

Hello PreK 4/5s parents,

Greetings from Preschool! Thank you for a wonderful start of the school year. The children are getting acquainted with our school surroundings and one another. It takes a while to feel comfortable and get used to our school routine.

### **God Made Me!**

Our theme last week was *God Made Me!* We read the story Quick as a Cricket and You are very Special, as well as other delightful books about ourselves. We learned several special chants/poems, discussed likes and differences, played a name game, and looked in the mirror to see how special God made us. One of our *God Made Me* projects included a face and name project. The artwork is proudly hanging in the classroom. Hopefully you have been hearing all about our exciting activities at home.

### **Afternoon Arrival:**

Thank you for helping your child enter the building independently. The children are doing an amazing job finding their cubbies, taking off coats and backpacks, as well as entering the classroom. I am so pleased. To ease your minds, I am in the lobby assisting the children. I try to look in backpacks for the orange school folders each Wednesday, too.

Ms. Virginia will be in the classroom assisting the children with the washing hands task. Then, the children eagerly get busy at one of our tables with an activity. It is so fun to see the children already get used to our new routine. They are doing a marvelous job.

### **End of the Day Dismissal:**

Thank you for your understanding as our Preschool staff is getting to know our families and especially the Authorization Pick-up Helpers. We will be dismissing from the back parking lot at 3:30 pm each day. Thank you for your patience as we dismiss the children to the proper person.



### **Reminder for Snack Days:**

Please send 2/4 food groups with your child's snack. Individual sized packages are NOT necessary this year. You may send snack in bulk packages. Be sure to send any plastic utensils if needed for the snack. There is no need to send napkins or a beverage. Thank you.

## Letter of the Week:

Beginning Monday, I will be introducing the letter of the week curriculum. Our letter focus begins with the letter H which ties in perfectly with our theme—Healthy Me. Our focus will concentrate on the special sound, as well as the formation and name of each letter.

To help support learning the letters, sounds and formation of the letters, the Zoo-phonics program is used with the children. Feel free to look up: *Zoo-phonics* online to learn all the animals. I have already been teaching the children the letter names, animal names and sounds—so once a letter is introduced, the animal will be somewhat familiar to the class.

A typical week may look like this:

**\*\***The letter of the week is introduced to the children. We learn the sound, shape and name of the letter at afternoon meeting/circle time throughout the week.

**\*\***The children will work in small groups with me at the writing table to practice writing the specific letter on an alphabet page.

**\*\***An oral language activity is part of our alphabet page. It is wonderful to listen to the creative answers the children have for this activity.

**\*\***As the week progresses, the children will be able to draw and create objects, people or places of things that begin with the letter of the week.

**\*\***All the children's alphabet work will be assembled in a booklet and sent home at the end of the school year.

**\*\***During the week, the children will each have an opportunity to pick out one item from our letter bag to show the class. The letter bag will be filled with objects/photos that start with the letter of the week, as well as items that do not start with the letter of the week. It will be fun to figure out if the objects go along with the letter/sound of the week.

**\*\***I will have the letter of the week and zoo animal on the monthly calendar.

**\*\***As we continue through the alphabet the children become very excited about all of their work and accomplishments.

**\*\***Be sure to support your child as we journey through the alphabet together.



**Groves in Preschool:**

Alongside the zoo-phonics program, the children will be exposed to Groves Curriculum which is used in grades K-3 in our school. The earliest years of education are very important for children to be exposed to activities relating to the sounds in our language. In an age appropriate way, early literacy activities will assist the children in having a solid foundation before Kindergarten. Rhyming, initial sound exploring, and alphabet knowledge are some of the daily activities your child will build upon throughout the year.

**Faith Focus Sharing Day:**

Please watch for a letter explaining our Faith Focus Sharing Day beginning in October.

**Lifetouch Photo Day:**

Please mark your calendars for Monday, September 26 for our photo day. Lifetouch information was sent home in the weekly folder.

**Photos and Videos:**

The Preschool Staff and School Administration request all families to refrain from taking any videos or photos of the PreK 4/5 or Lunch Bunch children while they are playing outside. It is out of respect for our children and their families to be aware of others and their privacy. Thank you for understanding.

**Communication via email:**

Please keep your email, phone number and address current with us if it changes at any time during the school year. You may add additional email contacts if you desire—just let me know.

I will be sending newsletters and other information to you via email. Be sure to read the Friday newsletter from the main school office, too. \*\*IF you do not yet receive the weekly newsletter from the main school office, please let me know. \*\*

**School Website:**

St. Joseph's School website is another place to look for PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade information. Our school website is very user friendly. The calendar and newsletters will be added to the school website, too.

**Attendance Line:**

If your child will be late to school or absent for the day, please call the Attendance line which goes directly to the main school office. You are welcome to email me, as well. The Attendance line is checked often throughout the day.

**Attendance Line: 651-457-3031**

**Thank you** for a fabulous start to the school year. Your support in all we do means so much. Contact me if you have any questions. I try my best to get back to you after school. 😊

Peg Dierberger

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