):**

Positive behavior is rewarded for showing respect to others and being responsible. On Fridays or the last day of the week one or more students are able to pick out of the POPS Prize box. Names are picked out of the POPS jar, much like a raffle. When homework is completed, or a good deed is done ...your child's name is put into the POPS jar.

### **Parties and Celebrations:**

We will have class parties from time to time for occasions such as Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Easter. Room parents usually organize these events and coordinate these events as well as donations. You'll be contacted if you've volunteered to help.

### **Questions:**

If questions occur after school hours and need immediate attention I don't mind phone calls at home.

### **Read Alouds/Book It:**

Starting in November, in addition to the snack calendar, your child will receive a seasonal sheet to record the titles of books you read together. Whenever it is complete, your child may return the sheet for a pizza certificate to Pizza Hut.

### **Report Cards:**

These reports reflect the progress your child has made toward various kindergarten objectives and use a grading system that reflects the developmental nature of kindergarten learning. Please review, sign, and return the report card in a timely manner.

### **Room Parents/Volunteers:**

The room parents/volunteers need to be available for any number of things: to help coordinate parties and activities; to lead a center in our rotations; to chaperone field trips and events; to be a sounding board about new ideas, etc.. Being a room parent/volunteer is a great way to be involved in your child's school life. If you are interested, please contact me with days and times available.

### **Scientist of the Week:**

Each week a student will be chosen to be the "Scientist of the Week." A brief case will be sent home containing books with science experiments in them. The "Scientist of the Week" will choose one experiment to share with the class. On Friday the "Scientist of the Week" brings the briefcase back to school and shares the experiment with the whole class.

### **Show and Tell:**

Please have your child bring in an item that he or she would like to share with the class on his/her V.I.K. day. Please have your child put the show and tell in the V.I.K. bag or a brown paper bag so that we can play 20 questions and guess what the item is in the bag. Please help your child think of 3 clues about the show and tell item. After 5 guesses your child shares one of the clues and after 10 guesses another clue, etc.

### **Snack:**

I would appreciate each family taking turns sending a snack to share with their child's classmates. A snack calendar will come home monthly with your child's V.I.K. day marked. Please remember to keep portions small and nutritious. In case of absence on V.I.K. day I will have extra snack on hand.

### **Toys:**

Please leave all toys at home. I have an incredible amount of stimulating materials. At this age, when their own toys come to school, they are often misplaced and then there are disappointments and tears.

### **Unique:**

Kindergartners learn that they are special and unique. Kindergartners have opportunities to describe how they are alike as well as different from others. They share their culture and learn about different cultures within the class.

### **V.I.K. (Very Important Kindergartener):**

Each day of the week, a different child will be the Very Important Kindergartener (V.I.K.). On this day, your child will perform special duties such as being the first in line, filling in our calendar, and taking the attendance envelope to the office.

### **Visitors:**

St. Joseph School has a policy that ALL VISITORS (including familiar faces) are required to check in at the office through the main office. St. Joseph School welcomes and encourages family involvement and checking in will help identify visitors to all faculty and staff. It is important to remember that while this may seem inconvenient to frequent visitors, it is the goal and responsibility of the school to create a safe learning environment.

### **Wish List:**

Throughout the year we sometimes need supplies above and beyond our classroom materials (film, napkins spoons etc.). Extra items that you think we might be able to use are always welcome!

### **Writing:**

It is very important when your child is learning to write letters that he/she uses proper letter formations. That means starting the letter at the top and pulling down. Once incorrect formation is started it is very difficult to change these habits.

### **Younger Siblings:**

It is in your child's and the class's best interest to have our parent volunteers and chaperones available without younger children. This not only allows your full attention to be focused on the class, but also allows for some special time between you and your kindergartner. Thank you for making childcare arrangements for younger siblings.

### **ZZZZZ's:**

Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. It will help them to be alert and ready to learn each day!

Thank you for allowing me to be your child's teacher during their first official year of school. Together, I know we will help them to grow academically, emotionally, physically, and spiritually!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Darla Ironside