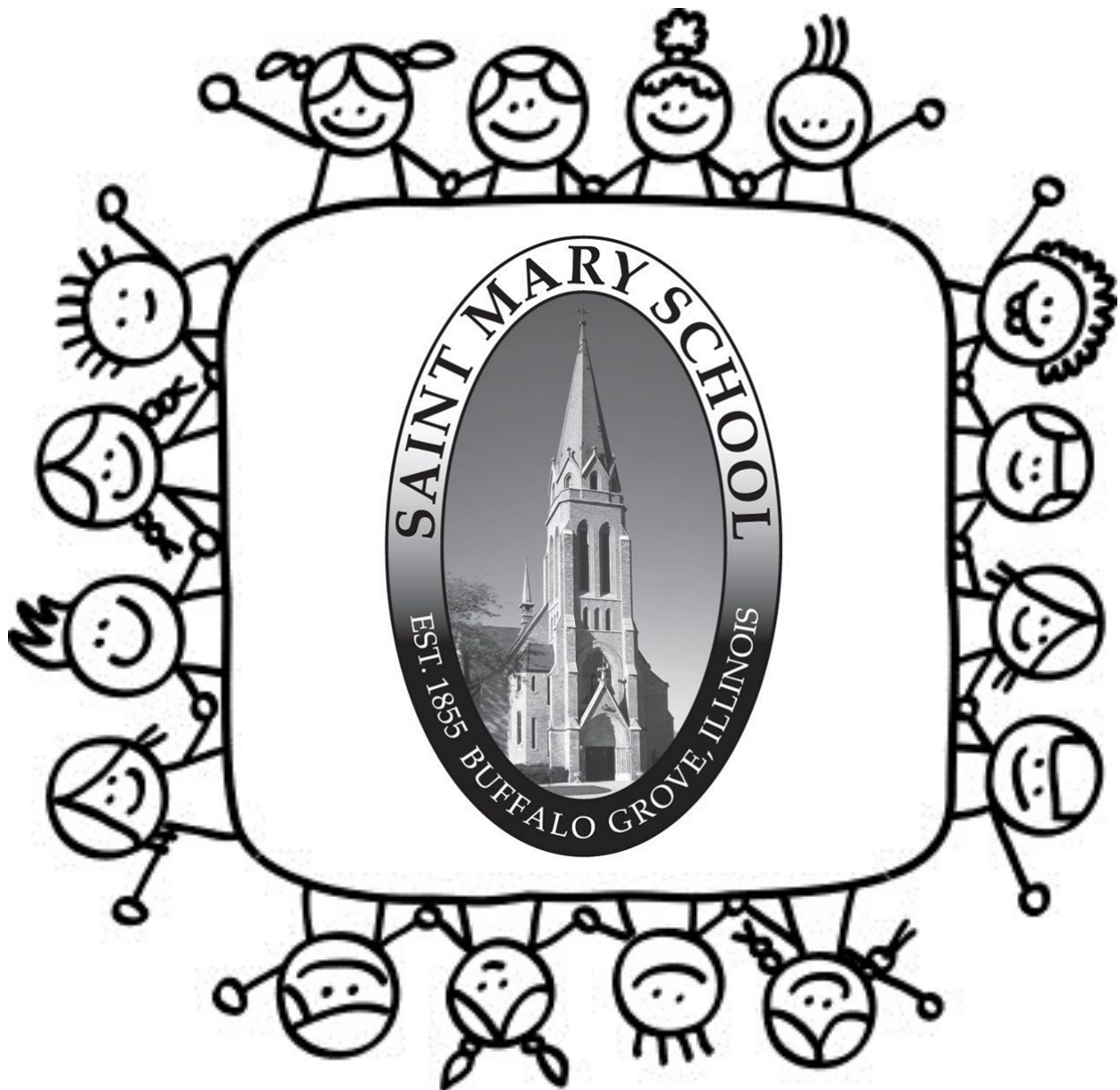


**Saint Mary School
Early Childhood Handbook
Kindergarten
2016-2017**



Dear Parents,

Early Childhood Education (ECE) is an important first step in your child's educational career. These first school experiences shape how children feel about school and should empower them to develop confidence in themselves as learners. The purpose of ECE is three-fold: to provide an opportunity for socialization, to lay the foundation for grade school learning, and to foster the natural curiosity of children by encouraging thinking, questioning and wondering.

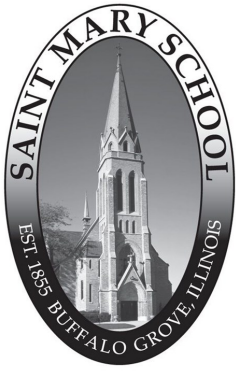
We appreciate this exciting opportunity to partner with you in this important time in your child's school life! We look forward to celebrating your child's growth, development and accomplishments alongside of you.

Welcome to Saint Mary School!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nikki Raftery, M.Ed.

Principal



Early Childhood Education Kindergarten

At Saint Mary we offer a full-day option for Kindergarten. Our programs are academic in nature and are balanced with both grade level and leveled learning opportunities.

Our Kindergarten programs are comprehensive including core content areas such as religion, language arts (reading, writing, speaking and listening), mathematics, social studies and science concepts. Additionally, our Kindergarten students participate in high caliber programming in music class, physical education, technology, library, Spanish and STEM Education.

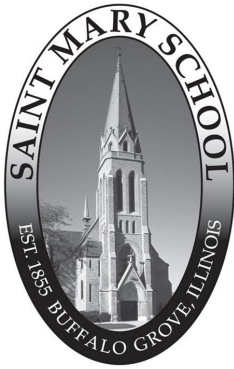


Early Childhood Education Schedule and Age Eligibility

Kindergarten is in session:

Monday - Friday 7:40 AM - 2:45 PM

Students who are 5 years old on or before
September 1st are eligible for Kindergarten.



Early Childhood Education Parent Night and Student Preview Day

**Kindergarten Parent Night is
scheduled for Thursday, August 18th.**

Kindergarten parents should meet at
Saint Mary School at 6:30 PM.

**This session is informational in nature
and is for parents only.**

Visit Days are “Open House” opportunities for
parents and students to meet teachers, see
their new classrooms and start to meet friends.
Classrooms will be open **8:00 AM - 10:00 AM**.
Families are welcome to stay as briefly or as
long as they like!

**2014 Visit Day is
Friday, August 19th.**



Early Childhood Education Kindergarten Screening

Kindergarten Screenings will take place **August 16th and 17th**. Each session will last approximately 50-60 minutes. These screenings are designed to provide teachers with a little information about your child as a learner and create an opportunity for parents to briefly discuss their child with our Kindergarten faculty.

These screenings will enable us to create balanced classes for the fall.

Please call our school office at (847) 459-6270 with any questions. Times can be scheduled online and are available on a first-come, first-served basis.



Early Childhood Education Kindergarten Information

The first day of school for our Kindergarteners is **Wednesday, August 22nd**. Students should wear their school uniform on that day. Our school uniform is outlined below and can be purchased through Dennis Uniform Company.

Girls: SMS plaid A-line jumper
(bike shorts can be worn under jumper)
White or light blue polo shirt
(all shirts must be logoeed through Dennis Uniform)
White or navy socks or tights
Black, brown or navy shoes

Boys: White or light blue polo shirt
(all shirts must be logoeed through Dennis Uniform)
Navy blue uniform style pants
White or navy socks
Black, brown or navy shoes

***An extra set of socks and underwear is required for emergency purposes. Please send clothes in a ziplock bag with your child's name clearly printed on the bag. The clothes will be kept in the classroom.**



Early Childhood Education Kindergarten Information

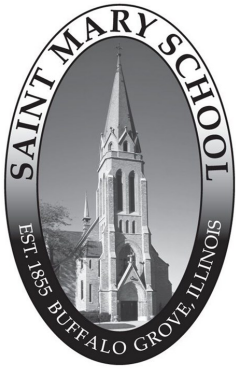
Supply List for Kindergarten

These supplies are necessary on the first day of school. Please bring them on Visit Day, Friday, August 19th.

- School Bag / Backpack
- Headphones (over the ear, not earbuds)
- Pencil box (8" X 5" plastic cigar box size only)
- Paint smock / Old shirt for painting
- Extra underwear and socks to keep at school
- 2 rolls of paper towels
- 2 boxes of tissue
- 2 containers of baby wipes
- 1 plastic two-pocket folder
- 1 child-sized towel or blanket

Please do not send crayons, pencils, scissors, glue sticks or erasers. These will be provided to the children. Additional items may be requested as needed.

Print your child's name on clothing and supplies.



Early Childhood Education Kindergarten Curriculum

The Saint Mary School Kindergarten curriculum is aligned with Common Core State Standards and is academic in nature.

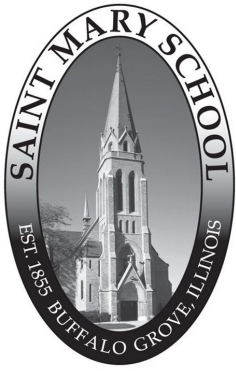
Religion:

We Believe: God Made the World; Sadlier.

Packets will be sent home as units are presented. Family activities are provided. Our Kindergarteners attend Mass with our school community.

Language Arts:

Journeys; Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. This series incorporates phonics, phonemic awareness, word work, decoding strategies, reading comprehension, academic vocabulary, word families and a wonderful mix of engaging high quality complex text from a variety of genres. We present children with a program that is balanced in grade level learning and leveled learning.



Early Childhood Education Kindergarten Curriculum

Math:

Everyday Math is spiraling curriculum that encourages children to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Science and Social Studies:

These concepts are driven by theme and supported by the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum, within our Kindergarten curriculum.

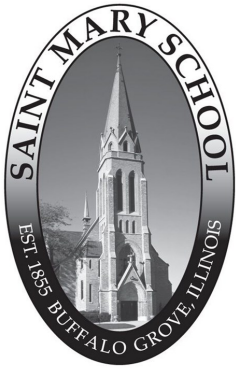
Weekly Reader supplements the program.

Specials:

Kindergarten students participate in music, technology, phys. ed., Spanish, STEM, art & library classes, weekly at Saint Mary School.

In order to support academic diversity, our Kindergarten students participate in benchmark screening three times per year. This allows us to monitor progress for our students and meet varying instructional needs.

Our classroom teachers are supported by a special service team and a speech-language pathologist.



Early Childhood Education Kindergarten Policies and Procedures

Absence:

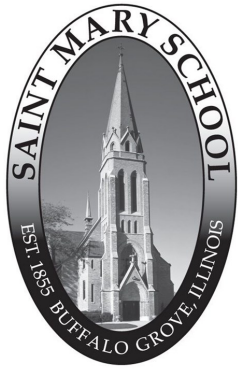
If your child will be absent from school, please call the school office in the morning (847) 459-6270. You may leave a message if you call outside of school hours.

Birthday Celebrations:

Your child may bring a special treat for the class on his/her birthday. No peanuts, due to allergies. Please make sure the treats or snacks are small. Birthday invitations should not be passed out in class.

Communication:

A weekly newsletter will keep parents informed of classroom activities. A monthly newsletter from the principal is available online with updated school information.



Early Childhood Education Kindergarten Policies and Procedures

Conferences:

Parent/Teacher Conferences are held in November. Teachers are available throughout the year by appointment.

Lunch and Snacks:

All Kindergarteners will eat lunch at 11:00 AM. Our hot lunch program is available through Quest via an online ordering system. Families can sign up to be a lunch helper through the classroom teachers.

Kindergarteners will have a morning and an afternoon snack; please send something quick and healthy.



Early Childhood Education Kindergarten Policies and Procedures

Medical Records:

Each incoming new student is required to have a completed medical exam prior to the first day of school. These can be mailed or dropped off at school over the summer.

Kindergarten students are required to have a dental check-up prior to May 1st of the year the child is in Kindergarten.

Medical and Dental forms can be found on our school website.

Morning Drop-Off:

Please drive along the west side of our school parking lot to the drop-off area in front of school. Teachers will escort your children safely into the building. Drop off is from 7:15 - 7:40 AM. Doors will not be open before 7:15 AM.



Early Childhood Education Kindergarten Policies and Procedures

Pick-Up After School:

Kindergarten students are picked up at 2:45 PM. Teachers will meet parents in front of the school.

Report Cards:

Kindergarten Report Cards are issued in November, February and June.

Vacation:

Please notify the school office and the teacher prior to vacation. Important mail and communication will be saved for your return.