

# Welcome to the SCJN PreKindergarten Program!

We are so grateful to have the opportunity to share in the faith formation and education of your child. Below are some frequently asked questions that we have been asked over the years. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or would like more information.

The Prekindergarten programs will begin with a Back-to-School Information Night for parents on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 in the evening. The children will come to school on either Thursday, September 8 or Friday, September 9 from 9:00-11:00 to meet the teacher and get familiar with the classroom. Both you and your child will receive a letter in August from your child's teacher with the date and time. All of the students will be dismissed at 11:00 outside the playground. Please form a line by parking your car right next to the curb on the playground side. The teachers will walk the students outside to find you. Please get out of your car to meet your child's teacher and your child. The first full day is September 12. We will begin with normal drop off and pick up on September 12.

## **1. What time and where is drop off?**

Drop off is from 8:00-8:30 AM at the first set of brown doors on Highland Lane (**Door F**). A teacher or aide will greet your children at the door. This entrance will close at 8:30 sharp. After 8:30, please drop your child off at the Main Office. Mrs. McCormick will walk your child up to their classroom. School officially begins for PreKindergarten at 8:30AM.

## **2. What time and where is dismissal?**

### **Half Day - 12:00PM (PreK3 and PreK4)**

Please pick up at the same location as morning drop off (Door F). The teachers will bring the students out.

### **Full Day**

Dismissal is from 2:30-2:45 in the driveway next to the playground.

## **3. Is there a uniform?**

The children in prekindergarten are not required to wear a uniform. Some parents have purchased the gym uniform for their children to wear. The gym uniform can be purchased at C & M Sporting Goods in the Manoa Shopping Center. The children need to wear comfortable clothes with sturdy shoes. The children go outside to play at least twice a day, weather permitting. They are on the floor a lot of the time and do many craft projects that involve painting, therefore, we encourage children to wear comfortable, play clothes to school.

## **4. Are there aides in preschool?**

Yes, there are full time aides in preschool.

## **5. Do my children need to bring a snack?**

The children break for a morning snack/drink around 10:00. The parent provides the snack for the child unless otherwise noted by the teacher. The school sells pretzels and milk. They must be ordered on a trimester basis.

## **6. Does SCJN have a lunch program? If so, may my child in preschool order lunch?**

SCJN has a daily lunch program. Each month a notification will be emailed for you to order lunch for the following month. All of the lunches are made off campus and brought to SCJN. We have a warmer and a refrigerator to hold the lunches until it is time to eat. In order for your child to receive lunch, you must order ahead.

Each Thursday we have a pizza lunch. No pre-ordering is required for this lunch. The children will simply bring in the money for the pizza and, if you wish, the drink and Jack-and-Jill ice cream treat. For the 2022-23 school year, a slice of pizza, ice cream, and water cost \$5.

**SCJN is a nut free environment. No one is permitted to bring in any products containing nuts.**

**7. Does my child have to nap if he/she is full day?**

The children in the full day program have a rest time. This is a quiet time on a mat for about 30-45 minutes each day.

**8. Does the school have a before & after school program?**

The school has a CARES (Children Are Receiving Extended Services) Program which runs from 6:45 am to 7:45 am and 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Mrs. Jennifer McMahon, a former teacher, is the CARES coordinator. Information is found on our [website](#) about the program. [Forms](#) will have to be completed for your child to enroll in CARES.

**9. Will my child miss any learning opportunities if he/she is half day?**

All essential learning is done in the AM. Students who stay for a full day will have a quiet or rest time, an enrichment activity, and outdoor playtime.

**10. Can my child celebrate his/her birthday in school?**

Yes! A *small* treat is welcomed here at school. Saints Colman John Neumann School is a **NUT FREE** school. For birthday celebrations, parents may send in Oreos, Chips Ahoy, Popsicles, or individual water ice.

**11. How is the preschool a part of the whole school?**

Preschool children are matched with a Prayer Partner in an upper grade. The Prayer Partners meet periodically to do various activities. They also are a part of our Grandparents Day Show, our Social Justice program, and the Home & School run activities. The preschool and Kindergarten students perform their own Christmas show.

**12. Where do I find out information about events in the school?**

Our school website is the main way we communicate with our families. We also send emails and/or texts & phone messages for important information. Each teacher has a webpage that they use as a means of communication. You can visit the [teacher pages](#) through the school website.

Each Tuesday the school's Update is sent to parents via Option C, our communication system. The Update includes information from the school for the upcoming week.

If the school were to be closed, you will be contacted through Option C. This will come to your phone, cell phone, and email. We also communicate grades for students in first through eighth grade through Option C.

## **12. Can I get my child's classmates' phone numbers to call?**

The home and school prints a directory each year with all families' names, addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses, with permission from the family. We encourage play dates outside of the school building to further the friendships formed here at SCJN.

## **14. Are there any services that the school provides?**

There are Early Intervention Services for children in preschool. These services do not come from the school, but are through Delaware County Intermediate Services (DCIU). Preschool special education services are free to eligible children. The process begins with a simple telephone call from the child's parent or legal guardian to the DCIU Preschool Special Education Department (610-938-2830 ext. 6503). A secretary will record some basic information and ask about specific learning concerns. A screening packet will then be sent to the family in the mail, to be completed and returned to our office. Based upon this screening information, the family will then be contacted regarding further assessment.

Our school has a Reading Specialist, EP Consultant, Language/Speech Therapist, School Counselor and School Psychologist for students in grades K-8. All of these specialists are provided to us through the Delaware County Intermediate Unit (DCIU). Information about these services can be found at [dciu.org](http://dciu.org).

## **16. Does preschool go on any field trips?**

Preschool does not go on field trips outside of the campus. In the fall they have a special day where a farm comes to school. In the spring, the farmer brings his rooster and hen and the eggs. The chicks usually hatch within days and stay for about a week after they hatch.

## **17. How can I become a volunteer?**

All volunteers *MUST* have clearances to help in school. The necessary clearances are listed on our website. Kathy Selvaggi is the parish coordinator of clearance records. Kathy can be reached by email at [kathy.selvaggi@sjnparish.org](mailto:kathy.selvaggi@sjnparish.org). Please send in all certificates showing completion of the necessary training required by the state and the Archdiocese of Philadelphia as soon as you receive them.

## **18. How do I pay tuition?**

Tuition is paid through Blackbaud, formerly SMART tuition. Once the business manager sets you up on Blackbaud, you will receive a welcome letter via email from Blackbaud asking you to log in and verify your information and select which payment plan works best for you. Once you have done that, the Business Manager, Joy Falcone, will go in and complete the enrollment by entering the tuition amount. Payments can be made through your bank account, credit card, by check, or by phone.

## **19. Whom should I contact if I have any questions?**

Please call Mrs. McCormick first (610-525-3266 or email [Melissa McCormick](mailto:Melissa.McCormick)). She is the school secretary and will direct your call to the correct person if she cannot answer the question herself.

## **20. How secure is the school?**

Every door is locked at all times, including the classroom doors. Anyone who wishes access to the school must enter through the Main Entrance and identify who they are. There is a triple

entrance prior to getting into the area where classrooms are located. All guests must sign in and out of the building. There are a number of cameras around the outside of the school and within the school, which record and are monitored. Keyless access is granted to employees. Drills are practiced on a regular basis.

*We are so grateful that you chose our school and are honored to be a part of the education and faith formation of your child. We welcome you and hope that you feel comfortable reaching out to us or any person on the Home & School board if you have any questions or thoughts.*