

St. Peter's

Preschool
and
Pre-K

2017-2018

Parent Handbook

Proverbs 9:10
*"The Knowledge of
God is the Beginning
of Wisdom"*

* This Handbook is specific to Preschool and Pre-K. Please see the Parent-Student Handbook for a complete description of all school policies.

Our Goal for preschool and pre-k is to give each child guidance and understanding during the period of adjustment from home to school life.

Mission Statement

St. Peter's Catholic School is a family of learners trying to live like Jesus, in our school, homes, and community.

Philosophy of Learning

In a caring and positive atmosphere, we create a warm and happy place for preschoolers to learn. As we bridge the gap between home and school, we guide children to a continued good self-image while building social skills in a school setting.

Sensory, motor, perceptual and language skills are introduced through materials and activities which are both child-centered and teacher-directed. Work is planned to emphasize the process rather than the product, fostering a sense of accomplishment and pride.

Based on the theory that children learn through play, classroom routines encourage active involvement, experimentation and reinforcement through repetition. Our schedule is designed to balance structure and free choice, as well as active and quiet times.

Recognizing that children grow in predictable stages, we here at St. Peter's Preschool treat each child as a special individual, working from the level each child has attained, and moving forward one step at a time. We teach a love of learning by allowing children to experience their own stage of development and helping them to feel success without pressure.

Arrival

Please bring your child into the building each morning. No child should ever enter the building without being with an adult. If it is before 8:05, your child should wait on the playground with the other children. During the winter, we wait inside.

Birthdays

Special recognition will be given to a child if they have a birthday during the school year. Students with summer birthdays can celebrate their half-birthday. If a parent would like to provide treats for the class, please make sure that there is enough for all. If you are not inviting all of the class to a party, please mail the invitations so that we do not have hurt feelings.

Child Abuse

By law, school personnel are mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse or neglect situations. Any suspected instances of child abuse or neglect will be reported to the proper authorities.

Concerns

If you have any concerns, please contact Mrs. DeJarlais at racheldsps@goacentek.net or Mrs. Fishel at stpeter@acegroup.cc or call 894-4375.

Conferences

Conferences will take place two times during the school year, November and February.

Curriculum

We have a thorough, sequential preschool and pre-k curriculum based on state standards for learning readiness and our Christian identity. If you would like a copy, please contact Mrs. DeJarlais or Mrs. Fishel.

Discipline

Modeling: The teacher will model expected behavior.

Use of positive statements: The teacher will use positive statements, telling the child what to do instead of using “no” and “don’t”. The teacher will recognize appropriate behaviors verbally (i.e. “I like the way you walk across the classroom.”).

Talking to the child: The teacher will talk to the child about the expected and appropriate behaviors, offering choices the child may make.

Redirection: The teacher will redirect the children to different activities when necessary. We have a cool down area for children if they feel overwhelmed and need to take a few moments to calm down.

Transportation

Currently, if a preschool child has a sibling who rides the bus, he or she is allowed to ride the bus TO school as well. There is no transportation home for Preschool or Pre-K. Parents are responsible for transporting their own child(ren) home at 11. If anyone other than a parent will be picking up your child, or there is a change in plans, please contact your child's teacher.

Dress

Children should wear clean, comfortable play clothes suitable for the day. We sometimes go outside, so please send appropriate clothing. It is helpful if you label your child's items. **Each child is expected to bring an extra set of clothes.** Clothes may be kept in their backpacks.

Emergency:

In the event of an emergency, the parents will be contacted. If the parents cannot be reached, the school will contact the people that the parents have designated on the emergency card.

Field Trips

The children will be taken on occasional field trips within the immediate area. An excursion permission form will be signed by all parents at the beginning of the school year. Notification of each trip will be given to the parents in advance. All preschool children must be in booster or car seats.

First Day

To help make your child's 1st day of school go smoothly please leave your child at the classroom door. He/she will be in good hands during the school day.

Illness

If your child is ill and will not be attending school on any given day, please call the school office at 894-4375 as soon as possible.

Your child should stay home if he/she:

- has a fever equal to or greater than 100 degrees.
- has had vomiting or diarrhea within the last 24 hours. Your child may return to school 24 hours after the last episode.
- has a rash with a fever or a rash that is open and draining
- has strep throat and has been on medication less than 24 hours. Your child may return to school after being on medication for 24 hours.
- has pink eye and has been on medication less than 24 hours. Your child may return to school after being on medication for 24 hours.

Cough Drop Policy

Cough drops are considered an over the counter medication (OTC). They also pose a choking hazard. If there is a medical need for a cough drop, we need a signed medication form from the parent/guardian. You can pick one up in the school office. The cough drops, provided by parents, will be kept in the office with other medications, and will be signed out when utilized. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Hours

Options for preschool depend on your child's age as of September 1st of each year. (See School Readiness). Hours for preschool and pre-k are from 8:15 until 11:00 am.

Immunizations

Your child must have up-to-date immunizations for their current age. Preschool requires 4 diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis; 3 polio; 1 measles; mumps and rubella; 1 haemophilus influenza type B; and 1 varicella.

Report Cards

Report cards are given out four times per year.

School Readiness

In order to attend 2 day preschool (mornings), students must be at least 3 years old on or before September 1st *AND must be able to use the bathroom independently (including undressing, wiping, washing, etc.)* In order to attend 3 day Pre-K (mornings), students must be 4 years old on or before September 1st. *and be able to use the bathroom independently (including undressing, wiping, washing, etc.)*

Snack

Each child is asked to donate snacks throughout the year for the whole class. The teacher will notify you when the class is low on snacks. When sending snacks, please keep nutrition in mind.

Supplies

The summer mailing in July will include a supply list.

Tuition

Tuition for 2017-2018 for 2-day preschool is \$995 per year (\$99.50 per month on payment plan) and for 3-day pre-k is \$1350 per year (\$135 per month on payment plan). There is a \$30 fee due at the time of registration. Morning milk is offered daily (payable weekly or monthly) whichever works for you. 2017-2018 milk prices will be sent home with the summer mailing.

Visiting the Classroom

St. Peter's Preschool has an open-door policy. Parents are welcome to visit or volunteer in the classroom at any time. Please check in at the office before visiting other rooms.

Weather

If school is delayed due to bad weather, preschool will be canceled. If school is canceled, preschool will also be canceled. Please listen to the local radio/ tv stations. We will follow what the LaCrescent/Hokah School District does.