

Welcome Students and Families to Kindergarten at St. Mary School!

Information About Our Classroom



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Allergies: Please let me know of any allergies your child has.

Arrival: School promptly begins at 8:45am. Supervision of students begins at 8:30am. If you need to drop your child(ren) off before 8:30am, please enroll your child in our childcare program.

All students will stand with their classmates in the designated area in front of school each morning before the bell rings; please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for the temperature and weather. Students are not allowed in the building until they are invited in for morning prayer.

In the morning, please **DO NOT PARK** your vehicle on the boulevard and come inside. This area is for a short drop-off time and drive off. Should you need to come into the school, please park in the back church parking lot.

Attendance: If your child will be absent please call the office, send a note in your child's take-home folder or email me and/or Mrs. Grove. In an effort to keep our records accurate, we will only accept documentation for absences or tardies through emails or phone calls to the school office. Please try and schedule vacations and appointments after school or days off. Our absence policy is as follows:

1. At 10 absences we notify the parent/guardian
2. At 12 absences, we notify the truancy officer for Eaton County



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Behavior Management: The behavior management system in our classroom is in place to allow each child in our class the most positive educational environment possible for academic and social growth. Every day is a new chance for making the best choices. When I observe a student making great choices, they have the opportunity to earn tickets. On Thursdays, students will have the opportunity to use their tickets to "purchase" a coupon to be used on Friday. The coupon could include wearing slippers for a day, extra minutes of free choice, sit by a buddy, etc. Our class has 5 rules and we will review them every day:

1. I will listen and follow directions quickly and quietly.
2. I will respect others. I will respect myself. I will respect my school.

3. I will be safe and honest.
4. I will keep my hands and feet to myself.

If your child is spoken to about a rule, your child and I will fill out a "We talked about a rule" form. This does not mean they were "in trouble" or that they necessarily had a consequence. It just means we talked about it. If your child has an issue that is concerning to me, I will either send you an email or call you directly that day. Please sign any forms sent home and return it the next day.

Please discuss this plan with your child and help support me in making this school year a productive, positive experience for him/her. Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have a problem or concern about your child's school behavior.

Birthdays: Our classroom is a treat-free classroom. Students will be recognized and celebrated on their birthday or half birthday for students with a summer birthday.



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Communication: It is extremely important that you and I maintain ongoing communication to ensure the success of your child's kindergarten experience. If you ever have any comments, questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school, send a note in your child's folder, or email me at snormand@stmarycharlotte.org. I will respond to emails before and after school until 6:00pm.

Conferences: Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in the fall and spring. Please feel free to schedule an additional conference if the need arises.



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Dismissal: School dismisses at 3:35pm. All students must ride the bus, be picked up in the car line, or attend childcare. Only students riding the bus or walking home will leave through the front door. If you are unable to pick your child up in carline, childcare is available. In the afternoon, all pick-up vehicles need to be at the back church parking lot. The teachers on duty will dismiss students in the car line to their car; please do not leave your car to retrieve your child. Also, please do not leave your position in line. The teacher on duty motions for the first lead car to then leave. If there is a second wave of cars for pick-up, the very first vehicle needs to move all the way up to the teacher on duty. Our policies are set to make drop-offs and pick-ups safe for everybody. Please DO NOT PARK in the front of the school and come in to pick up your child. If you have any questions, please let me know.



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Enrichment Classes: Kindergarteners will receive the following enrichments:

Technology, Library, Art, Grandma Readers, Read to Me, and Mass. We are in the process of working on P.E. and Music.

Extra Clothes: Sometimes accidents happen! While we do have some extra clothes on hand, we are limited. Please provide an extra pair of uniform pants and underwear in your child's backpack; please label.



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Field Trips: Information about field trips will be sent home a few weeks prior to the trip.



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Get ready for a GREAT year!

Giggles: We have lots of fun in kindergarten! Be prepared for lots of silly stories with accompanied giggles.



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Help-at-Home: Your extra help at home really makes a difference!

Home-School Folders: Your child's home-school folder will be sent home every day. Please check these folders daily and return them. I will check the folders each morning.

Homework: Homework in Kindergarten helps reinforce the work we do in class on a daily basis. It also teaches good work habits, responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment.

Hundredth (100th) Day: Kindergarteners anxiously await and prepare for this day beginning with the very first day of school. As part of our math program, the children in kindergarten will be learning to count to 100 by ones, tens, and fives. We will be participating in various counting exercises that help us to develop our rote counting skills as well as our number meaning. On the 100th day of school, the children will participate in many activities that will allow them to reveal their knowledge of the number 100. This day is featured with a special snack and fun-filled activities related to the number 100. Look for more information to come of this special day to be held sometime in February (the date is dependent on the number of snow days).



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Independence: Independence is a goal for students because it builds self-esteem and self-confidence. Kindergarteners are very capable of doing many things on their own, and I encourage them to do as much as they can for themselves in the classroom.



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Jobs: Two students – 1 boy & 1 girl, will be my helping hands each week. The jobs they will be responsible for helping with may include, teacher helper, office messenger, snack, door holder, prayer leader, etc.



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Kindness: Students are encouraged and expected to treat others in our school and classroom with kindness, respect, and love.



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Lunch: Students may bring a packed lunch from home or purchase the hot lunch. Hot lunch calendars will be sent home each month; the cost is \$3.25. If your child is bringing a cold lunch but would like milk, the cost is .65. Thursdays are pizza days; 1 slice for \$2.50 or 2 slices for \$3.50.



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Math: During the year your child will participate in a wide variety of math activities using the *My Math* program. Your child will learn through hands-on experiences, discussions, explorations, and oral written practice.

Handwriting practice is part of your child's math program. Number formation is initially taught using large body movement. Before we write on paper, we will "skywrite" numbers to practice their correct formations. "Skywriting" is using an arm extended in front of the body to practice writing motion.

One way you can provide this practice is to take turns with your child using a finger to trace numbers on each others back, in a shallow box filled with salt or sand, or in a shallow baking pan covered with shaving cream or pudding as they sing the verses.

Mass: We will attend Mass on Thursdays at 10:30am and on all Holy Days of Obligation that fall during the school week.

Morning Prayer: Morning Prayer will begin at 8:45am. We will use this time to gather as a school and pray together, say the Pledge of Allegiance, and get ready for a great day.



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Newsletter: A weekly newsletter will be uploaded each Sunday evening to our class webpage. I will not send a hard copy home with your child. Please be sure to check it every Sunday to keep informed and updated about what is happening that week in our class.



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Organization: It is very important that your child have his/her backpack and folder to bring home daily work and notes. Home-school folders will be sent home labeled with your child's name the first day of school. It is important that this folder get sent back to school each day. It will come home daily containing your child's daily work. It will be very important to develop the habit of looking inside your child's folder each day carefully. If you have notes for me, please place them in the folder, with a reminder to the child to give them to me when they arrive in the classroom. Hopefully we will begin to develop great habits of responsibilities that will continue into the next grades.



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Parties: There are three parties each year; All Hallows Eve, Christmas, and Valentines Day. I will ask for at least 4 parents to plan and run these events. Look for our sign-up on our class website. All parents are welcome to participate in the festivities!



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Quiet time: Your child will have a quiet time everyday in the afternoon for approximately 20-30 minutes until December. Please do not send stuffed animals, pillows, or extra blankets with your child, we do not have enough space. All blankets will be sent home every Friday to be washed. Please return them on Monday.



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Recess: Kindergarten through second grade will have recess each day (weather permitting) before lunch. Kindergarten through fourth grade will have a second recess each day (weather permitting) from 2:30-2:45.

Report Cards: Report cards are issued every nine weeks. These reports reflect the progress your child has made toward various kindergarten objectives.



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Scholastic Book Orders: I will be sending book orders home once a month with your child. This is a great way to keep your child motivated to read. Look for your first order form in September!

Snack: Please provide one nutritional snack everyday for your child, to be eaten mid-morning. Some healthy choices may include veggies, fruit, air-popped popcorn, yogurt, cheese stick, pretzels, granola or protein bar, crackers and peanut butter, crackers and cheese, or snack packs (contain cheese and nuts and dried fruit). Please do not send candy, cookies, chips etc.

Social Skills: In addition to learning academics in kindergarten, your child will also be developing social skills – how to make friends, share, take turns, get along with others, and solve problems appropriately. I have high expectations in my classroom for using appropriate social skills and will support your child in learning healthy ways to communicate. I emphasize communicating with words:

1. Tell the person what they did that bothered you.
2. Tell them how you felt about what they did.
3. Tell them what you want them to do in the future.

Star Student: Every student will be given one full week to be our Star Student. Each day of their week will consist of a special activity. Look for this sign-up on our website.



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Teamwork: Educating a child is only accomplished by parent and teacher teamwork. By working together, we can give your child the best possible start in school. Open communication is the key. Be sure to keep me posted of any changes or happenings in your child's life that could be affecting schoolwork or behavior.

Toys: Bringing toys to school is discouraged because they distract the children from learning. If a toy is accidentally lost or broken, feelings will be hurt.



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"U" are very important in your child's learning!



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Virtues: Each month, St. Mary School students will learn about and do their best to model the virtue of the month daily in their home and school life. Look for these monthly virtues on the school calendar.



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Water Bottles: Your child may bring a leak/spill-proof water bottle to school each day. Water bottles must be taken home daily to be washed. **WATER ONLY PLEASE.**

Website: Our class website is <http://stmarycharlottekindergarten.weebly.com> Please check it weekly for updates, announcements, etc. The website can also be found through the school's website www.stmarycharlotte.org under Growth in Faith.

Wish List: Looking for teacher gift ideas? Look no further! Kindergarten has a wish list located on our class website under the Parent Information tab; feel free to take a look.



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eXtra Special: Kindergarteners learn that they are eXtra special and unique.



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Are YOU ready for a great year?



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

Kindergarten is an important step in your child's journey to become a lifelong learner. Your child's skills will be built on and expanded as we move toward first grade. I look forward to our partnership in helping your child reach his or her potential.

God Bless,
Ms. Normand