



ABC's of Kindergarten



A

Absences-Excessive absences hinder a child's progress. If your child is absent, please send a note to the school when he/she returns. Please include your child's name, teachers name, date of absence, and the reason for the absence.

Attendance-Regular school attendance is essential for your child to make the most of his/her education. Please make every effort to have your child at school everyday. A child who attends school regularly is a happy child!

Allergies- Please make sure that we are aware of any allergies your child has. We especially need to know about food allergies and insect bite reactions.

Assessment - Report card assessment is done every six weeks.

Arrival- Your child should be dropped off at the front of the school and then he/she walks inside the building and waits by the bulletin board in front of the office. Kindergarten students will be held here until 7:50 A.M. The teacher on duty will walk kindergarten students to their classroom when the bell rings at 7:50 A.M. The second bell rings at 8:00 A.M. If you wish to walk your child to their assigned spot instead of using the drop off, you must park your vehicle in the parking lot in front of the school and cross IN FRONT of the church. Please DO NOT cross traffic in front of the school.

Art - Students attend an art class for 30 minutes once a week with our art teacher.

B

Bus-Some St. Matthew students are eligible to ride the bus. Please contact Unit 4 to find out if your child is eligible to ride.

Birthdays-Birthdays are very important to children. Your child may bring a birthday treat to school on their snack day. Please do not send birthday invitations to school to be passed out unless you are inviting EVERY child in our room.

Book orders - We occasionally send home Scholastic book orders for you and your child to look over. If you want to place an order, please make checks payable to the book club. Even ordering one book is exciting for your child to receive and it helps build our classroom library as well!

Backpacks-Your child's backpack should be big enough to hold a large folder as well as a lunch box. Backpacks help your child carry folders, notes, projects, and books to and from school. Please check you child's backpack each day.

Breakfast-Please make sure that your child comes to school with a good breakfast!

C

Clothing-Please check the handbook for proper uniform dressing. Kindergarten boys do not need to wear belts, but tucking in shirts will be encouraged. It is a good idea to label all coats and sweaters.

Conferences-We have mandatory conferences in November and scheduled conferences by request in February. If you need to contact us at any time, please call the school, send a note, or email us to make arrangements for scheduling a conference.

Computers-We have computers in our classroom. One of our computers has Internet access. Your child will be taught the proper way to use a computer and then be taught to use the educational software in our classroom. In April, your child will be taken to our computer lab for basic computing skills and lab etiquette.

Calendar-A monthly snack calendar will be sent home to let you know when your child is to bring snack to share.

Classroom Website- Our class has a classroom website. We can be found at www.stmatt.net Click on class websites and then our names.

Communication- Communication between home and school is very important. If you feel the need to talk to us, please call the school, send us a note, or email us. We will get back with you as soon as we can.

D

Dress Code-Students should be dressed in accordance to the Saint Matthew School handbook.

Discipline - We use a "traffic light" system in each classroom. Green is good, yellow is watch out, and red is "uh oh." If your child has a red day, we will contact you. Each teacher has her own way of rewarding good behavior that will be explained at our Open House in September.

Dismissal-Dismissal is at 2:30 P.M. Please do not come to the classroom to pick up your child. His/her teacher will dismiss your child and go to the designated pick up locations with a teacher. ECP children will be taken to the old gym to meet the ECP leaders. ECP children will be taken to the proper bus pick up location. Car riders will be taken to the bulletin board wall at the west end of the old gym door. If your child is a car rider, please wait for him/her by the statue of Mary.

E

Early Dismissal-Several times a year we will have an early dismissal. Check the school calendar to know when these days occur.

Emergency Cards-Your child will have an emergency card on file in the school office. At least two working phone numbers are required in order to contact parents in case of illness or emergency.

F

Field Trips-We take educational field trips during the year. A permission slip will be required anytime that we will be taking a bus for a field trip. If we do not receive a permission slip, your child will not be allowed to attend. There is usually a cost associated with field trips. If you wish to write a check, please make it payable to Saint Matthew.

G

God - Our day is centered on God in all that we do!

Good Behavior - Our kindergarten is a safe and happy place where lots of learning happens. We are a classroom family where teamwork and good relationships are expected. We will spend time learning class procedures and practicing them. Each student is expected to act within our standards of behavior. Problems will be dealt with one on one. Respect and kindness will be promoted.

H

Homework- Your child will have homework most weeks. Usually it is a book to read, a handwriting paper, or work associated with a science/social studies unit. We also have Family Projects in which we ask homework to be completed with the aid of a family member (s).

Handwriting-We use the "Handwriting Without Tears" curriculum in Kindergarten. Please watch the work that comes home with your child and have your child practice the strokes and proper letter formation.

I

Immunizations-All students must be immunized against certain diseases or must present a statement that the student should not be immunized. **Proof of immunizations must be presented to the school within 30 days of enrollment.**

Illness-Please do not send your child to school if he/she has a temperature or has vomited the night before. If your child becomes ill at school, you will be called to come and get your child. We need at least two working phone numbers at all times in order to contact you in case of illness or emergency.

J

Journal Writing- Children will begin writing in their journals early in the school year. Journal writing is a process that begins with pictures. You should see a growth in your child's writing throughout the year.

K

Kindergarten Kids-Kindergarten is a special time for your child. We want to make this experience the best possible. Kids come first!

Kindness - Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class as well as others with kindness and respect. Bothering others, bullying and interrupting learning will not be tolerated.

L

Library- Kindergarten students do not check out books from the library. They will be allowed later in the year to check out books from our classroom.

Lunch-We do not have a hot lunch program. Please make sure that your child comes to school with a healthy lunch that is easy to eat and open! On Thursdays, children have the opportunity to participate in a "hot lunch" day as long as it was paid for at Fee day. Our lunchtime is 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. **DRINKS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON HOT LUNCH DAYS!!**

Learning Centers-We use learning centers in the classroom. When we are in learning centers, we are learning to cooperate with others as well as learn to work independently. During literacy centers, teachers are usually meeting with a guided reading group.

M

Mass - We will attend Mass every Friday morning. We encourage you to make going to church every Sunday a priority in your family.

Math - We base our math program on McGraw-Hill and Math Their Way. We teach math with rotating stations and work to adapt stations to math ability.

Milk tickets - Milk tickets are 35 cents. You may purchase tickets on Monday mornings before school from a parent volunteer or through the school office. You may also purchase milk tickets at Fee Day.

Music-Students attend Music once a week as a class and once a week with all 3 Kindergartens for Chorus.

N

Newsletter-A weekly newsletter will be sent home each Friday. It will contain information about our thematic unit, classroom activities, announcements, and upcoming school events.

O

Outside-Your child will have outside time daily, weather permitting. Please dress your child appropriately for the weather.

Oh What a Beautiful Morning - We want a positive start to each Kindergarten day. Help us by saying goodbye to your child each day with a smile! Let your child know that they are going to have a great day at school and that you will see them soon!

P

Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Silence-Each morning we will pray, recite the pledge of allegiance and observe one minute of silence.

Physical Education-We have a scheduled 30 minutes Physical Education class on Tuesday afternoons.

Parent Involvement-We love Parent Involvement! Please be involved in your child's Kindergarten year as much as you can.

Parties-We will have various parties throughout the year. Our room parent will contact you to help with our celebrations.

Parent's Club - Parent club meets once a month on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. You are an automatic member of the Parent club when your child is enrolled at St. Matthew. You will be contacted several times throughout the school year to help with a donation of your time, talent, or money!

Peaceful - We are a peaceful classroom. We will resolve conflicts peacefully.

Q

Questions-Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's education. We will make every effort to meet with you and discuss your concerns.

R

Reading - Reading to and with your child is an important component of your child's reading growth.

Report Cards-We are on a six-week grading period. Your child will receive a report card each six-weeks. You will receive the first quarter report card at our first conference in November.

Recess-Your child will have recess everyday at 9:40 a.m. and after lunch.

Religion- Students will have religion class everyday. We will be learning about significant figures in the gospel, about Jesus and how he calls each of us to be like him and will also become more familiar with the parts of the mass. A large part of the curriculum will concentrate on the Saints.

Rules-We have six rules in Kindergarten.

We are always good listeners.
We are helpers, not hurters.
We are walkers, not runners.
We are builders, not breakers.
We are talkers, not shouters.
We are quiet workers, not players.

Room Parents-Each classroom at St. Matthew has a room parent. Our room parent will contact you if you volunteered to help with a party or if we have classroom needs or emergencies.

Restrooms-We have restrooms in our classrooms. Your child is allowed to go to the bathroom when needed. Unfortunately accidents will happen and most of the time we can handle accidents at school. Donations of clean boys and girls underwear and white socks would be greatly appreciated.

Rest Time-We will rest after recess. Children are NOT required to sleep. They may look at books during this time. After the first few months, this will be a quiet time in which the children may read, color, listen to stories, or finish morning work.

S

Safety-Your child's safety is top priority. We take every precaution when your child is in our care. Please send a note with your child or call the school if he/she is to go home a different way.

Saints Parade - Your child will be asked to wear a costume of their favorite saint at our Halloween parade/party.

Science- The focus of the Kindergarten science curriculum is on developing an awareness of the world in which we live. Through scientific inquiry, concepts will be presented in life and earth sciences, including the study

of animals and plants, the five senses and general health, and the four seasons. These areas will be explored utilizing a literacy based, hands-on approach.

Social Studies- The Kindergarten social studies curriculum focuses on the students and how they relate to others in their families, classroom, school and community. Activities will help the children engage their natural curiosity for the world around them.

Snacks-We have a daily morning snack. Your child will be assigned one or two days every month where he/she will be asked to bring a snack to share for the whole class. Please make sure that the snack is healthy and easy to pass out. One half gallon of juice or milk is sufficient for drinks. You do not need to send cups.

School Supplies -The supply list can be found here: www.stmatt.net/stmattschool.htm. Sometimes we run out of certain items and we may ask you to replace supplies during the year. **Please do NOT label supplies! We share everything in Kindergarten!**

Show & Tell- Your child's show and tell day is the same day as his/her snack day. Your child may bring an item for show and tell on her/his snack day. Please know that weapons of any sort are not acceptable as well as toys that depict death or pain. There are many items that your child can bring to school that are not toys. Just put imagination to work!

Shoes-Your child needs a separate pair of sneakers to wear for PE that is kept at school all year. Please make sure that your child can put his/her own shoes on as well as take them off.

Special K day - Once a month we join with the other Kindergarten classes and have a fun and educational

afternoon of thematic projects and activities. Volunteers are definitely needed on these days!

Spanish – Kindergarten students are exposed to the Spanish language and Hispanic heritage once a week for 30 minutes in our classroom.

T

Transportation-If your child will be going home a different way than what we have in our files, you **MUST** call the school or send us a note. We will not let your child go with another adult or a different way unless you have notified us.

Tardies-Students late to school (after 8:00 A.M.) are considered tardy. We keep a record of these tardies and will document them on your child's report card. Three tardies equals one half-day absence at St. Matthew School.

Toys-Toys from home are not allowed unless they are brought for Show and Tell or special activities.

Teacher – You will not know your child's teacher until Fee Day. On Fee Day, please plan to stop in and meet us as well as bring in school supplies.

U

Unique- Each child in our class is unique and wonderful. In kindergarten, we learn about how we are unique and special, and we celebrate our differences and similarities.

United – United parents and teachers create a healthy, happy child!

V

Visitors - Please make sure that you sign in at the office before you come to the classroom. We will be looking for your sticker when you enter the classroom.

W

Welcome - You are always welcome in our school!

X

EXcited! - We are so excited to have the opportunity to be a part of your child's life in Kindergarten!

Y

YOU are your child's first teacher! No one can influence your child's life in the way that you can! You can help your child feel special this year by asking the about their school day each day.

Z

ZZZZ's-Please make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and Keeping a bedtime routine is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. It will help them to be alert and ready to learn each day. Kindergarten students require 10-12 hours of sleep each day.