

# **Saint Kilian Parish School**



# **Preschool Handbook**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to Saint Kilian Preschool. Our preschool program provides an excellent preparation for kindergarten within a caring Catholic environment. We encourage each child to grow in an awareness of self and others through the love of God.

Our preschool program assists in developing the total person creatively, spiritually, socially, emotionally, mentally, physically and intellectually. It promotes the development of the whole child.

Joy in the learning process is encouraged by a developmentally appropriate curriculum. The curriculum includes religion, reading readiness, mathematics, science, social studies, Spanish and physical activities. Special attention is given to social development through cooperative play. Music is an important part of our program, and our Pre-K students will present an end of the year program for their families.

The primary purpose of this preschool is to provide guidance, an enriching environment, and varied experiences which will help the child to know his or her full potential and attain it. Through self-understanding and self-appreciation, we seek to enable the child to make a successful home-school transition. Our goal is to assist children in learning how to relate to each other, become familiar with a group setting, and develop the following: interest in learning, security and self-satisfaction, self-expression, self-control, creativity and responsibility. We have an on-going curriculum which enables us to give more to each student and allow them to discover their own capabilities and beyond.

## **TIME OF SESSIONS**

Teacher supervision is provided according to the following schedule:

<b>3 year olds:</b>	Tuesday and Thursday	8:45-11:15 a.m. 12:15-2:45 p.m.
<b>4 year olds:</b>	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	8:45-11:15 a.m. 12:15-2:45 p.m.

## **ILLNESS**

The spread of illness can be prevented if parents keep children at home when they are ill or when illness is suspected in your child. To prevent spread of disease, children with elevated temperatures, bad colds, and upset stomachs should not be sent to preschool. Experience has taught that children who are not feeling well have difficulty keeping up with the daily program. Thus, they are prevented from obtaining the full benefit of the day and might best remain at home until they are feeling better.

## **CLASS PICTURES**

Class pictures will be taken in the fall of each year. Information will be provided in advance of the day scheduled for pictures.

## **EDUCATIONAL OUTINGS**

Educational outings will be taken throughout the school year. Our outings are scheduled during the months of September, October and April.

## **COMMUNITY AWARENESS**

We hope to introduce your child to many of the careers and talents present in our communities. This will be accomplished in part by classroom visits. If you would like to share a talent or career with your child's class, please let us know.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

We ask that your child brings a backpack large enough to fit a 9 x 12 paper comfortably. Papers will be sent home daily. You will receive monthly activity calendars, snack calendars and a "Preschool Happenings" page each week so you know what is being presented. If you wish to have a conference with the Preschool teacher at any time during the year, please phone the parish main number (724-625-1665) to arrange to do so. A preschool conference can be scheduled at any time a problem arises at the request of the parent or teacher. Please check our preschool web site weekly for important information.

Progress reports will be distributed in November, January and May. Conferences will be scheduled in January. Any questions you have can be discussed during the conference.

## **CLOTHING**

Since the weather is usually warm at the beginning and end of the school year, shorts may be worn. We ask that families please label coats, hats, sweaters, boots, and mittens. This makes it easier to dress the children for dismissal time. Also, please send mittens instead of gloves (it can be difficult getting all those little fingers into the right place at the end of the day).

Children should wear comfortable clothing suitable for normal play. Many days may include paint and paste activities (which can get a bit messy), so we ask you send in an old shirt and change of clothes which will always be in your child's backpack all year. In addition to art-related messes, if your child spills juice, paint or has a bathroom-related mishap, extra clothes will make the day more comfortable.

Tennis shoes are good for running, climbing and play activities of all kinds. Dress shoes tend to be slippery and may cause accidents. No flip-flops, sandals or crocs.

## **WEATHER EMERGENCIES**

Since our campus is located within the geography of Seneca Valley School District, we will follow their closings/delays. In the event that Saint Kilian Parish School needs to close independently of the district for reasons other than weather, please check for that information on the website as well as on the TV stations.

*Late start schedule:*

AM Preschool    10:30-12:00 p.m.                  PM Preschool                  1:00-2:30 p.m.

## **SNACKS**

There will be a mid-morning or mid-afternoon snack during the school day. Parents are asked to provide nutritional snacks and juice for the whole class on a rotating basis. You will be asked to provide snacks about every six to eight weeks.

The classrooms will be ***NUT-FREE*** as we have students in almost every classroom who are allergic to peanuts and tree nuts. Therefore, snacks for preschool must be nut-free. A list of nut-free snack suggestions is posted on the website. Please feel free to bring whatever you like following these guidelines, but we encourage parents to seek a variety in the area of fruits and vegetables and to avoid sugar treats. General suggestions for snacks include: fruit juice popsicles, cheese cubes, pudding in a cup, granola bars, celery and carrot sticks, fruit cups, muffins, and fresh fruit with dip.

Snack time is a time for goodies and fellowship. We thank God for food and the opportunity to be together before eating. This is a happy time for your child as he/she serves the other children. You will receive a sheet with your assigned day for bringing snacks.

Parents may also send a token in for their child's birthday. Please inform the teacher in advance so that we are able to plan this on the snack calendar distributed to parents. Stickers, pencils, book markers, etc. may be ideas for tokens. Summer birthdays will be celebrated with all preschool children and parents at an end of the year picnic.

## **PARENTS**

Parents are an important part of our preschool program. We are proud that you have chosen to entrust your children to our program. You, as parents, can help tremendously by discussing the preschool with your child. Ask about his or her classmates and teachers, as well as the activities of the day. Parents are also important to the teachers and we would like to encourage you to participate on the following committees as your schedule permits:

***Party Committee:*** This committee plans and directs all games, decorations and food for parties. The teacher will remain with the children during parties and work with the parents.

***Project Committee:*** Parents help cut out patterns for monthly projects. Patterns will be given to parents in advance in order to have the project ready for the date needed. This assistance can be done at home.

## **CURRICULUM**

Our preschool program provides a full ongoing curriculum. Separate curriculum material is provided on the school's webpage for each section of the program (3 year olds and 4 year olds). A detailed schedule will be given to parents in September so that you are aware of the activities for each day.

## **CONCLUSION**

Saint Kilian Parish is pleased to sponsor a Preschool Program as one of the ministries of our parish. As such, we look forward to making your child's preschool experience a great beginning to a lifetime of learning. Socialization for the children and communication among students, parents and teachers are among the chief goals of our program. Your comments, concerns and questions are always welcome.