

PRESCHOOL MISSION

Our Lady of Fatima School is committed to offering an educational program that presents to our children a variety of experiences. These experiences focus on the Catholic faith, promoting each child as one of God's special creatures. Realizing that a child's attitudes and interest in school begin at an early age, Our Lady of Fatima Preschool for three and four year olds is offered to the parish and to the community. Our Lady of Fatima does not discriminate against any child on the basis of race, creed, sex, or handicap.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

7:40	Arrival
8:10	Circle Time
8:45	Activities
10:00	Snack
10:30	Recess
10:45	Afternoon Circle/Activities
11:00	Morning Dismissal/Reading
11:30	Lunch
12:00	Recess
12:20	Rest
1:00	Quiet Puzzles/Reading
1:30	Afternoon Activity
2:00	Play Time
2:35	Dismissal

PROGRAM

Our Lady of Fatima Preschool offers a multi-sensory program that focuses on the development of the *whole* child. Physical, nutritional, emotional, intellectual, spiritual, sensual, and social growth will occur through a variety of experiences.

I AM: Faith development and self concept

God does not make junk. Each child must learn to love him or herself and to accept God's love before he or she can be loving and accepting towards others. Your child will grow in self-confidence and develop feelings of pride, security, and success.

I CAN: Large motor and fine motor activities

Your child will grow in ability to control his or her body and muscles through play experiences such as running, jumping, and balancing, and through activities such as scissors cutting, writing, painting, and drawing.

I SEE: Visual and cognitive activities

Learning centers will focus on multi-sensory activities that will include pre-reading, number skills, and concepts. Science and computer activities are included.

I HEAR: Auditory activities and receptive language skills

The children will progress in listening and attention skills by listening to stories, tapes, and records, and will gain experience in following directions and in listening to others.

I SAY: Expressive language skills, music, and cognitive activities

Your child will learn to express him or herself appropriately, to sing, to answer questions, and to exchange information.

WE DO: Social activities, coupled with appropriate peer and adult interaction

Christian values will be modeled and taught. Your child will have experiences in giving and receiving, taking turns, sharing, and in being a friend. He or she will grow in independence and responsibility. Social activities and service projects will be a part of the Preschool Program.

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

ARRIVAL

Arrival time for the entire Preschool class will be between 7:40 and 7:55. Parents/Guardians are asked to park in the McDonough Hall lot and walk their child to the Preschool classroom. A teacher will meet you at arrival. After 7:55, the door will be locked and students must sign in at the office before coming to the classroom.

DISMISSAL

Dismissal for the half day Preschool group will be at 11:00. Parents are asked to park in the McDonough Hall lot. Children will be called to walk out to meet their parent/guardian or assigned ride.

Dismissal for the all day group will be at 2:35. Parents/Guardians are asked to park in the McDonough Hall lot in accordance with the normal school dismissal procedures. Parent/Guardian or assigned rides are to meet their child at the Preschool classroom door. Children will be called to walk out to meet their parent/guardian or assigned ride.

SNOW DAYS

A School Reach phone call will be made to all families as soon as school is notified of the delay or cancellation. School closings due to inclement weather will also be announced on local radio stations such as **WDEL, WILM, WJBR, or WSTW**. If "All Catholic Elementary

Schools" are closed, we will be closed. In case of a one-hour delay, we will start class at 9:00. Dismissals will be at normal school times. In the case of an early dismissal due to inclement weather, parents will be notified by School Reach.

CLOTHING

Sneakers and comfortable play clothes are recommended as Preschool attire. If there are "dress up" occasions, we will inform you.

Your child should wear suitable, seasonal outdoor clothing so that he or she can take part in the outside activities. Please label all outdoor clothing and book bags.

Each child should carry a book bag every day to hold communications and to take home class work. Please keep this bag free of toys, check it daily, and review all papers.

SNACK TIME

A small nutritious snack with beverage will be given each day. Parents will be asked to provide this snack approximately one day a month. A snack calendar will be sent home and posted on the website monthly. The snack should consist of juice and a food item such as cookies, cut-up fruit, etc. Be creative.

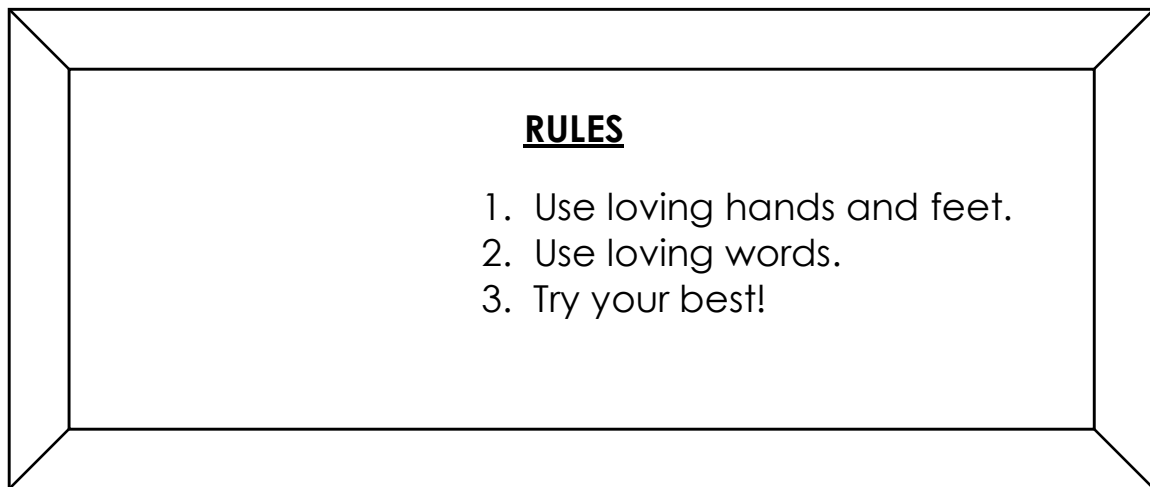
Occasionally, the children make the snack as part of a lesson. If your child has any special dietary needs or allergies, please make this known to the teacher. **We will encourage every child to "try", even if the food is a new experience. Please, due to potential allergies, avoid food with peanuts.**

BIRTHDAYS

Your child may bring in a treat to share with classmates at snack time. Please do not send in birthday presents or goody bags for the class. Special days for children with summer birthdays will be observed as well.

BEHAVIOR

As members of a Christian and caring community, children will be expected to respect the staff, themselves and others, and the materials and environment they are in. They must never leave the building or grounds without staff permission.



HEALTH REGULATIONS

Good health is very important. When your child is not feeling well, whatever the reason, please keep him or her at home. If it is a contagious disease, i.e. "strep", please call the school nurse (323-0277).

If your child becomes ill at school, parents will be called. **NO CHILD MAY HAVE MEDICINE IN HIS OR HER POSSESSION, AND MEDICATIONS CANNOT BE GIVEN BY THE TEACHER.** When your child returns to school after an illness, please send in a note stating the days absent and the reason.

FIELD TRIPS

Parents will be notified in writing before any field trips. ***A parental permission slip is required for each field trip along with the necessary fees.*** Field trips will take place either in the form of visiting classroom programs (i.e. Brandywine Zoo) or walking trips to Chelsea Park.

In order to chaperone a trip or volunteer in the classroom, parent must have formal clearance via the Diocesan Policy "For the Sake of God's Children". Appropriate forms will be sent home.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH PARENTS

Much growth takes place in the preschool setting and your input is essential. We want our parents to share in their child's first school experience. It is through open dialogue that truth is reached, conflicts are resolved in a Christ-like manner, and that the desired growth occurs.

Sources of information to parents include:

- Parent Handbook
- Principal's monthly newsletter
- Weekly Preschool newsletter and snack calendar
- OLF notices about special events
- Conferences scheduled following the 2nd and 3rd marking periods (Informal conferences may be held at any time at the request of parents or staff)

- OLF School and Preschool website
- Opportunities to participate in your child's classroom activities and festivities
- The OLF Home and School Association
- OLF guidance counselor

HOW YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD

- Visit interesting places
- Select educational, nonviolent toys
- Go to church with your children
- Read with your child and model an interest in reading
- Discuss ideas and answer your child's questions
- Stick to a schedule
- Expect things to be put in place
- Help your child to dress independently
- Reinforce proper behavior with praise

IN CLOSING

As members of a Christian and caring community, it is our hope that your child will grow in grace, and that the developmental preschool program will provide a bridge to the kindergarten and primary grades at Our Lady of Fatima School.

RIGHT TO AMEND

The Administration of Our Lady of Fatima School reserves the right to amend this Handbook. Notice of amendments will be sent to parents via the “News from the Principal”.