

Mighty Stars

Queen of Peace

CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Queen of Peace Catholic School Preschool Syllabus- 2022-2023

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Description:

Preschool is a time of discovery and transition for children ages 3-5 from home or daycare into a school setting. We mix our day with play based learning as well as academics to prepare them for kindergarten and beyond. Our main goal is to help provide quality care and instruction while guiding children to become good stewards and servants of the Lord.

Licensing/ Forms:

Queen of Peace preschool is licensed by the Department of Human Services through the State of Minnesota. We are also a 4 Star Parent Aware rated program (highest rating). Due to our licensing, we are required to have certain forms on file prior to the first day of attendance. These forms include: Registration (online), Health Care Summary Form, Authorized Pick-up/ Emergency Contact Form (must have at least TWO names), Immunization Form and Health Care Summary Form. If you do not have these, please contact the office for guidance.

Curriculum:

We will continue to use our High Reach (HR) curriculum. The High Reach program aligns with the Early Childhood Indicators of Progress (ECIPs) that provide the recommended outcomes for preschool aged children in the areas of: Social Emotional Development, Language Literacy and Communications, The Arts, Approaches to Learning, Social Systems: Cognitive, Physical and Movement Development, and Mathematics and Scientific Thinking.

For Religion, we will be using Year 1 of the Virtues in Practice (VP) program (more information below) as well as stories from the Bible and Children's Bible.

Logic of English (LOE): We will begin using the basics of the Logic of English curriculum to assist in language development and prepare children for kindergarten. LOE is continued through grade 3 or 4.

Handwriting Without Tears is a handwriting program that will be used in conjunction with the LOE programming.

Art: We will be discovering process art as well as crafts. This year we will also be discovering fine art through the ABC Collection of Art Masterpieces from Catholic Heritage.

Math: We will be introducing math concepts in a variety of ways. One of which will be the structured curriculum of Singapore Math. Singapore Math is continued through grade 6 at Queen of Peace.

Preschoolers will have Spanish instruction one day a week. Library will be weekly.

High Reach Units:

We will typically accomplish one full unit each month. Each unit has four subunits for each week in the month. Some months have a lot of other required learning such as holidays, feast days, etc, so we get as much covered as we can. Sometimes units will overlap the months. Below are the unit topics:

Everyday Places and Routines
Skin Covers Many Things
Fabrics and Textures
Traveling

Up in the Sky
Light and Dark
Creations and Innovations
What Happens When

Virtues in Practice:

We are excited to continue the Virtues in Practice program school-wide. It is on a three year cycle beginning with the Year of Faith (service). The second is the Year of Hope (study) and the third is the Year of Charity (community). Each month we will have a featured virtue and saint. There will be a short take home project each month as well. These are meant to help you connect with your child, not to be a chore. Do what fits your family. Below are the Virtues and Saints for PreK- grade 2. Grades 3-5 and 6-8 will have different virtues and saints.

Year 1 (2022/2023): FAITH

September: *Faith*- St. Martha
October: *Reverence*- St. Hyacinth
November: *Stewardship*- St. Elizabeth of Hungary
December: *Generosity*- St. Nicholas
January: *Gratitude*- St. Francis of Assisi

February: *Honesty*- Sts. Jacinta and Francesco Marto
March: *Mercy*- St. John Vianney
April: *Justice*- St. Anthony of Padua
May: *Zeal*- St. Paul

Year 2 (2023/2024): HOPE

September: *Hope*- St. Joseph
October: *Studiousness*- St. Albert the Great
November: *Humility*- St. John the Baptist
December: *Patience*- St. Monica
January: *Fidelity*- St. Cecilia

February: *Cheerfulness*- St. John Bosco
March: *Temperance*- St. Teresa of Avila
April: *Obedience*- Our Lady
May: *Diligence*- St. Andre Basset

Year 3 (2024/2025): CHARITY

September: *Charity*- St. Gertrude
October: *Friendship*- Sts. Benedict & Scholastica
November: *Courtesy*- St. Martin de Porres
December: *Purity*- St. Dominic Savio
January: *Fortitude*- St. Bernadette

February: *Prudence*- St. Junipero Serra
March: *Respect*- St. Jeanne Jugan
April: *Forgiveness*- St. Patrick
May: *Responsibility*- St. Peter

Assessments:

Once in the fall and again in February/ March, we will conduct a formal screen using the Brigance Assessment Tool III. This is a standardized assessment to see where your child is currently performing compared to nation-wide standards. I also use additional assessment tools to get a thorough view of their overall skills.

Attendance Expectations:

Please try to have your child at school each day they are scheduled. It is good to keep a routine and it helps prepare them for kindergarten. With that being said, I do realize that family comes first and vacations, sick days and other special days will come up. If your child will not attend school or will be arriving late, please contact the school office at 219-879-8516 or akunze@queenofpeaceschool.org to let us know. Or contact Mrs. Sabyan directly.

Communications:

Communication is a key factor to your child's success. Each week you will receive a newsletter with information regarding the previous week and upcoming events. They will be sent home via email and paper copies will be available upon request. Please read these each week. At any time during the week, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Email works best for communication however, if you have an urgent need, feel free to use my cell phone.

There are two scheduled conferences during the year. One in October (10/26 and 10/27) and again in March (3/8 & 3/9). This is a good time to come together to review your child's skills and progress. You are welcome to schedule conferences at any time throughout the school year to discuss questions and concerns.

Meals and Snacks and Allergies:

This year we have a severe peanut allergy in our classroom, so we will be **PEANUT FREE** in preschool. Almond butter and other butters are okay.

Allergies: If your child has a food allergy, please contact the school prior to the first day of school to create an Individual Child Care Program Plan (ICCP) and Action Plan.

Lunch: The federal government ended the free hot lunch service. Hot Lunch will be provided, if desired, through ISD #94. Milk is provided with hot lunch or can be purchased separately. As always, you are welcome to bring a cold lunch from home. Please send healthy options and follow the milk policy below. Hot Lunches must be ordered at drop off each day. You will be billed monthly through FACTS (same system as tuition). You may prepay through FACTS incidentals account, if desired.

Pricing: Lunch: \$2.80 Milk: \$0.50

If you qualify for Free or Reduced Hot Lunch, please fill out the form provided by the district and supply the proper documentation.

Milk: According to the DHS rules, preschoolers are only allowed to drink Skim or 1% milk. Chocolate, 2% and whole are not allowed. Non dairy milk is allowed along the same parameters (no chocolate/ sweetened milk). Lactose free milk is available upon written request. Please give the lunch program a week to accommodate.

Snack: State licensing has quite a few guidelines for snacks. Please do your best to follow them.

- We have snacks twice each day. Once in the morning and once in the afternoon.
- Healthy snacks should be provided by families.
- Each snack should include two food groups. For example a fruit and a grain. At least one of these four snack options must be a whole grain. Remember, these should be child size portions. A half of an apple or orange can be one serving of fruit.
- Only one serving a day can be a liquid (milk, fruit juice or vegetable).
- Juice can only be served once per day and must be 100% juice.
- Fruit snacks are not allowed unless they are 100% fruit.
- Pudding and Jello do not fall into an approved food group.

Fruits, vegetables, whole grains, nuts (no peanuts), yogurts (low sugar) and cheeses are safe choices. Any food item that needs refrigeration must have an ice pack or be placed in the refrigerator.

We supply water, cups, napkins, plates and spoons daily, as needed.

Water bottles: are recommended. They need to be labeled with their first and last name. Water bottles can only be used for water. They will need to be stored on a shelf in the classroom so they don't spill. They must be sent home to be washed **daily** according to the state's sanitation guidelines. Thanks for your understanding of all of these guidelines!

Naptime:

If your child is staying all day, we do have rest time every day. You may send a *small* blanket for your child as well as a *small* pillow (travel size). They can stay at school all week but will be sent home for washing on the last day of the week (per state licensing rules). Please leave stuffed animals at home, sorry! Although a photo from home will be allowed the first few weeks, if needed.

Attire:

Preschoolers do not need to wear a uniform. Please send your child to school in clothing and footwear appropriate for playing. We DO go outside on most days, if it is above 10 degrees and dry. Fresh air is good for us all! Also, please bring an extra set of labeled clothes in case of accidents or messes. It is best if they are in a labeled gallon size baggie and we will store them in the classroom bathroom. Include extra bottoms, underpants, shirt, and socks.

Arrival/ Departure:

School doors open at 7:40- Early Bird begins at 7am. At arrival time, children should come through Door #5 (off of Ave. G). Backpacks, jackets, snacks, etc will be stored in their lockers. Preschool room doors open at 7:45. Upon entering the classroom, students (with parents help at the beginning) will check in by telling us what they are having for lunch and what they are doing after school (picked up- by whom, or after school club). Then they will wash their hands before finding their mini-me. If there is morning work on the tables, they should do that before they choose a center.

At the end of the day, preschoolers will be dismissed at 3:00. A teacher will take the preschoolers that are attending after school club down to the basement. Another teacher will walk the remaining children for pick-up from door #2 (off 4th St.). Children are expected to stay with the teacher on the steps until the teacher dismisses them. A parent or authorized pick-up person must come be present and make contact with the teacher before leaving with the student.

If children are not picked up within 10 minutes of dismissal, they will be sent to the After School Club.

Goodbye Routine:

I know this part can be tough! It still pulls at my heartstrings! Some children will have a difficult time separating at drop off. This is normal...and it WILL get better! It is most definitely harder on whoever is dropping off than it is on the preschooler. Most times they are calm before you even get to your car. It might be best for you and your child to come up with a plan or a routine for saying goodbye (ex: a special handshake and 2 hugs or a short saying and a hug and kiss). This may change throughout the first few weeks and be eliminated completely by Thanksgiving. We are here to help you! Don't feel bad leaving them. If there is a problem, we won't let them be miserable at school and we will call you! Don't worry, they will love it here at Queen of Peace! We do have an **open door policy**, even if our door is closed, it does get a bit noisy at times, feel free to stop in. :)

Brightwheel:

We will be using the platform Brightwheel for some communication as well as for Billing for Early Bird and After School Club. An email will be sent to the email you provided at registration. As we become more familiar with our new Student Information System, FACTS, we will be switching all billing through them in the coming months. However, Brightwheel continues to be an easy way for us to share photos and events with families.

We know this is an exciting time for you and your child! Don't hesitate to contact us with any further questions! We look forward to meeting all of you and your preschoolers. Here's to a successful, blessed school year!

Your Queen of Peace Preschool Team,

Karin Sabyan, Sarah Bisel, Amanda Hakamaki, and Anne French

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