



May 1, 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Pre-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 required summer reading for your child.

In addition, we have provided specific objectives which students in each grade level should practice using IXL software. While there is not a set amount of IXL practice required, the goal is to be proficient in the objectives or skills listed by August to help them have a successful start of the school year.

Sincerely,

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

Rebecca Bogard, M.Ed.

Principal

## St. JP II Catholic School Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Programs

The St. 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 St. John Paul II is unique, and her or her own interests, abilities and needs will be recognized.

PRE-KINDERGARTEN: A child *entering* St.JP II's pre-kindergarten program should:

- Be 4 yrs. of age by September 1st
- 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 4 to 5 yr. old (approximately 10 minutes)
- 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* ST. JP II's Kindergarten program should:

- Demonstrate Christian attitude toward 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, working together etc.)
- Play well in small and large groups
- Demonstrate respect for authority
- Demonstrate accountability for their actions
- Be able to listen for a lesson for 10-15 minutes
- Follow three step instructions
- Be able to match objects to numbers
- Counts and recognizes numbers up to 20
- 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 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 off your child in the morning, give them a kiss & hug and then 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 longer. They can get dressed by themselves and make decisions to help them feel important, build self-esteem and gain independence.
- 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 a 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 in August, see you there!

**SUMMER READING PROGRAM 2018-2019**  
**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. Look on the Library Resources Link on the Library Page for more ideas, activities, tips and hints and much more. Enjoy this valuable time reading with your child. Read every day! Happy Reading ~ Ms. Lamb

**Students entering Pre-K in Fall of 2018 ~ Required read or read along with your child books**

The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn  
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr.

**Students entering Kindergarten in Fall of 2018~ Required read or read along with your child books.**

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

**Students entering 1<sup>st</sup> Grade in Fall of 2018~ 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade in Fall of 2018~ Required 2 books**

Magic Tree House No. 1 - Dinosaurs Before Dark by Mary Pope Osborne  
Amazing Snakes by Sarah L Thomson

**Students entering 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade in Fall of 2018 ~ Required 2 books**

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

**Students entering 4<sup>th</sup> Grade in Fall of 2018 Required 2 books**

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

**Students entering 5<sup>th</sup> Grade in Fall of 2018~ Required 2 books**

Flora and Ulysses by Kate DiCamillo  
Frindle by Andrew Clements

**Students entering 6<sup>th</sup> Grade in Fall of 2018~ Required 2 books**

Star Girl by Jerry Spinelli  
Loser by Jerry Spinelli

**Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> Grade in Fall of 2018~ 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 8<sup>th</sup> Grade in Fall of 2018 Required 2 books below**

Ingri and Parin D'Aulaire's Book of Greek Myths

**PLUS any ONE** of the following

My Brother Sam is Dead by Collier and Collier

Cast Two Shadows by Ann Rinaldi

A Ride into Morning by Ann Rinaldi

April Morning by Howard Fast

Finishing Becca by Ann Rinaldi

**St. John Paul II Catholic School**  
**IXL Math Practice - Summer 2018**

Dear StJP II Family,

Each summer we recommend that our students practice their math skills. In the chart below is a list by grade level of the concepts for further practice using the IXL math software online at **[www.ixl.com/signin/johnpaul](http://www.ixl.com/signin/johnpaul)**. *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 <b>entering in the fall of 2018</b>	Concepts to practice and review for the 2018-2019 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