

Welcome Preschool Families

Dear Preschool Families,

Welcome you to St. Thomas More's Preschool program! We offer experienced teachers that have a great deal of respect and love for their students. We are very much looking forward to being a part of the beginning of your child's journey at STM. We truly believe that developing a "life-long learner" in each child begins with their preschool experience. Our classrooms are set up into centers where children will be able to explore and learn at an individual pace. Independence and self-direction are important developmental skills at this age along with academic goals. Much of the learning experience will be through play and interactions with his/her peers.

We are sure that you have many questions and may even be a little nervous about your little one beginning school. We are always available to answer any questions you may have. Below are a few "need to know" facts before the year begins:

Attendance/Drop Off/ Pick Up

Preschool students are always dropped off at the front of the school building. Teachers will be outside at 7:55 am to get children out of the car. At orientation we will give more information about the "drop off line". All 3 year old preschool, full day, and half day pre-k are picked up behind Heider Hall. Please park on the side of Heider and stand by your vehicle. We will bring your child to you and their siblings. We will wait a few minutes after class starts for your child outside. If you are later than 5 minutes you will need to walk them into the classroom. If your child is going to be absent, please go to the school website (www.sttmschool.org) and fill out an absence/tardy form under the "Parent Tab."

Snacks/Lunch

We will have snack time daily in the classroom. Full day students will have a breakfast snack at 8:30 am each morning and an afternoon snack after nap time. Half day students will also have snack within their class time. Snacks are provided by the preschool and will be sensitive to any allergies. Believe it or not, most students are more willing to try new food items if his/her peers are eating them. Students that stay at school full day have 2 options for lunch. They can bring their own packed lunch each day, or they can purchase lunch from the cafeteria.

Tote Bags/Communication

Each child will be supplied a STM tote bag, they do not need a backpack. Please put your child's name on the front of the tote. Totes make it easier to transport their precious art work! There will be a folder inside that will be provided as a "Communication Folder" between home and school. Any note you may wish to send may be placed in the folder and will be checked daily. We do send a weekly newsletter each week letting you know the themes, snacks, curriculum being covered, reminders, and other special messages from the teacher. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher with any concerns. Email is the best way to reach the teachers. Tracy Waters: twaters@sttmschool.org or Stephanie Henges: shenges@sttmschool.org.

Birthdays!

Every child loves to celebrate his/her birthday at school! You are welcome to provide a special treat that day if you wish. We will be sure to let you know if there are any allergies in the class. If your child's birthday falls during the summer, they can celebrate their "half-birthday" at school or the last week of school!

Parent Orientation/First Day of School

We will have a Parent Orientation before school begins on **August 17th at 5:00 pm**. An email will come out the first part of August with more information about the meeting. All the paperwork will need to be filled out and returned to school **by August 17th**. Please note that your child will have a physical form that will need to be filled out by the doctor. All physicals must be renewed one year from the date of the last physical. Students will not be permitted to remain at preschool if their physical form is more than 30 days expired. Our first day of school is **August 19th**.

Uniforms

Preschool will not be wearing the STM uniforms. I just ask that they come dressed for the weather, as we will be going outside each day (weather permitting) for recess and games. I also recommend close toe shoes, preferably gym shoes. Preschool can get messy, so please don't send them in their "Sunday's best"!

Extra Clothes

Please send in an extra set of clothing on the first day of school. As we all know, accidents happen! Please include a shirt, pants/shorts, underpants and socks. Place all of the items in a large baggie labeled with your child's name! They will remain in your child's red bag. We will let you know if they need a new change of clothes.

Lunch Bunch

We typically offer a "Lunch Bunch" option for all half day preschoolers. This means that if your child attends school in the morning, they can stay an hour later with a packed lunch and join the full day preschoolers for lunch and enrichment of curriculum. If your child attends in the afternoon, they would join an hour earlier with a lunch. The cost for Lunch Bunch is \$5 a day and is billed to you.

Show and Share

Each class will have "Show and Share." Please look in the weekly newsletter for more information.

We are very excited to get to know all of our "littlest cardinals!" We look forward to working closely with you, as well, this year!

Many Blessings,

Tracy Waters
Preschool Director