St. Charles School

Kindergarten Handbook

Mrs. Shishman



2017 - 2018

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Welcome to Kindergarten!

Room 105

 My name is Mrs. Debra Shishman, and I will be your child’s teacher for Kindergarten this year. I am looking forward to an exciting and productive year!

 My goal as a teacher is to provide your child with a lifetime love of learning. I will continually strive to meet the academic, emotional, physical, social, and spiritual needs of my students in a nurturing, Christ-centered environment. I will encourage your child to analyze, evaluate, and question their learning in order to make real life connections. All class activities will build upon your child’s prior knowledge, be multileveled, and developmentally/age appropriate for your child. Your child is a gift from God. I am so honored that you have chosen St. Charles School for your child. Our learning here will continually focus around God, His gospel message, and how we can become better disciples of our faith.

 I will be in contact with you all year long. I encourage your calls and comments. If you wish to speak with me, please contact me at dshishman@stcharlesbloomington.org or at (812) 336-5853 ext. 105. I will respond as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs. Shishman

Family Involvement

 Parents play an important role in their child’s education. I strongly believe that your child receives the best education when we work together as a team. Therefore, I will be asking for parent volunteers during the upcoming school year.

 Family Involvement Activities: field trip chaperone, room parent volunteer, help with centers, attend Mass with us, VIP reader, home projects, etc.

Classroom Rules

 Rules are important. They provide order, fairness, security, and safety in the home, school, and community. These are our classroom rules:

 1. Be respectful.

 2. Follow directions.

 3. Help clean up the room.

 4. Keep your hands and feet to yourself.

 5. Raise your hand to talk.

 6. Walk at all times.

 If a rule is not followed in the classroom, your child will be given a few warnings. I will discuss the rule that was not followed and together we will think of ways to make a better choice next time. I will send a note home if I feel that more communication is needed.

Toy Policy

 Please refrain from sending toys to school with your child. We will have specials days when toys can be brought to school: VIP and Show and Tell.

Schedule Overview

 Your child will participate in calendar activities, centers, reading, math, religion, and science/social studies activities. Here is a list of our other daily classes:

**Monday**

11:15 - 11:25 French

1:10 – 1:40 Physical Education

**Tuesday**

9:00 – 9:30 Music

**Wednesday**

8:30 – 9:30 All School Mass (first Wednesday once a month)

9:00 – 9:30 Music

10:45 – 11:15 Physical Education

11:15 - 11:25 French

1:40 – 2:40 Media Center/Library

**Thursday**

9:00 – 9:30 Music

9:45 – 11:25 Centers

1:30 – 2:45 Kindergarten Switch

**Friday**

8:15 – 8:30 All School Assembly (first Friday once a month)

8:30 – 9:30 Mass

2:00 – 2:40 Art

Lunch

 Students need to bring their own lunch daily. We do offer milk for .45 cents daily or $90.00 dollars annually. The order form is on the school website. You must order milk for the month in advance. We will honor emergencies, if needed. In addition, there are order forms for pizza and sub sandwiches, too. These are both offered once a month, and it’s easiest to order for the whole year. Lunch and recess are from 11:30 – 12:30 daily.

Quiet Time

We will have a quiet rest time after lunch. The lights will be out during this time. Students will need to bring in a towel with their name on it to use as a rest mat. I will send your child’s towel home (over the weekend) to be washed when needed.

Centers/Daily Five/Math Tubs

 Centers are an important part of Kindergarten. This is a time when your child is free to explore, work with his/her peers, and develop independence. We will do our centers on Thursday from approximately 9:45 – 11:25 AM. In addition, we will have math tub exploration most afternoons.

 Daily Five is a program that helps build a child’s literacy skills. During this time, your child will choose to read to self, read to someone, work on writing, listen to reading, or do word work. I will also be working with small groups of children during this time.

Kindergarten Switch

 Once a week on Thursday both Kindergarten classes will participate in Kindergarten Switch. Mrs. Urbanski will give me half of her class, and I will give her half of my class. Each teacher will teach a lesson, and then the groups will switch rooms. Each week the lessons will be new and exciting. What a great way to meet all of our Kindergarten friends!

Newsletter

 I will be sending a newsletter home in your child’s red folder every Friday or by email over the weekend. This letter will let you know what we did in school that week, who has snack for the next week, important news, information about our VIP (Very Important Person), and our prayer requests.

Red Folder

 This folder will come home with your child each day. This is our way to send communication to and from home and school. Please send it back daily with your child, even if it is coming home empty and returning empty. Friday is the day that I will send home the week’s worth of work, my newsletter, homework, and any other class information. The folders need to be returned on Monday.

Homework/Book Buddies

 I will send home some type of weekly homework. My homework will be a project that can be completed together with the family or individually (as a simple reinforcement of a lesson taught). Bringing back the completed homework helps your child learn responsibility and develop good work habits. Homework is NOT to be a time of tears and stress.

 Once we have established our homework routine, little books will start coming home for reading practice (Book Buddies). Practice is necessary to develop literacy skills. This reading program will start in October.

Grades

 Report cards will come home with your child three times during the school year (quarters 2, 3, and 4). We will have a conference in the fall (quarter 1) to discuss your child’s progress in Kindergarten.

Snacks

 Please refer to the newsletter each Friday to see if it is your turn to bring in snack. Please try to select healthy snack choices. There are a few examples listed.

Applesauce

Cheez-Its

Gummy snacks

Goldfish

Fruit

Vegetables

Cheerios

Pretzels

Jell-o/Pudding

Cheese Sticks

Please let me know if your child has a food allergy or any special dietary needs.

Birthdays

 We love to celebrate birthdays in Kindergarten. Your child may bring a birthday treat to share with the class. In addition, your child may give a present to the class (a wrapped book). Please have your child paste his/her picture inside the front cover and sign it. We will read the book together, sing our special birthday song, present your child with some birthday treasures, and make a class birthday wish book.

Book-It

 Book-It is a reading program offered by Pizza Hut. Pizza Hut offers individual as well as class incentives. Each time your child completes the reading goal for the month, he/she is awarded a certificate to redeem for a personal pan pizza…..and the certificates NEVER expire. If all the students complete their class goals each month, we qualify for a class party. This program starts in October and ends in March.

Scholastic Reading Club

 I usually only participate in one book club, and that is Scholastic Reading Club. I will send home an order form usually once a month in the red folder. All orders will be completed online. If you would like to make an order, please visit scholastic.com/readingclub. Our class activation code is GZ9J9. The orders usually take about two weeks to process, and then the books are delivered to our school. I will send the books home with your child when they arrive. If you are ever planning to give books as a gift, just let me know. I will wrap up the books before sending them home.

Backpack Bear

 This is our traveling bear. Our bear comes home with each child once throughout the school year. The bear will come home with your child on Friday when it is his/her turn. Please return the bear and backpack at the beginning of the week. Each child will paste a picture in our class book and write about his/her adventures with Backpack Bear.

VIP (Very Important Person)

 The VIP is a very important person for a whole week of school. Wow! Your child will bring home a big, white poster board on Friday when it is his/her turn to be the VIP. Please complete the poster over the weekend and bring it back to school on Monday. Be as crafty as you want with this poster. Your child is also able to bring a special Show and Tell each day of his/her week to share with the class. In addition, the VIP gets to select a special friend to come and read to the class. The VIP readers are currently scheduled to read on Tuesday at 8:30 AM (drop-off) or 2:40 PM (pick-up). Please let me know if this time does not work for you when it is your child’s turn; I will always make accommodations in my schedule for you.

 The VIP is also the class helper and our line leader for that week of school. This is a fun project and a great way for us to learn more about our Kindergarten friends.

Guessing Jar

 This is also known as the jar that keeps us guessing. The big, guessing jar will come home with your child on Friday when it is his/her turn. Your child is able to fill the jar with any object that will fit into it. I usually try to start with 1 – 20 items at the beginning of the year. Later, I will move to 50 and 100. The guessing jar is a great way for the Kindergartens to practice estimation, one to one number correspondence, counting, skip counting by tens, number recognition, and number formation. Be clever with this project!

Show and Tell

 I will schedule a monthly Show and Tell day throughout the school year (usually the second Thursday of each month). Please watch for the announcements in my newsletter. Show and Tell is during my Kindergarten Switch time.

5th Grade Buddies

 The Kindergarteners partner with the Fifth-Graders at St. Charles. We will be with Mrs. Siddons students. The Fifth-Graders usually come to our room once a week to read to us. We also go to Mass with our buddies each week. I will send a note home to let you know who your child’s Fifth-Grade buddy is this year. Our buddy day has not been determined for this year.

Field Trips

 We will take several trips throughout the school year. A permission slip and informational sheet will come home in your child’s red folder explaining each field trip event. Car/booster seats are mandatory for each trip because we usually drive in cars to our destinations.

Volunteer Opportunities

 Everyone is welcome in Kindergarten! I will ask for volunteers throughout the school year for centers, class projects, classroom events, field trip chaperones/drivers, home help, room parents, school events, and etc. All school volunteers must complete the online class and background check sponsored by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis called Safe and Sacred. Please visit the website at archindy.org and follow the instructions. The online class takes approximately 45 minutes to complete.

This is going to be a great year!