

St. John's Lutheran Kindergarten



Information

2009 -2010

“ Living a Life of Service”

St. John's Lutheran School
899 South Sixth Avenue, West Bend
334-3077

Mrs. Jennifer Wolf, Teacher
Mr. David Kellerman, Principal

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. John's Lutheran School! We are happy to have you as a part of our school community. Through the instruction of Mrs. Wolf, the role models within our Christian school community, and your parenting efforts, it is my prayer that your child will grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus. As you marvel at your child's growth - physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, and spiritually - I encourage you to thank the Lord often

"Living a Life of Service" is our theme for the year. We are looking forward to partnering with you in such a way that your child grows in the ability and desire to serve the Lord."

We are going to have a great year together under God's direction! There may be challenging and difficult times ahead, but we are confident of God's promise to work everything out for the good of those who love Him.

Again, welcome to St. John's Lutheran School. We look forward to working with you for the good of your child as God continues to transform us into His likeness.

Secure in His grace,

David Kellerman, principal

KINDERGARTEN STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The staff of St. John's Lutheran School believes that the kindergarten program should provide experiences for children which enable them to develop their individual potentials in an atmosphere which promotes spiritual growth and a positive self-concept as a forgiven child of God. The emphasis is not upon formal programs of skill instruction, but upon introducing and developing readiness behaviors in an informal but structured fashion built on the natural inclination and curiosity of children to explore. Accordingly, the purpose of the kindergarten program is to:

1. provide an atmosphere and activities conducive to the individual's spiritual development;
2. provide group interactions and use of social behaviors in an educational setting;
3. provide readiness experiences which will facilitate the individual's accomplishments in a more formal academic learning program in later years;
4. determine individual levels of performance and behavior and to provide for success at those levels;
5. promote physical development of the individual in terms of fine and gross motor movement;
6. promote parent involvement with the school to promote a smooth home to school transition for the child;
7. increase the child's awareness of the cultural, physical and aesthetic aspects of the environment in which he/she lives.

The corresponding emphasis in the kindergarten curriculum is:

1. Religion:

to provide opportunities for and develop skills in personal and group worship and prayer; to develop the knowledge that Jesus is the child's personal Savior and that God is the Creator and Giver of everything; to promote living as a child of God; to promote and encourage acceptance of others as unique and special creations of God. To love one another as God loves us. to increase the child's awareness of Bible stories, hymns, songs, and Bible passages as a means of learning about and worshipping God.

2. Reading/Language Development:

to provide experience with books and the printed word through story time and individual exposure, to promote experience in receptive and expressive use of language and language patterns; to develop auditory perception skills; to provide experiences with the organization of print and discrimination between units of the written word; and to develop a positive attitude toward reading, speaking, and the printed word.

3. Mathematics:

to provide experiences with the concepts of classification, comparison, and numeration through concrete application and examples.

4. Socialization Skills:

to promote children working together productively in group settings and in an organization context.

5. Science/Social Studies:

to promote the child's awareness of the physical environment in terms of plants, animals, and matter as well as his/her geographical/cultural environment in terms of the neighborhood and community.

6. Music, Art;

to promote the child's awareness of cultural and aesthetic value of the fine arts area.

7. Physical Education:

to provide for development of fine and gross motor skills.

8. Personal Learning Skills:

to develop skills in attending to tasks, completing tasks independently, and cooperatively. Also, to follow simple directions successfully.

Above all, the concept of providing success for each child at his/her level of development is crucial in developing a positive self-concept as a forgiven child of God. This positive concept is an important component for future academic success.

FIRST DAY SUGGESTIONS

Parents, try to have a calm, easy going attitude about your child on that very first day of school. Reassure your child that going to school is a natural thing. You may want to explain to your child that going to school is his or her job right now. Just like mothers and fathers have jobs, so do children. Explain that Dad's job may be working in an office. Mom's job may be working in an office or at home. A child's job, which is also an important one, is to go to school and learn.

If you take your child to school, reassure your child that you will be back for him/her. Many children are afraid their parents will not return. Usually, a child will say good-bye, move right into the room and mingle with the other children. However, some parents and children experience separation anxieties. Even after doing everything possible to familiarize a child with the school situation, school may still seem new and scary for the young child. In that case, stay just long enough for the child to become comfortable with the setting. Often a lingering parent makes separation harder. Inform the child that you are leaving and that you will be back to pick him/her up after school. Then leave. Be sure to be on time when you pick up your child. A minute may seem like an eternity to a waiting child.

WHAT TO WEAR

Children will be more comfortable and happy if they have clothing suitable for active participation.

Comfortable, washable, clothing for boys and girls is best for most school activities. Well-fitting shoes are important for growing feet.

Your child's teacher may suggest that children keep an extra set of clothing at school in case of accidents. You will also want to supply your child with a smock, or old shirt, for painting and other messy projects.

Shoes: Please no high heels, open backed shoes or flip flops. Tennis shoes are needed for gym. These are left at school or brought each day in the child's backpack.

WHAT TO EAT

Make sure your child has a good breakfast beginning the first day of school. Encourage your child to eat a protein-rich breakfast. Protein is not only important for building the body, but it also "stays" with your child longer than foods which are rich in carbohydrates. We observe that children are able to concentrate better after an adequate breakfast.

Here are some excellent alternatives to breakfast cereals: cheese, eggs, yogurt, nuts, whole wheat toast, peanut butter and meats of all kinds, hot or cold.

IMPORTANT KINDERGARTEN INFORMATION

Transportation

Each child who rides on the bus will begin the year with a name tag. The tag will include the *bus route home*, the child's name, address and school name. The teacher will pin a tag on each child the first morning of school. Please continue to send the tag back each day, pinned on the child or their school bag, for the first two or more weeks of school. We want to be sure the children and the teacher know exactly which bus they are to be on. Please help your child to memorize their bus number, their own name, address and phone number. If you do not want your child to take the bus home, please send a note with your child on *that day* indicating he will be getting a ride. Those children who ride home in a car should also memorize their name, address, and phone number. The teacher will check the children on this information in November. If someone other than a child's parent is picking them up from school please send a note indicating that. The teacher will not release a child to *anyone*, other than their parents, without written permission or an oral communication from the office.

Starting Times 8:00 a.m.

Children are not allowed into the classrooms until 7:50 a.m. Students who arrive early (doors open at 7:30) meet in the gym where they are supervised by a teacher until 7:50 a.m.

Dismissal 11:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

A.M.: Parents who pick up their children may meet us at the playground entrance. Please be prompt when picking up your child.

P.M.: The children who are bused will go out the front door of school. The children who are being picked up by car will be dismissed by the playground. If you have older children in school they may pick them up at the kindergarten door.

** Parent volunteers are needed for Kindergarten lunch supervision. 11:30-12:20. Let me know if you can help.

Health

To help us know of any possible physical problems a child might have, a physical examination is recommended for every child entering kindergarten. Our school and the state of Wisconsin require that a child be immunized before starting school.

When a child is ill, he should stay home. A child who shows any of the following symptoms should **not** be in school:

1. Acute cold.
2. Sore throat or earache accompanied by fever of 99.6 degrees or higher.
3. Swollen glands with fever of 99.6 degrees or higher.
4. Excessively discharging nose.

5. Temperature of 99.6 degrees or higher.
6. Undiagnosed skin eruptions or rashes.
7. General signs of listlessness, weakness, drowsiness, flushed skin, frequent severe headaches.

Children should not return to school until their temperature has been normal for at least 24 hours. *Please do not send* your child to school ill. All cases or suspected cases of contagious diseases are to be promptly reported to the school.

Attendance

If a child must be absent from school, parents are asked to inform the school personnel by calling 334-3077 by 8:30.

Nutritional Snacks

We will have milk and a snack every morning. Parents will be assigned dates to bring snacks. Nutritional snacks are encouraged. *Make sure you send spoons, knives, bowls, whatever you need for your snack.* Milk will be provided if you purchase a milk ticket. Birthday treats may be brought during their scheduled week. Birthday treats may be cupcakes, cookies, etc. Children with summer birthdays may pick a day to celebrate their birthday during their snack week.

PM Snack - Afternoon children will be asked to bring in a box of fruit snacks, graham crackers or individually packed snack. As our supplies dwindle parents will be asked to send an additional box. We will not have pm snack every day.

Library

Library day will be Tuesdays. The children will checkout books and bring them home each Tuesday. Please return the library books on the following Tuesday. One of the most important things you can do for your children to help them learn to read is to *read to them each day*. If you can, have your child pick out letters on the page that he or she recognizes. If your child shows an interest point to the words as you read and have him/her follow along. More importantly, read every day to your child. Make it a fun time for both of you. Please encourage your child to take special care of his books.

Show and Tell

Each Friday children are to bring in 2 or 3 items that begin with the sound of our "letter of the week". Pets are welcomed, but arrangements must be made the day before. Items of special interest that applies to our units may be brought any time.

Art

We will have special art projects each week. On Thursday or Friday we will paint and several times throughout the year we will have a cooking activity. Help is always needed.

Label All Items

Please label all of your child's possessions before they are sent to school. Put your child's first and last name on all jackets, boots, hats, mittens, school bags, glue, etc. For clothing, laundry markers or labels are available at fabric stores.

Chapel

Every Wednesday morning at 8:10 the morning Kindergarten children along with 1st through 8th grade will attend chapel at church. I will send an envelope home with your child on Monday for a chapel offering. Please mark the envelope with your child's full name and grade level.

Book Orders

The teacher will send a sheet for Scholastics See Saw book order several times throughout the year. If you decide to order, please send cash or a check made out to See Saw or Scholastic Book Club. Place the money or check in an envelope with your order form clearly marked with your child's name, each book title marked, and total amount due at the bottom of the slip. Also, mark the outside of the envelope with your name, grade and BOOK ORDER written on it.

Milk Money

Kindergarten students pay \$1.25 for 25 cartons of milk for morning break. Afternoon milk and milk used for cold lunch is \$6.25 for 25 cartons. Please send money to school clearly labeled in an envelope.

Hot Lunch

St. John's provides a daily hot lunch (including milk) at a cost of \$2.10 per student meal. Milk is also available for those who bring their own lunch. Lunch is eaten in the classroom. Our lunch is prepared by the West Bend Public School. Hot Lunch menus are published in the school newsletter *Eagle's Nest*.

Field Trips (Field trips may change from year to year)

The children will be going on a few "walking field trips" to places near school, one or two bus trips, and two or more car trips. When we go by car, *car seats* will need to be brought to school, to accommodate child safety restraint laws. You will be notified as to the exact date and time when arrangements are made. Parents are welcomed on any and all field trips as long as we do not have to limit the number of people in attendance. Possible field trips: a pumpkin farm, a grocery store, Children's play, Dairy Queen, Police station, Zoo and LacLawrann. There may be additional outings for those staying in the afternoon.

Take Home Folder

Children should return their folder each day. The folder is used for daily communication between teacher and parent. Children's papers and projects will be sent home in their folders. Parents may return money and other correspondence in this folder.

Resource People (God's Helpers)

The following people may be invited to our room to talk with the Kindergartners: nurse, policeman, dentist, fireman, musician, mailman, or Pastor. (There may be others).

Some Special Days and Units (We may or may not cover all of these each year)

Dinosaur Unit	Turtle Day	Health & Nutrition Unit
Zoo Animal Unit	Pizza Day	Grocery Story Unit
Sea Animal Unit	5 Senses Unit	Seasons & Holiday Unit
Community Helpers Unit	Lady Bug Day	Plants and Seeds Unit
Kite Unit (Wind)	Balloon Unit	
God Made Us Each Special Unit		

Religion and Worship

We will study a new unit each week. The teacher will introduce a Bible story and memory verse to the children with suggested follow up and reinforcement activities for each day of the week. We will sing "Jesus" songs and have prayer time each day. If you have individual prayer requests please let me know so we can include your concerns in our worship.

Parties and Programs

We will have several holiday parties and programs throughout the school year in which families are invited. You will be notified of the times and dates. Room parents will be asked to make arrangements for refreshments.

CONCLUSION

You and your child's teacher can work together to make the school year pleasurable, rewarding, interesting, and fulfilling ... beginning with that very first day.

Read the Eagle's Nest, the school newsletter that is published and distributed each Thursday. The newsletter is also available on our website at www.stjohnswestbend.org. Participate whenever possible in school and church related functions. Attend parent meetings, volunteer to be a room mother, and participate in church/parent/child/activities.

Help create a positive attitude toward school. Keep the lines of communications open between yourself, the teacher, the school, and your child. Remember to praise your child for accomplishments. Do not offer praise for every little thing, or your praise may become meaningless. Be honest in your praise and constructive in your criticism.

It is our goal to help your child develop his/her fullest potential, to become a well-rounded Christian adult. With a solid partnership between home and school we can work together as a team in the Spirit of Christ Jesus, beginning with that very first day.

Please let Mrs. Wolf know if you have any questions or concerns and feel free to call me at my homes 338-8942. I am confident this will be a good school year for all of us! God's blessing to you and your family.

Tentative Kindergarten Schedule

AM Schedule

7:50 Quiet activity at tables
Jesus Time
Calendar Time (math, reading instruction)
Learning Stations (reinforcement of math or reading instruction) Small Group Learning
Snack
Recess or gym (large motor activities)
Story Time (music, poems), Science or Social Studies Topics
Projects and/or reinforcement activities for learned skills
Math

11:30 Dismiss AM Class

11:30-12:20 Lunch Time (hot lunch will be available or children may bring a bag lunch)
Volunteers are needed to help during lunch time

PM Schedule

12:20 Recess
Story Time & Rest
Spanish, Geography Science & Social Studies Units
Math & Reading Review
Snack/Recess or PE
Learning Centers/Project Time

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES 8:00-11:30

Monday - Art
Tuesday - Library
Wednesday - Chapel
Thursday - Painting and Cooking
Friday - Video or other special activities
Music with Mrs. Hesse (days to be determined)

SUPPLY LIST

Please label all items with child's name

- 1 box of large crayons 8 (**not** jumbo)
- *1 box regular size crayons 24 only**
- Wide lined spiral notebook
- *4 junior size pencils (thick/eraser)**
- 2 sets water color markers(classic pastel)
- watercolor paints (Crayola/Prange)
- *white school glue (Elmer's)**
- *6 large solid glue stick**
- 1 pocket folder (daily take home folder)
- scissors (Fiskars blunt tip)
- large paint shirt (mom/dad old shirt)
- pencil box (small, no handles, no zippers)
- (1) 1 inch 3-ring hard binder with pockets on inside
- school bag/backpack
- gym shoes non-marking
- 1 roll of paper towels
- 1 large pkg. of napkins
- 1 large box facial tissue
- 1 pkg sandwich bags (Girls ziplock & boys fold over)
- No sharpeners or rulers
- Small pillow & a storage bag to put it in if full day student
- Please **NO** Blanket
- * Items starred will need to be replaced often**

All Day Students

Small Pillow & Storage Bag
Please no blankets

1 box of snacks individually packed snacks to share (graham crackers, pretzels, fruit snacks, granola bars, etc.)

When our supply runs low you will be ask to contribute additional snacks.

