



April 18, 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Pre-Kindergarten or Kindergarten program. School is a place where you can expect your child to be encouraged to grow and to develop. It is a place where they will be valued and a place where they will learn to cope with the world as it is now and as it will become in their lifetime.

Attached to this letter are helpful tips and suggestions for helping your child enter school successfully and a list of recommended "parent" reading for yourself and your child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rebecca Bogard'.

Rebecca Bogard, M.Ed.
Principal

John Paul II Catholic School
Pre-kindergarten and Kindergarten Programs

The John Paul II Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten programs are designed to create a loving; God centered "Child's World" in which each child is nurtured with care and respect. Every child at John Paul II is unique, and his or her own interests, abilities and needs will be recognized.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: A child *entering* John Paul II's pre-kindergarten program should:

- Be four years of age by September 1
- Make an acceptable score on the entrance assessment
- Be completely potty trained (i.e. - flushing the toilet, wiping themselves, and washing their hands - no pull-ups)
- Knows first and last name
- Dress self
- Knows basic body parts
- Able to use scissors and cut on a straight line
- Knows basic colors and shapes
- Recite letters of the alphabet
- Able to complete small chores
- Shares and takes turns
- Have an attention span that is appropriate for a four to five year old (approximately 10 min.)
- Be mature enough to separate from parent after a short adjustment period
- Have developmentally appropriate knowledge and abilities for his or her age

KINDERGARTEN: A child *entering* John Paul II Kindergarten program should:

- Demonstrate Christian attitudes towards others
- Be reverent and attentive at prayer time and liturgies
- Know the Sign of the Cross

- Demonstrate an understanding of cooperative play (i.e.- sharing, taking turns, etc.)
- Engage in complex movement (skipping, dribbling a ball, hopping)
- Play well in small and large groups
- Demonstrate respect for authority
- Demonstrate accountability for their actions
- Be able to listen to a lesson for 10-15 minutes
- Follow three step instructions
- Be able to match objects to numbers
- Counts and recognizes numbers up to twenty
- Able to group, sort, classify, and sequence objects
- Draws simple pictures of people, objects and animals
- Be able to hold a pencil correctly and write from top to bottom
- Recognize letters of the alphabet
- Recognize and write first name
- Be able to open all lunch and snack items
- Be able to accept correction and feedback

Promotion from Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten shall be based upon accomplishing the essential elements in the curriculum. All Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students will be assessed in the spring and must meet the same academic and behavioral requirements as new students to be promoted.

HELPFUL TIPS FOR PARENTS

- Don't be concerned if your child is happy on the first day of school and sad the next day. It's a new place, new children, new adults, and a new schedule. Keep your child's schedule consistent to help with the adjustment.
- When you drop your child off in the morning, give them a kiss and leave. When you linger around for a while to see how they are doing, it makes them feel uncertain because you feel uncertain. Then they don't want to stay, they want to go with you. If you feel great about leaving them, they will feel great about staying. If they are crying, their teacher will comfort them.
- Talk to your child and explain in advance about what their first day of school will be like. Point out the school to your child as you drive by. This will help lessen their fears.
- Talk to your children about dismissal procedures and how they will be going home ahead of time.
- Allow your child to do things by themselves even though it may take a little longer. They can get dressed by themselves and make decisions to help them feel important and build self-esteem.
- Let the child know that a canvas tote bag will be waiting for them and will be used throughout the year. Please do not purchase a backpack.
- Lunch can be purchased through Educational Catering or students may bring their lunch. Snacks are provided by the parents on a daily basis. Please purchase a lunch box and provide a nutritionally balanced lunch and healthy snack each day. Carbonated drinks are not allowed.
- Sometimes children don't want to go to school. Sometimes parents don't want to go to work. Once you are there, you're fine!
- Talk to your child about their day. Ask specific questions. Being in school helps children to be well adjusted socially. They learn to ask questions, make new discoveries, and meet new friends.
- We will share more about our curriculum, daily schedule, and yearly activities at a parent meeting at the end of August, see you there!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2017 – 2018 St. John Paul II Catholic School

Summer reading is an important part of the educational growth of boys and girls. This reading should include pleasure reading and some materials that challenge students as well. Along with required books per grade level listed below, there are activity sheets that accompany these books. Please look for additional links on our website for Reading and Math activities. Required reading books are to be read at any time during the summer. A brief revisit to these books would be in order just before school starts as teachers use these books as the lesson material for the first few weeks of school. It is highly recommended that students have their own copy of the required books for this purpose.

For students who may wish to read more; many other popular books can be found at the HAISLN (Houston Area Independent School Library Network) list as well as others such as Caldecott and Newbery award winners that are available as links on the library resource page of the St. John Paul II Catholic School Website. Encourage your students and take the time to rediscover as a family, favorite childhood books. Additionally, many of the public libraries offer summer activities for all age readers as well. Enjoy this valuable time reading with your child. Read every day! Happy Reading ~ Ms. Lamb

Students entering Pre-K in Fall of 2017 ~ Required read or read along with your child books

The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
Corduroy by Don Freeman

Students entering Kindergarten in Fall of 2017~ Required read or read along with your child books.

Caps for Sale by Esphyr Slobodkina
The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carl

Students entering 1st Grade in Fall of 2017~ Required read or read along with your child books

Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
If you give a mouse a cookie by Laura Numeroff

Students entering 2nd Grade in Fall of 2017~ Required 2 books

Magic Tree House No. 1 - Dinosaurs Before Dark by Mary Pope Osborne
The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle

Students entering 3rd Grade in Fall of 2017 ~ Required 2 books

Any one of the "Who WAS..." Biographies by Grosset and Dunlap
Frecklejuice by Judy Blume

Students entering 4th Grade in Fall of 2017 Required 2 books

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing by Judy Blume
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

Students entering 5th Grade in Fall of 2017~ Required 2 books

Flora and Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo
Frindle by Andrew Clements

Students entering 6th Grade in Fall of 2017~ Required 2 books

Star Girl by Jerry Spinelli
Loser by Jerry Spinelli

Students entering 7th Grade in Fall of 2017~ Required 2 books

Wonder by R J Palacio
PLUS any ONE of the following:
Dark Water Rising by Marian Hale
Come Juneteenth by Ann Rinaldi
The adventurous Deeds of Deadwood Jones by Helen Hemphill

Students entering 8th Grade in Fall of 2017 Required 2 books below

Ingri and Parin D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths
The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens by Sean Covey

ST. JOHN PAUL II CATHOLIC SCHOOL
SUGGESTED SUMMER READING FOR PARENTS
MAY 2017

For all parents:

Parenting with Love & Logic

By Foster Cline

Parenting Teens with Love & Logic for those with older children!

By Foster Cline

For parents with students entering pre-k and kindergarten

Parents are encouraged to read daily to their children. *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn is suggested as a read ~ along with your Pre-K child. *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* by Bill Martin Jr. is suggested as a read along ~ read aloud book with your Kindergarten child. The books listed below are suggested reading materials for families with students in Pre-K and Kindergarten. The list below is only a suggested list. Any other titles by authors listed would be suitable choices as well. Additionally, the summer reading program has a suggested list from HAISLN (Houston Area Independent School Library Network) which includes books with various reading levels, a variety of literature genres, and nonfiction titles as well. The annotated HAISLN list will be available as a link on the library page of the St. John Paul II Catholic School Website. Enjoy this valuable time reading with your child. Happy Reading ☺ Ms. Lamb

HAISLN Website reading lists link <http://www.haisln.org/ReadingLists.htm>

Title	Author
My Five Senses	Aliki
The Ugly Duckling	Andersen, Hans Christian – Illustrated by J. Pinkney
Good Night Moon	Brown, M.
Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel	Burton, V.
The Story of Babar	de Brunhoff, L.
Pancakes for Breakfast	de Paola, T.
Planting a Rainbow	Ehlert, L.
Millions of Cats	Gag, W.
Chrysanthemum	Henkes, J.
A Birthday for Frances	Hoban, R.
Inch by Inch	Lionni
Brown Bear, Brown Bear	Martin, B.
Tales of Peter Rabbit	Potter, B.
Caps for Sale	Slobodkina, E.
Any Caldecott Award Winner Books	
Any of the Eyewitness Junior Books	
Magazines for Children such as Highlights, Your Big Back Yard, Cricket, or Ladybug	

St. John Paul II Catholic School
IXL Math Practice - Summer 2017

Dear SJP II Families,

Each summer we require our students to practice their math skills. In the chart below is a list by grade level of the concepts students need to practice, using the IXL math software (grades 1st - 8th) online at www.ixl.com. These are the skills they should review to ensure they are prepared for math for the 2017-2018 school year. *IMPORTANT: The grade levels indicated on the left hand side of this column are for the grade levels they will be **entering in the fall**.*

Grade level students are entering in the fall of 2017	Concepts to practice and review for the 2017-2018 school year:
Incoming PKers	Recognize and count numbers 0-10
Incoming Kinders	Recognize and count numbers 0-20
Incoming 1st graders	Addition and subtraction facts to 12; place values (ones, tens)
Incoming 2nd graders	Addition and subtraction facts to 18; place value (ones, tens, hundreds)
Incoming 3rd graders	Addition and subtraction facts through 20; place value (ones, tens, hundreds, thousands); addition and subtraction problems with regrouping (up to three digits).
Incoming 4th graders	Multiplication and division facts memorized through 9's; place value (ones, tens, hundreds, thousands, ten-thousands) addition and subtraction problems with regrouping (up to four digits)
Incoming 5th graders	Multiplication and division facts memorized through 12's; fractions (equivalent, simplest form, mixed numbers, improper); addition and subtraction of fractions with like denominators; division of whole numbers with one and two digit divisors
Incoming 6th graders	Addition, subtraction, multiplication of decimals, fractions and mixed numbers; order of operations; exponents; mean, median, mode and range; solve problems related to area and perimeter
Incoming 7th graders	Computation and word problems for fractions and decimals; word problems for percents and money
Incoming 8th graders	Computation and word problems for fractions, decimals, and integers; all skills associated with percents and proportions