



# Welcome to the 3/4 Little Saints Preschool Program!

We're so glad you're here! Following is a quick overview of our Preschool program's daily routine, key events, resources, and dates to remember. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Miss Heidi at [hhoppe@smsmn.org](mailto:hhoppe@smsmn.org) or 320-256-4257.

The Little Saints Preschool program is fully licensed by the State of Minnesota; this licensure ensures your child is learning in a safe environment with a professionally trained and extremely competent staff.

**OUR DAILY ROUTINE:** Everyday starts with identifying their name, free play, bathroom break, prayer, snack time, circle time (read-a-loud and singing), small learning centers (math, literacy, art, fine motor), one-on-one work with the teacher, calendar, weather, and question of the day, bathroom break, outdoor/gym time, large group time (religion, science, or social) bathroom break, prayer, lunch, bathroom break, nap/rest time, bathroom break, prayer, snack, small group (math or literacy), free play/choice, dismissal. Every day ends with a high five, hug, dance, or fist bump!!

WHAT	HOW	WHEN
<b>ABC/123</b>	Every two weeks we focus on learning a new letter, shape, color, and number.	Ongoing
<b>Birthdays &amp; Half-Birthdays</b>	We celebrate on the day or as close to their birthday as possible. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on the half-birthday. Your child may bring in store bought treats to share with the class.	Annually
<b>WHITE Wednesday Folders</b>	Watch for the WHITE folders that come home in student backpacks. This is where you can expect to find some important school communications and information about school. Please return the folder each day.	Weekly on Wednesdays
<b>Conferences</b>	Conferences will be held in the fall and spring of the school year.	Twice a Year
<b>Curriculum</b>	Our preschool curriculum is called Busy Minds and Hands and is a theme based curriculum that is hands on, play based, and fun for little learners. We spend 2 weeks on each theme unit. Each theme has components of math, literacy, science, art/sensory/fine motor, social/emotional skills, and gross motor/music. Specifically, the following areas are covered throughout the school year: <b>Math:</b> Counting to 20, counting using 1-to-1 correspondence to 10, creating simple patterns, sorting by 2 or more attributes, identifying 2D shapes, colors, & numerals. <b>Literacy:</b> Letter names and sounds, identifying their names and letters in their names, pre writing strokes, following oral directions. <b>Science:</b> Taking care of self and environment, identifying differences and similarities, using magnifying glasses, and hands on materials to explore and investigate. <b>Art/Sensory/Fine Motor:</b> Learning how to hold and use a scissors, learning to use pincher grasp, strengthening fine motor muscles, playing with playdough, exploring different textures and mediums with their hands, using their imagination to express their creativity. <b>Social/Emotional Skills:</b> Demonstrating increasing confidence in one's own ability, ability to voice their wants and needs, responding appropriately to other's emotions, building friendships through play, learning activities, and conversation. <b>Gross Motor/Music:</b> Dancing, whole body movements, singing, outdoor/gym time, climbing, balancing, hopping, and jumping.	Ongoing
<b>Family Volunteers &amp; Helpers</b>	Parents are welcome to visit the classroom anytime. We encourage all parents and family members to offer their time and talents for school projects and activities.	Ongoing
<b>Field Trips</b>	We go bowling twice a year (winter and spring); we also go to Hemker's Zoo in the spring. Parent volunteers are needed to attend these events. There will always be permission slips sent home before each field trip.	Ongoing, Throughout the School Year
<b>Holidays</b>	For each holiday, we will have a fun day. Parents are welcome to join us for centers of the day or snack time. We will celebrate Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Easter.	As Scheduled <b>MORE ⇒</b>

<b>Lunch with Kids</b>	You are welcome to come any day to eat lunch with your child. Please call the office by 8:30AM if you want to eat school lunch so we can plan for this.	Anytime
<b>Mass/Liturgy/Religion</b>	Preschool students will attend mass once a month with their 4th grade buddies or for a special mass. We have daily prayer in the classroom before snack and lunch; we also use the "I Am Special" curriculum for religious education.	Monthly on Fridays
<b>Parent Pal</b>	Parent Pals will be assigned to all new families in preschool UPON REQUEST. Parent Pals help a new parent learn the ropes, and feel welcome and part of the SMS family. Please feel free to reach out to me with questions or if you're interested in getting a Parent Pal.	Ongoing
<b>Preschool-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Buddies</b>	Every preschool student is assigned a 4 <sup>th</sup> grade buddy. This buddy sits with them at Mass and participates once a month with a fun activity and other special events.	Ongoing
<b>SMS\$4Kids</b>	SMS\$4Kids is a gift card program that allows schools to buy gift cards from businesses at a reduced rate, which is how the program makes money. Card purchasers buy the cards at face value. SMS parents can use profits from the cards to help reduce tuition commitments too. You'll receive info about this program in the fall.	Ongoing
<b>SMS SPIRIT-PBIS School-Wide Behavior Plan</b>	At St. Mary's, we focus on teaching our students what behaviors are acceptable, praising and rewarding them when they "get it," and helping them learn from their mistakes when they don't. This system is called Positive Behavioral Intention & Supports (PBIS). At St. Mary's, we call it SMS Spirit—a school-wide, positive behavior intervention system that teaches and re-teaches students how to demonstrate SMS Spirit in all school settings. The end goal: a nurturing, and respectful learning community where academic achievement is the focal point and all students feel connected and valued.	Ongoing
<b>Star of the Week</b>	Every student will get a chance to be the Star of the Week throughout the school year. The Star of the Week will be able to be the line leader, help with the calendar and weather, as well as be the helper for things in the classroom throughout the week.	Ongoing
<b>S.M.A.R.T.</b>	Stimulating Maturity through Accelerated Readiness Training (S.M.A.R.T.) is a program that helps children's brains and bodies get ready to learn through fun physical activities that develop and enhance large and fine motor skills, balance and coordination, visual efficiency, attention, and hand-eye coordination.	Ongoing
<b>Preschool Happenings</b>	Each Friday, I'll post a classroom update on SchoolSpeak; this will include happenings from the past week as well as information for upcoming events.	Weekly



The school parent portal, **SchoolSpeak**, is your one stop for everything at St. Mary's. There, you'll find the latest happenings/school events, updates on curriculum, weekly and monthly newsletters, and critical information, including the following: Class Field Trip List, Mass Schedule, Lunch Menu, Tuition Balance, Lunch Balance, Little Saints Parent Handbook, School Calendar, SMS Strategic Plan, SMS\$4Kids Info, SMS SPIRIT-PBIS School-Wide Behavior Plan & Matrix.