

## **Philosophy**

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me." St. John's Area School welcomes children from several different parishes into our Christ-centered learning environment. We build on the children's varied backgrounds and challenge them to achieve academic success. Together, in a safe and loving environment, we share experiences that will foster well-rounded individuals and life long learners.

## **Mission Statement**

The mission of St. John's Area School is based on the message of Christ which our Catholic faith professes. Supported by God's love, we are dedicated to helping students grow spiritually, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically. Guiding students through difficulties and successes, we prepare them to adapt and contribute to our changing world.

## **Goals**

The goal for the St. John's Area School Pre-Kindergarten program is to provide an atmosphere where your child is able to grow physically, emotionally, socially, spiritually, and intellectually. Activities are planned to foster your child's curiosity and help develop an appreciation for learning.

### **Objectives for SJAS Pre-Kindergarten**

1. To help build a positive self-concept through guided activities.
2. To develop a positive attitude toward school.
3. To help develop appropriate social skills.
4. To teach respect, responsibility, and cooperation.
5. To teach new skills and improve on skills your child already has.
6. To feel comfortable participating in a group.
7. To foster a sense of creativity and help stimulate curiosity in learning.
8. To help build a foundation of faith and belief in God.

## SJAS Pre-Kindergarten Policies

### Ages

Children in our program must be 4 to 5 years of age, and have reached the minimum age of 4 by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Children must also be able to take care of their bathroom needs.

### Days and Hours of Operation

Pre-Kindergarten classes are held on every Tuesday, Thursday and Friday that school is in session. There are two sessions, one morning session that runs from 8:00 – 10:45 am, and one afternoon session that runs from 12:00 – 2:45 pm. Enrollment is on a first come first serve basis.

### Tuition

Tuition is \$144.45 per month. Costs do not vary with individual absences or illnesses. Tuition statements are sent out to families each month.

### Transportation

Transportation is arranged by individual families. SJAS does not own or operate school buses. Children may ride the bus with older siblings to school in the morning or home in the afternoon.

### Insurance

Catholic Mutual of Omaha insures St. John's Area School with multi-peril coverage.

### Immunizations and Physicals

Immunizations and a health care report are required. Forms are provided and these may be completed anytime before the beginning of the school year. **All forms must be turned in by the first day of school.**

### Provisions for Children with Special Needs

The parents of any child with special needs must discuss this with the child's teacher prior to school opening in the Fall to assess the child's abilities and to determine if accommodations will be necessary to attend pre-kindergarten.

### Discrimination

This program will not discriminate on the basis of sex, religion, creed, color, national origin, or source of payment.

### **Minimum Enrollment**

Parents who enroll their child are participating in a 9-month program. If family circumstances dictate withdrawal from our program, families are asked to give the school a two week notice – if possible.

### **Visiting the School**

Parents and family members are welcome to visit at anytime.

### **Supervision**

Children are always supervised by the teacher (or adult volunteers) in charge.

### **If a Child Becomes ill**

If a child becomes ill at school, the child will have the use of a cot in the school office and will remain in sight and hearing of the school's administrative assistant. The parents, or person designated on the emergency card, will be notified.

### **Communicable Diseases**

Parents will be notified of infections or communicable diseases by a written statement from the school. Parents should notify SJAS as soon as possible if the child has been diagnosed with a communicable disease.

### **Exclusion of ill Children**

We are not allowed by law to have children in attendance at school with a communicable disease. The teacher also has the right to send a child home if she feels the child is too sick to be in school.

### **Medications**

Since no child attends Pre-Kindergarten longer than 2 ½ hours, medication is typically not administered. However, if medication is necessary, written instructions must be provided and the medication must have the pharmacy label providing the doctor's name and instructions. The medication will be kept in the school office. If refrigeration is necessary, the medication will be kept in the faculty room refrigerator.

**Discipline**

Discipline will be handled in a consistent and loving manner. When problems arise, the child(ren) will be redirected away from the conflict toward a different and constructive activity. We encourage participation and cooperation, understanding that each child is different, growing and learning at his/her own pace.

**Child Abuse**

Teachers are mandated by law to report any suspected cases of child abuse to the county Social Services.

**Phone Calls**

The school has one main phone line: 968-7972. Please feel free to call at any time. If you would like to speak to the classroom teacher, the best times to reach her are before and after class sessions.

**Communication**

The classroom teacher is available before and after each session in addition to the weekly classroom newsletter, which is sent home with each child.

**Public Relations**

Occasionally the local newspaper may take photos for a story involving a student activity. No child's photo will appear in any publication without written permission in advance from the parent.

## **Classroom Policies**

### **Arrival and Dismissal**

Children should be dropped off no earlier than 10 minutes before the start of class. This is to allow the teacher time to prepare for the day. Children should also be picked up as soon as class is ended.

### **Absence from School**

If your child is not able to attend school, please call the office and leave a message. The classroom teacher will be notified.

### **School Cancellations**

In the event of bad weather, please check with TV Channels 4, 5, or 11, or tune in to radio station 830. Anytime that Foley School District 51 is closed or dismissing early, SJAS will do the same. If school is two hours late, there will be no morning Pre-Kindergarten.

### **Personal Belongings**

Please mark your child's belongings with his/her name. If your child has a valuable, or an especially loved item, please use your best judgment as to whether or not the item should come to school.

### **Dress Code**

Please dress your child in comfortable play clothes that are appropriate for the weather. The children go outside each day unless the weather dictates otherwise. During the winter months, the children need snowpants, boots, hats, coats and mittens. Please put your child's name on these items.

### **School Bags**

The children need to bring a school bag (any style) every day. Papers and projects are usually sent home after each class. We request that it be large enough to accommodate a regular size folder and a change of clothing. In the event that your child needs a change of clothing and does not have any in their back pack, the school has a few items to borrow which should be laundered and returned. Please make sure your child's name is on their school bag.

### **Supply List**

1 folder with pockets, 4 glue sticks, 1-24 count pack of crayons, 1-8 pack of washable markers (classic colors), 1 box of kleenex, 1 container of disinfectant wipes.

### **Field Trips and Special Events**

Parents are notified in advance when a field trip is arranged and they are welcome to come on the outings! A signed permission slip is required for your child to attend. Occasionally a special event, such as a concert or other entertainment may be planned, and a few times a year all-day classes are scheduled. These all-day sessions expose the students to the experience of a full school day, the opportunity to meet new friends, and a chance to have lunch in the cafeteria. Parents will be notified in advance of these special days.

### **Pets**

Pets are allowed in the classroom as part of a planned activity. It is the responsibility of the pet owner to insure that the pet has all current and necessary vaccinations.

## Pre-Kindergarten Activities

**Art:** Art activities help to improve small motor coordination through tearing, pasting, drawing, painting, cutting, coloring, building, and other small movements. The Art process, not the product, is important!

**Dramatic Activities:** Children are encouraged to participate in music and rhythm activities, as well as being actively involved in telling a story using puppets, props, and their own powers of physical expression.

**Movement and Games:** Activities involving large motor skills such as throwing, hopping, running, dancing, climbing, and other physical skills are part of each session. The purpose is to help develop coordination and to enjoy being physically active.

**Stories:** Many story books are used throughout the school year. These stories are chosen carefully and are used to foster an appreciation for literature, to help develop memory skills and pre-reading skills (order of events, summaries, characters, beginning, middle, end). Stories also aid in developing listening skills and in asking questions.

**Colors/Shapes/Letters:** Children will learn about basic colors and shapes. They will also be introduced to the entire alphabet in preparation for Kindergarten.

**Math:** Children will be introduced to numbers 0 – 10 along with limited exposure to larger numbers. They will be asked to count, compare and develop matching skills.

**Science:** Awareness in our physical world will be developed and fostered through hands on activities and question and answer sessions. A few of the topics we may learn about (among many others) are dinosaurs, water use and manipulation, plant growth stages, and basic knowledge and care of our bodies.

**Language Development:** The children will be encouraged to verbally share ideas, thoughts, and experiences. They will also be encouraged to express feelings and opinions.

**Cooking:** There will be opportunities to roll, mix, taste, and decorate. Children will not be allowed in the kitchen, or near ovens, hot plates, etc.



