



## KINDERGARTEN HANDBOOK



OUR CHILDREN, OUR FAITH, OUR FUTURE

*Creating confident lifelong learners.*



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## ABSENCES & ILLNESS

Please keep your child home if he/she shows signs of being ill. If your child is absent, please call the school. If your child contracts a communicable disease, please let us know as soon as possible.

## MILK BREAK

Kindergarteners receive milk during snack time. Information regarding milk break will be sent home the first week of school. We participate under the State of Minnesota's Kindergarten Milk Program as a satellite school of the Brainerd School District.

There is a small fee for milk.

## PARKING

When dropping off and picking up your child, please **DO NOT** park in the bus-loading zone in front of the school. This area is for buses only. Parking is available in the parking lot on the east side of the school. For safety purposes please use the tarred lot.

## BUS TAGS

If your child is riding the bus, a bus tag will be issued at Kindergarten orientation. Early in August, you will receive a form in the mail. Please complete immediately and mail to the school district. The Transportation Office relies on this blue postcard to arrange your child's bussing.

Children must wear the bus tag on their jacket or backpack. It will help bus drivers locate the child's bus or parents, if necessary.

The tag includes; child's name, parent's name, address and telephone number. Please review tags to ensure your child's bus numbers are correct.

## HEALTH CARE

Children should use good habits and good manners in school. We appreciate your assistance in helping your child acquire these good habits and manners:

- \*Wash hands before eating and after going to the washroom.
- \*Cover a cough or sneeze.
- \*Say "Please" and "Thank you."

# PARENT INFORMATION

The following section contains important classroom information for parents. Please read carefully.

## SCHOOL SAFETY

Volunteers or teachers monitor the playground from 7:45 am to 8:00 am. School begins at 8:15. Please do not drop your child off any earlier than 7:45 am, as they will be unsupervised.

School ends at 2:50 p.m. Children being picked up after school will wait for parents in their classroom until 3:05 pm. After 3:05 pm they will be sent down to the After School Program. Please park your vehicle in the parking lot east of the school.

## NO PARKING IS ALLOWED IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING.

Please discuss the following safety rules with your child:

- Use crosswalk on streets
- Look both ways before crossing the streets
- Don't talk to strangers
- Proper behavior is expected on the school bus

## BIRTHDAYS

St. Francis is excited to provide a healthy celebration to recognize your child on their birthday. A special birthday package has been created to celebrate your child. Instead of treats, we ask that parents purchase a book for the classroom or library. Your child or their teacher, may read the book to the class. We will label the book in honor of your child's birthday and many can enjoy the book for years to come.

Birthday parties initiated within the school must include all children in the class.

## CLOTHING

Dress your child for the weather! The children have more fun if they are comfortable. The children go outside everyday when the temperature is above -10 including the wind chill. Please make sure your child has warm outerwear, including hat and mittens.

Please label your child's clothing and school supplies. If they are misplaced or forgotten, they will be easily identified.

# Welcome to the St. Francis Community

Thank you for supporting our Catholic School by entrusting us with the most precious of gifts, your child. St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School works to provide many rich opportunities for each student to flourish in a Christ-centered atmosphere. We take this responsibility very seriously and continue to strive for excellence in all areas of our system.

## CLASS TIMES AND AGE REQUIREMENTS

St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic Kindergarten offers all day classes.

Children must be five by September 1<sup>st</sup> to be eligible for the Kindergarten classes.

Monday - Friday                      8:15 am – 2:50 pm

## REGISTRATION

All children attending St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School must have completed registration forms on file in the office, including up-to-date health form with necessary immunizations and 2 emergency contacts if you cannot be reached.

A non-refundable registration fee of 5% of tuition per child is due upon registration to retain your spot in the specified class. This fee is applied directly to tuition.

## TUITION

Please refer to the **2012-2013 Tuition Policy**.

## **CURRICULUM**

At St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School, we are continually reviewing national, state and Diocese standards to assure our students are receiving the academic knowledge needed to go on to higher education and a successful Christian life.

It is the integration of our Catholic faith into all curriculums that sets us apart and provides what others can't – the same Christian values you teach at home.

## **MATH**

Areas covered in the Kindergarten Everyday Mathematics Curriculum are:

- \*Basic addition and subtraction
- \*One to one correspondence
- \*Basic shapes and comparing sizes
- \*Positional concepts
- \*Numbers 0-100 (counting)
- \*Counting by 2's, 5's & 10's
- \*Basic measuring skills
- \*Estimating
- \*Patterning
- \*Time on the hour
- \*Graphing
- \*Sequencing
- \*Classification & sorting

**SOCIAL STUDIES** - Your child will learn about:

- \*Cooperation
- \*His/her school and community
- \*Special days and holidays
- \*Use of the Calendar
- \*Famous People
- \*Following directions

At home you can help by visiting many interesting places such as the zoo, park, circus, museums, etc.

**SCIENCE** - Your child will:

- Become aware of simple concepts in nature
- Observe changes in growing things
- Experiment and predict
- Develop a curiosity and interest in the world

**MUSIC** -Your child will:

- o Participate in music program
- o Learn new songs and nursery rhymes
- o Keep time to music
- o Perform in the Christmas program

At home, sing along with your child and encourage him/her to sing "fun" songs.

## **RELIGION**

Imparting the Catholic Faith to our students is the primary and glorious task of the Catholic School, the parish, and the parents of the child. It is our responsibility to teach a child to know and love God and neighbor. Indeed as we instruct the child in the Catholic Faith, we strengthen our own understanding and love of God and His church. Catholic Schools have as their focus the integration of faith with life and learning.

## **COMPUTER**

Your child will become acquainted with the mouse and the location of the letters and other keys on the keyboard in the classroom.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Your child will:

- Play games indoors and outdoors
- Use balls, jump ropes and other physical education equipment
- Exercise by running, jumping, skipping, etc.

## **WHOLE LANGUAGE**

The Whole Language approach is incorporated into the units that are studied in Kindergarten. Your child will learn the following:

- ❖ Letter recognition
- ❖ Consonant and vowel sounds
- ❖ Nursery rhymes
- ❖ Rhyming
- ❖ Following directions
- ❖ Identify colors and color names
- ❖ Print his/her first and last names
- ❖ Inventive spelling through journals
- ❖ Retell a story in the proper order