

WELCOME TO HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL

We hope this little handbook can answer some of the questions you may have about your child's preparation for the beginning of his/her school years. Kindergarten is the first step in making these the most important years in your child's life. With the combined efforts of parents and teacher, we can make this a successful year, one that can give him/her the confidence to enjoy school in the years ahead.

Each child must have a completed health and dental form on file with the school. This is a state law. Please make your appointment soon. This form will be needed on School Business Day in August. If you did not bring a copy of your child's birth certificate at the time of registration, bring it as soon as possible. Your child's Social Security number also is needed. The State of Illinois requires that the school has on file a copy of each child's birth certificate. In May, you will be notified by the kindergarten teachers when your child's kindergarten readiness testing will be held.

CLASS TIME

Kindergarten class is a full day. The class is heterogeneously grouped, that is, mixed abilities. The daily schedule is from 8:15 a.m. - 2:50 p.m. each day. Your child should arrive no more than 15 minutes before class. Kindergarten students will enter and exit the building by the cafeteria door.

ROOM MOTHERS AND TEACHER AIDES

In August, parents will receive by mail an envelope with forms for various purposes. One of the sheets will give all parents an opportunity to sign up for volunteer service. Your efforts are appreciated by all, especially the children. Room mothers' main duties are to provide treats for holiday parties and chaperone field trips. Parents are also asked to help in the classroom for certain activities. These forms should be returned on School Business Day.

SUPPLIES

The supplies needed for kindergarten are: 2 boxes of Crayola crayons, one for each semester (24 count), 1 4-oz. bottle No Run Elmer's Blue Glue Gel, 1 box of Crayola Washable Classic Color Markers, 6 glue sticks, 2 - 2 pocket folders, 1 pink pencil eraser, 1 pair of scissors (metal Fiskars preferred), 1 boxes of Kleenex, a plastic pencil box and a book bag with zip closing. In selecting a book bag, please purchase one that can be opened and closed easily by a small child. Your child will also need a pair of tennis shoes to be left at school for use during P.E. class. These should not have double laces and should be easy for your child to put on and tie by himself/herself. Hightops are not recommended. If your child does not tie, Velcro fastened shoes are recommended for P.E.

ABSENCES

Regular attendance and punctuality are important habits to develop. If your child is absent, please call the office the first day of absence and also send a note when he returns explaining why he was absent. If your child is tardy, please accompany your child to the office to sign in and get a tardy slip, and write a note of explanation. In the event of an extended absence due to a parent's vacation or another reason, please send a note in advance to the school principal. The note will be relayed to the teacher.

THINGS TO HELP PREPARE YOUR CHILD

Many times the major concerns of a parent are: "What will he learn at school?" and "Will my child be successful?" The following paragraphs may help answer those questions.

WHAT WILL HE/SHE LEARN?

Everyday at school your child will have Religion, reading readiness, phonics, and arithmetic. Religion will deal with general topics, (God, self, and the world around us). The central theme will be recognizing God as a loving Father and Jesus as a caring friend and teacher, which enables the children to share their love with others. Kindergartners will learn the Sign of the Cross, the Hail Mary, the Our Father, the Glory Be to the Father, and the Angel of God.

The reading program combines reading readiness, phonics and reading on a pre-primer level. Arithmetic will deal with not only counting and identifying numbers, but sequencing, left to right progression, directions, and understanding math concepts. Other areas covered will be penmanship (manuscript), health and science, motor skills/physical education, music and art.

WILL MY CHILD BE SUCCESSFUL?

Success of a child depends on a variety of things. Obviously his own level of ability is one. This does not mean success is limited to a select few. Readiness to learn and maturity are other factors involved.

Everyday, ask your child about school. Study his papers and have him explain what he had to do. Encouragement is very important. Focus your attention on his strong points and encourage him to strive for his/her best in all things.

Here are some specific things to work with over the summer:

GROSS MOTOR SKILLS:	Hopping Skipping Running	Jumping Jumping rope Bouncing balls
FINE MOTOR SKILLS:	Coloring Pasting <u>Tying shoes</u> Jacket zipping	Cutting Painting Stacking things
IDENTIFICATION:	Letters and numbers Counting things	Dot to dot drawing

- Teaching your child his/her full name, parent's names, home address and telephone number.
- Printing name in lower case letters, not all capitals.
- Going to the bathroom by oneself.
- Finishing one project before starting another.

We are looking forward to having your child this fall and we will do our best to help in every way we can.

Please feel free to call the school with any questions you may have concerning your child's first year of school.