

Kindergarten Handbook & Curriculum

Each year, parents have many common questions about their child starting Kindergarten. Therefore, we decided to design a handbook to share some of this information. If this handbook does not clarify your questions or if additional questions arise contact your child's teacher.

Bathroom Breaks - There are various times during the day that we have bathroom breaks, and the children are encouraged to use the bathroom at these times.

Birthdays - Due to the increasing number of food allergies and after a long discussion, we, the staff, decided students may no longer bring in food for birthday treats on their birthday. We will still recognize their birthday in some way and they will get to participate in the monthly ice cream sundae birthday celebration with Ms. Heuman. Please see school handbook for more information and alternatives ways to make your child's birthday special.

Summer Birthdays: Children with summer birthdays will be assigned a day in May or they may choose to celebrate their $\frac{1}{2}$ birthday.

Birthday Party Invitations - If your child is having a birthday party and all the classmates of the same gender are not invited or the entire class is not invited, you need to send invitations through the mail, or call the parents of the children involved. Please do not ask the teacher/teacher's aide/office staff to put invitations in the student's folders. There is no discreet way of handling this situation without hurt feelings. Please mail the thank yous instead of sending them to school with your child to hand out. Thanks for your understanding!

Book Orders - On occasion, we will send home a book club order form for your child. These book clubs (Scholastic See Saw, Troll, and Trumpet) offer an excellent selection of books at a discounted price. To order, fill in the form with your child's name and selections, total up the price and send a check or money in an envelope labeled with your child's name and "Book Order". Put the envelope in the take home folder to be returned to school, and the class order will be prepared. (Checks should be made payable to the individual book club and NOT to All Saints School.) Books take one to two weeks to arrive. We emphasize that the books should go directly into the children's backpacks and do not come out until they are at home because lost orders cannot be replaced without additional money.

D.E.A.R. Books - Reading to your child is one of the most important things that that you can do for him/her. Therefore, we will send home a picture book with your child each day. Read the book to him/her that evening, fill out the D.E.A.R. sheet, put it back in the Ziploc

bag it was sent home in and return it to school the next day. If for some reason, you are not able to read it that evening, you should still send it back to school and we will send home a new one for the following evening. They will only get a new book if they bring back the one they were previously sent home with.

Evaluations - The children are evaluated in many different ways, including tests, observations, and class work. They are individually tested on kindergarten skills in September and at the end of each quarter. If after looking at your child's classroom work you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact their teacher.

Field Trips - During the school year, we usually have one or two field trips. Permission slips will be sent home in advance in your family's Thursday folder or classroom take home folder. Sometimes, the opportunity will come up for a parent to be a chaperone. Unfortunately, we cannot always take every parent who wants to come. In these situations, we will do a lottery to choose the chaperones.

Morning Snack - Each morning, the Kindergartners are offered a carton of chocolate or white milk, which is funded through a Federal program. We also serve a morning snack with milk at this time. If your child develops a food allergy during the school year, please notify us immediately.

Outdoor Play/Recess - The children do go outside daily and will need to dress appropriately for the weather (except when it is raining or below zero wind chill). All children are expected to go out, unless there is a medical reason he/she should stay inside. All such requests should be accompanied by a parent note or phone call.

Phy-Ed - For safety reasons, children need to wear tennis shoes during Phy-ed. If your child is not wearing tennis shoes on our scheduled Phy-Ed days, they will not be able to participate in the activities. (An extra pair of tennis shoes may be left in lockers.)

Rest Time - At the beginning of the school year, Kindergarteners will have a brief rest time in the afternoon. As the year progresses, we will gradually be replacing our rest time with a quiet time. Some of the quiet activities we have used in the past are writing journals and quiet reading time.

Take Home Folders - An important part of our communication with our Kindergarten families is the take home folder. All newsletters, notes, and papers/projects will be sent home in this folder. Please check it daily and return it to school with your child each day. Any correspondence from home should also be sent through this folder. Children are responsible for bringing this folder to and from school. Note: This folder is not the same as the Thursday folder sent home weekly from the office.

Kindergarten Curriculum

Religion

I Am Special, 2001

The student will:

- Realize that all of creation is a gift from God.
- Illustrate the gift of God's world and creation.
- Realize that their bodies, talents and senses are gifts from God.
- Realize that God gives them Jesus who teaches them to love God, themselves and others.
- Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of church holidays, customs, prayers and sacraments.
- Choose appropriate behaviors in a variety of social situations.
- Identify the uniqueness of individuals and how we relate to others.
- Understand everyone has feelings and feelings are okay.
- Participate in school and community sponsored service projects.

Language Arts

Scott Foresman, 2007

Reading

The student will:

- Recognize and name all uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet.
- Recognize and produce letter sounds.
- Identify word families (ex: at, bat, cat, sat)
- Read simple words (consonant-vowel-consonant)
- Recognize high frequency words.
- Know print concepts (ex: directionality, word vs. letter, etc.)
- Recognize and produce rhymes.
- Learn comprehension skills and strategies such as making predictions, noting details, cause and effect, sequence of events, comparing and contrasting, etc.

Writing

The student will:

- Write uppercase and lowercase letters of the alphabet.
- Use letter/sound knowledge to write using inventive spelling.

Speaking

The student will:

- Contribute appropriate ideas.
- Share ideas with the class.

Listening

The student will:

- Listen and follow simple directions.
- Listen during class discussions to gather information.

Handwriting

Zaner-Bloser, 2003

The student will:

- Be introduced to correct letter formation
- Use an appropriate pencil grip
- Write their name beginning with uppercase followed by lowercase letters.

Mathematics

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009

The student will:

- Count 1 through 10 objects (one to one correspondence).
- Order numbers 1 through 10.
- Write numerals 1 through 10.
- Identify numbers through 20.
- Represent teen numbers as a ten and extra ones.
- Identify and continue a pattern.
- Find partners of numbers through 10.
- Write equations to show partners of 10.
- Show numbers using 5-groups.
- Recognize basic 2-D and 3-D shapes.
- Interpret graphs.
- Compare simple math drawings to see which group is more or fewer.
- Use equal and not equal signs.
- Solve addition equations.
- Write and solve subtraction equations with totals 2 through 5.
- Measure and compare length in inches and in centimeters.
- Tell time to the hour.
- Solve problems.
- Identify the value of pennies, nickels and dimes.
- Understand the calendar (days of the week, months of the year).

Science

Minnesota State Science Standards (2010) using a variety of resources

The students will:

- Understand that scientists make observations, use tools and equipment, conduct investigations, make measurements, compare and contrast, record information and explain it to others,
- Use observations to develop an accurate description of a natural phenomenon and compare one's observations and descriptions with those of others.
- Sort objects into groups and give reasoning for the sorting system.
- Monitor daily and seasonal changes in weather and summarize the changes.
- Identify the sun as a source of heat and light.
- Learn the five senses and how they are used to gather information about the world.
- Observe and compare plants and animals.
- Identify the external parts of plants, people, and animals.

- Differentiate between living and nonliving things.
- Learn about conserving Earth's resources.

Social Studies

Macmillan/McGraw-Hill, 2003

The student will:

- Tell and demonstrate what it means to be a friend.
- Recognize that families vary in composition and that each family member has a special role.
- Identify and compare family celebrations and traditions and explain their importance.
- Understand that people live in different kinds of home and neighborhoods and use different forms of transportation to get from place to place.
- Learn that a map shows the different elements in an environment in a given area and that a globe is a model of Earth.
- Understand that rules and laws help people get along and stay safe as they work and play
- Understand that authority figures make the rules and laws and help people follow them.
- Realize that each of us is a citizen and citizens have rights and responsibilities.
- Know that Americans celebrate special days and have special symbols and songs to show that they are proud to be Americans.
- Understand that people work in many different kinds of jobs to earn money and that money is used to buy things they want and need.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how things can change over time.