

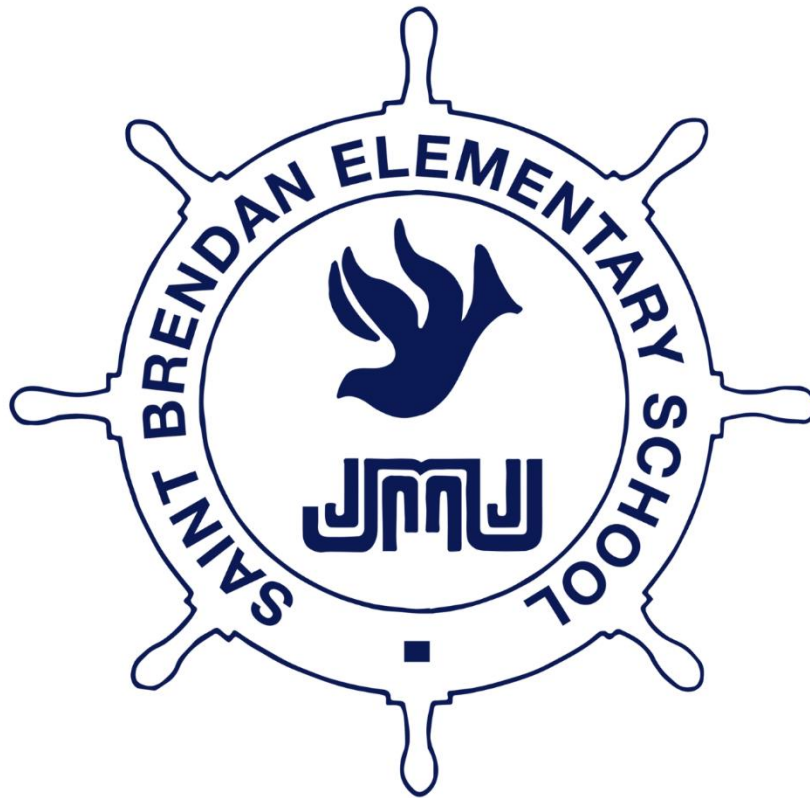


there's no place like



St. Brendan Elementary

School Logo



The helm of a ship is a powerful symbol of the St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School community. Inspired by St. Brendan the Navigator, it represents guidance, leadership, faith, and purpose. Just as a helm steers a ship through both calm and challenging waters, St. Brendan guides students on their academic, spiritual, and personal journeys. It reminds us that Christ is our compass, helping us navigate life's challenges with courage, integrity, and faith. The helm reflects the partnership of our students, families, faculty, and parish community, all working together to prepare our Navigators for a future filled with promise and purpose. At St. Brendan, the helm serves as a lasting reminder that with faith as our guide, every student is equipped to chart a successful course in life.

Alma Mater

St. Brendan Alma Mater

By: Consuelo Boffill

*Saint Brendan, my home, Saint Brendan, my pride,
with you, O Saint Brendan, my star always shines.
You give me the strength, you give me the light,
You guide my steps to follow the path
of knowledge and virtue, of science and of truth.
You take me in your wings to follow Lord Jesus.
Saint Brendan, my home, Saint Brendan, my pride.
Your spirit, Saint Brendan, with me till I die.*

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WELCOME

We are happy to welcome you to St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School and to provide you with our Early Childhood Center Parent Handbook. With this handbook, it is our intention to form one entity between church, home, and school.

You will find within these pages the rules of our school and an explanation of our services offered. Most importantly, our focus extends to the educational, moral, and ethical expectations for our students. Finally, you will find specific instructions for carrying out procedures at our school.

St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School strives to recognize each student as an individual and to help him/her develop to their fullest potential within a parish community of living faith in Jesus Christ. It is our hope that the children's experience in our school engages them in becoming productive citizens in society.

We look forward to serving your family throughout this coming year and pray for your continued trust and cooperation.

Blessings,



Father Miguel Sepúlveda
Pastor



Maria Cristina Capote
Principal

Saint Brendan the Navigator

St. Brendan was the greatest traveler. He was born in Ciarraighe Luachra, near the present city of Tralee, County Kerry, Ireland. He was baptized by Bishop Erc, who then undertook his education for several years. From an early age Brendan attracted disciples, and he established several monasteries in Ireland. The most famous was Clonfert, County Galway, founded around 560. Clonfert became one of Ireland's greatest monastic schools and endured until the sixteenth century.

Brendan's reputation as a traveler rests on the *Navigatio Sancti Brendani*, an account written by an Irish monk in the ninth or tenth century. More than 100 Medieval Latin manuscripts of this Voyage of Saint Brendan still exist. An epic modern voyage led by Tim Severin in the 1970s showed that it was possible to sail a coracle of wood and leather to America, suggesting that Irish monks might indeed have preceded Christopher Columbus by several centuries.

On the 3200-foot-high summit of Mount Brandon are the ruins of a small beehive-shaped chapel. There, it is said, the saint had a vision of the Promised Land. Brendan and his crew of monks prayed and fasted for forty days and set off on a second voyage lasting seven years, probably taking them to Iceland, Greenland, and even the American mainland. In later life, Brendan returned to his work in Ireland and died there in 578 at Annaghdown.



History of St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School

St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School was founded in 1955 by Monsignor Thomas O'Donovan. Our school is located on nine and two-thirds acres of land at 8755 SW 32nd Street in Miami, Florida. Monsignor O'Donovan asked four sisters of the Holy Family to lead the newly established parochial school. On August 27th, 1955, these 4 sisters arrived from Chicago accompanied by two lay teachers. These 6 individuals formed what was to be the first faculty of St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School. The school opened its doors with an enrollment of 275 students comprised of kindergarten through fourth Grade. The following year, St. Brendan increased its enrollment to include a fifth and sixth grade class. In June of 1960 marked the year of the first graduating class that consisted of 54 students. In the school year 1964-1965, St. Brendan Elementary peaked its highest enrollment with a total of 1,027 students. At the present time, St. Brendan Catholic Elementary has a total of 1,051 students from PK2-8th Grade.

The school, under the leadership of Sister M. Honesta, received its first accreditation from the Florida Catholic Conference on May 9th, 1975. Subsequently, the school received re-accreditation in 1986-2021.

Due to the needs of the community for an early education childhood program, St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School opened the PK3 program in 2003 and the PK2 program for following school year in 2004. Our Early Childhood Program nurtures each child's God-given gifts spiritually, intellectually, socially, artistically, emotionally, and physically. Currently, in the school year 2026-2027, our Early Childhood Program consists of four PK2 classes, five PK3 classes, and 4 PK4 classes.

Striving to meet and heighten the educational needs and interests of its students, several programs have been implemented at St. Brendan Elementary throughout the years. Our St. Thomas Aquinas Language Arts Accelerated Program services high achieving students in grades 3rd-5th. The Felix Varela Program for students in grades 2nd-8th, offers students with special needs a comprehensive self-contained educational program based on intervention and geared towards the needs of the students. The Dual Enrollment program for our students in Middle School gives high achieving students the opportunity to enroll in Algebra I Honors and Geometry Honors for High School credit. The integration of STREAM as part of our educational program provides our students with the technological literacy needed as 21st Century learners. Through this curriculum our students are encouraged to investigate, problem solve, create, and use their critical thinking skills by engaging in a hands-on learning environment. In addition to academics and faith formation, St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School offers its students a wide variety of after school experiences that include sports, music, art, drama, and dance. We encourage the students' participation in our service clubs/activities, NJHS, Student Council, Yearbook Club, Robotics, and all other clubs.

As a Roman Catholic School, St. Brendan's Elementary foundation is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. We are committed as a community of believers to our Catholicity as tangible symbols of faith are visible throughout the entire facility. More importantly, there is the spirit of family that exists among the faculty and students that shines through to all who walk our grounds. Prayerful experiences, retreats, masses, sacramental and liturgical celebrations, and our service programs such as "Knocking on Someone's Door" all help to bring us to a deeper understanding of our Lord God's greatest and first commandment, "You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart, with your whole soul, and with all your mind."

Through the dedication and guidance of administration, the faculty and staff, and our Pastor, Fr. Miguel Sepulveda, a nurturing learning environment has been established at St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School. As our God embraces us on this journey, we will continue to foster experiences that provide the community with excellence in education, along with strong moral, ethical, and spiritual values based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement

St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School, in collaboration with our families, fosters the Spiritual, Social, Intellectual, Emotional, and Academic growth of our students. Our mission is to prepare and educate students to become compassionate individuals who live their faith by following the Gospel values of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Through devotion to Mary and an active sacramental life, students will become socially responsible adults and witnesses of our Catholic Church.

Statement of Philosophy

As a Catholic parochial institution, Saint Brendan seeks to create an authentic Catholic community of faith among faculty, students, and parents. This faith community is strengthened and nourished by participation in liturgy, prayer, and the study of Catholic doctrine. The school community seeks to focus its attention on the person of Jesus by means of a total school atmosphere of religious formation in an academically challenging environment. The parents, supported by school programs, join their children in this effort by their own participation in the sacramental life of the Church. Families are encouraged to deepen their faith so that it becomes “living, conscious and active” (The Bishop’s Office in the church, #14).

Saint Brendan’s faculty and staff are convinced of the uniqueness and personal value of each student. It is this appreciation of the student’s self-worth that serves as the foundation for developing attitudes of positive self-esteem. Learning experiences are designed to develop student potential and readiness for responsible citizenship in a pluralistic society. The faculty collaborates with parents, the primary educators, by instilling a love of lifelong learning and fostering respect for oneself and others among students. Together the faculty and parents create a sense of self-discipline and personal responsibility for conscientious choices. The students at Saint Brendan Catholic Elementary School are encouraged to use their talents to build the kingdom of God on earth by a life of Christian service.

Thus, all members of the school community strive to become true witnesses for Christ, bringing the light of hope, justice, and peace to those who “seek and suffer” (To Teach As Jesus Did, #154).

School Objectives

- To evangelize students, teachers, parents, and the community at large through diversified, spiritual programs, so that Jesus Christ and His Gospel may be revealed in word and deed.
- To instill in the students a knowledge and reverence for Catholic doctrine and a desire to live their faith authentically.
- To encourage students to become witnesses of the compassionate Christ by taking an active part in school and community service projects for the needy.
- To instill in the students the knowledge of Christian values and a respect for oneself and others.
- To create an effective learning environment, marked by mutual respect and cooperation.
- To implement curricular experiences that provide students the opportunity to develop moral, ethical, and spiritual values.
- To help students develop critical thinking skills of analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and problem solving.
- To deepen the students’ appreciation of their cultural heritage as well as that of persons from diverse social, cultural, and ethnic groups.
- To promote high standards of professionalism among faculty and staff.
- To create a strong bond of mutual cooperation and dialogue between parents and faculty.

Accreditation

St. Brendan Catholic School is bound by the standards set forth by the Florida Catholic Conference (FCC), the accrediting agency for all Catholic schools in Florida. Compliance is verified through annual visits from the Archdiocese of Miami Department of Schools and through the submission of the Annual Report for Continuing Accreditation.

Licensure Status

St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School is a child care facility operating under an exemption pursuant to the laws of the State of Florida and is not subject to licensure or regulation by the Department of Children and Families.

Introduction

We are blessed and honored to welcome you as a valued member of St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School. Please read this handbook thoroughly and retain it for future reference. The policies stated in this handbook are only guidelines and are subject to change at the sole discretion of the school.

This handbook is not a contract, express or implied.

The Principal and/or Pastor reserve the right to add, delete, or change any and all policies related to the school and this handbook at any time. The Principal and/or Pastor are the final recourse in all disciplinary situations and may waive any disciplinary rules for just cause at their discretion. Parents and students will be notified in writing of any changes.

Early Childhood Center Philosophy

At St. Brendan Catholic Elementary, we believe that every child is a precious gift from God. Our curriculum is designed to support the spiritual, social, emotional, academic, and physical growth of each student. With the teachings of Jesus and the example of Mother Mary, our educators guide children to show compassion for others and develop a lifelong love of learning.

The foundation for our Pre-K program is rooted in our Catholic faith, the development of the whole child, and academic excellence.

“Jesus said, Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”
Matthew 19:14

Curriculum

St. Brendan’s early childhood programs, PreK2, PreK3, and PreK4, use The Creative Curriculum. The Creative Curriculum is an early childhood curriculum that focuses on hands-on, project-based learning and developmentally appropriate practices. It aims to build children's confidence, creativity, and critical thinking skills through play-based investigations and meaningful experiences. This comprehensive curriculum is organized around themes that integrate a strong foundation in literacy and language development, numeracy, science discovery, gross/fine motor skills, and sensory awareness.

Key features and principles of the Creative Curriculum include:

- **Project-Based Investigations:** The curriculum emphasizes hands-on, project-based learning where children explore materials and engage in inquiry-based activities. Investigate and describe objects using the five senses; engage in simple science experiments.
- **Critical Thinking:** The Creative Curriculum aims to foster critical thinking in young children by encouraging exploration, discovery, and problem-solving through hands-on activities and projects. Students will use mathematical thinking. Count objects, recognize numerals, compare quantities, and explore patterns and shapes. Demonstrate knowledge of the physical properties of objects and materials.
- **Developmentally Appropriate Practices:** It aligns with best practices for early childhood education, ensuring that activities and experiences are appropriate for the child's developmental stage, developing a positive approach to learning.
- **Focus on the Whole Child:** The curriculum addresses social-emotional, physical, cognitive, and language development. This assists the child in regulating their own emotions and behavior. Manage transitions, follow rules, and express emotions appropriately. Establish and sustain positive relationships. Build friendships, engage in cooperative play, and show empathy toward others.
- **Language Development:** Build early language and literacy skills. Students will be able to demonstrate receptive and expressive language skills. Listen and respond to conversations and stories; communicates needs and ideas clearly. Use language to express thoughts and needs. Use expanded vocabulary and participate in conversations with peers and adults. Demonstrate knowledge of the alphabet. Recognize and name letters, and associate letters with their corresponding sounds. Comprehend and respond to books and other texts. Demonstrate understanding of stories, ask and answer questions about text.

Demonstrate beginning phonological awareness. Recognize rhyming words, syllables, and beginning sounds in words.

- **Play-Based Learning:** The curriculum recognizes the power of play as a learning tool and incorporates it into the curriculum. Show curiosity, initiative, and persistence when engaging with materials and activities.
- **Teacher-Led and Child-Initiated Learning:** The curriculum balances teacher-directed activities with child-initiated exploration, allowing for both structured and flexible learning environments.
- **Family Involvement:** The curriculum encourages families to be actively involved in their child's learning process.

The curriculum is organized around 11 areas, such as blocks, dramatic play, art, and discovery, which provide opportunities for children to explore and learn through a variety of materials and activities. The curriculum includes a developmental continuum for ages 2 through 4, which provides teachers with a framework for assessing children's development and planning individualized learning experiences.

The Catholic values and social teachings are integrated into the Creative Curriculum daily, fostering a learning environment where faith and learning are interwoven, promoting both academic excellence and spiritual growth.

Procedures

Arrival and Dismissal

The Early Childhood Center opens its doors at 7:30 a.m. Students begin the day promptly at 7:50 a.m. and end at 2:20 p.m. All PreK-2, PreK3, and PreK4 students may be dropped off punctually by an accompanying parent or guardian, who then walks them to the classrooms and signs them in.

At the end of the day, students may be picked up by their parent or guardian at the Early Childhood Center, where they will be lined up by class and will be signed out. Please note that no student will be released to an individual who is not authorized in the student's records. A photo ID will be required as confirmation. Caregivers will not release your child to anyone without prior arrangements made in person by the parent/guardian.

PreK 2 and PreK 3 students will be dismissed from the Early Childhood Center-La Casita, from 2:20 p.m. until 2:45 p.m. If your PreK-2 or PreK-3 student has a sibling in PreK-4 and/or elementary grade (up to 4th grade), they will all be dismissed together through the La Casita building dismissal.

PreK 4 will be dismissed through the PreK 4 gate on 32nd Street, from 2:20 p.m. until 2:45 p.m.

Students in La Casita, PreK-2 or PreK-3, who must be picked up early require parents/guardians to go to the Main Office to process the early dismissal and then walk to the La Casita building with the Early Dismissal Slip for their child's dismissal. The Early Dismissal Slip must be presented to school personnel to release the student.

Students who have not been picked up by their scheduled pickup time will be kept in the After-School Care Program until their parent or guardian arrives. Please be aware that an After-School Care charge will be processed at that time. Parents who arrive after dismissal time will be able to pick up their child/children after 3:30 p.m., once all school students have been dismissed.

We kindly discourage impromptu parent-teacher conferences during drop-off and pick-up times, as parking is limited around our school. It is important to ensure that all families have access to available parking for a smooth and efficient arrival and dismissal process. If you need to meet with your child's teacher, reach out to them directly and schedule a date and time to discuss your child, with the appropriate amount of time dedicated to your child's progress.

Absences & Tardiness

Parents are expected to contact the teacher via e-mail or the school office before 8:00 a.m. when a student will be absent.

To provide the optimal educational experience for your child at St. Brendan, your cooperation with the school arrival is appreciated. Please bring your child to school on time. Classes are disrupted by late arrivals.

A student is considered “tardy” once morning prayers begin. When you bring your child to school late, you must take them to the school office, and then they will be taken to their class.

Uniforms

GIRLS	BOYS
Pre-Kinder 2 – Pre-Kinder 4 Red Polo Dress with Plaid bottom with school logo embroidery Navy biker short under dress	Pre-Kinder 2 – Pre-Kinder 4 Short sleeve Red/Navy striped polo with school logo embroidery Navy pull-on shorts with SBE embroidery

SHOES – GIRLS	SHOES – BOYS
Pre-Kinder 2–Pre-Kinder 4: Black Mary Jane	Pre-Kinder 2– Pre-Kinder 4: Black Velcro Uniform Sneaker

Winter Options

- Navy Full Zip Jacket with embroidery • ¼ Zip Dri-Fit Jacket with embroidery • Navy SBE Appliqué Crewneck Sweater
- Uniform Approved Sweater from Navigator Store • Fleece Navy with embroidery • Navy Cardigan with embroidery
- Navy Open-bottom sweatpants

Physical Education Uniform (PK2 – PK4)

- Navy Mesh Short with logo
- P.E. T-shirt with logo (navy, red or white)
- Velcro Sneakers ONLY
- White/Navy Blue SBE logo socks

All students may wear their PE uniform to school on the day they have Physical Education classes.

Each student should have an extra set of uniforms (shorts, shirt, underwear, and socks) in a Ziploc bag, labeled with their child’s name.

PLEASE LABEL ALL BELONGINGS WITH YOUR CHILD’S NAME!

Hair Style and Jewelry

Boys: Hair must be neatly styled and cut above the eyebrows, ears, and collar. NO irregular multi-layered cuts, fad, or Mohawk haircuts, including script lettering, or designs will be permitted. Only traditional, crew-cut, and/or business-style haircuts are allowed. Hair must be trimmed neatly and evenly in a simple style.

Girls: Hair must be neatly styled. Excessive jewelry and hair adornments are NOT allowed. Nail polish should not be worn to school.

Philosophy of Discipline

In early childhood education, a positive philosophy of discipline emphasizes guidance and support for children's emotional and social development, rather than punishment. It focuses on fostering self-regulation, empathy, and understanding, and views misbehavior as an opportunity for learning. The goal is to help children develop inner discipline and make responsible choices, rather than relying solely on external control.

Lunch

Label your child's lunch box with their name. Be mindful of packing nuts, peanut butter, and dairy due to food allergies. Children may sit close or share snacks, so parents should remind kids with allergies to eat only their own food. Please inform the school about any allergies your child may have. Hot lunch may be purchased from our school cafeteria through Cole Catering. A monthly lunch menu calendar is available on the school's website. Lunch for Pre-K2 through PreK4 students **MUST** be pre-ordered by midnight the night before. All lunch purchases and orders will be made through Meal Magic. Absolutely no "Fast Food" deliveries will be permitted in the school. Here is a list of foods children under age 4 should not bring for lunch due to choking hazards:

- Whole grapes
- Whole cherry tomatoes
- Popcorn
- Hard candy, gum, caramel, or taffy
- Whole or thick-cut hot dogs
- Large chunks of meat
- Large cubes or sticks of cheese
- Whole baby carrots or raw hard vegetables

If you choose to send any of these food items for lunch, they **MUST be cut into very small, age-appropriate bite-sized pieces** to ensure your child's safety.

Birthday Celebrations

If any parent/guardian would like to celebrate a child's birthday, they must notify the child's teacher 72 hours in advance. The teacher will have sufficient time to notify parents of students with peanut allergies or any other allergy. This will allow those parents the opportunity to provide an alternative snack for their child on that day. Any food items and goods brought in for a celebration must be commercially prepared, packaged, and purchased at a local bakery or grocery store. If a child's party is to be held at home, invitations may be distributed at school, but only if all children receive one.

Nap Time

Each student in our Early Childhood Center is provided with a mat and bedding in a bag to use during nap time in school. Pre-K 2 and Pre-K 3 students will nap for approximately 90 minutes. Pre-K 4 students will nap for approximately 60 minutes. Bedding will go home every Friday for laundering and will be returned on Mondays.

Illness

The health and physical well-being of all children is a matter of great concern to us. Children who have contracted any contagious illness, such as chickenpox or a stomach virus, and have a severe cold must remain at home until a physician diagnoses them as free of such illness. When a child becomes too ill to remain at school, we will contact you immediately. For this reason, it is most important that we are notified of any changes to your telephone number or emergency contact information. Here are some of the common illnesses for which your child will be sent home:

- Fever of 100 degrees under the arm (auxiliary) or higher, and if they also have one or more of the following: diarrhea, earache, show signs of irritability or confusion, sore throat, rash.
- Vomiting on two or more occasions within the past 24 hours. Diarrhea – three or more watery stools in a 24-hour period.
- Draining rash or undiagnosed rash lasting over a 24-hour period.
- Eye discharge or pink eye. Children can be readmitted after a medical diagnosis to rule out bacterial or viral infection, or after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment.
- Fatigue that prevents participation in regular activities.
- Open oozing sores and scabs, unless properly covered and treated for 24 hours with an antibiotic.
- Head lice – until treatment is effective and a follow-up check has been made by school personnel.
- HFMD – Hand, foot, and mouth disease is a very contagious and common viral illness that causes a low fever (between 100.4 and 102.2), skin rash, tiredness, runny nose, painful mouth sores, sore throat, and loss of appetite. Symptoms begin within a week of exposure to the virus, and symptoms appear in two stages. Good handwashing is key to keeping HFMD from spreading, especially after using the restroom.
- Any other communicable disease.

When a child needs medication during school hours, you must complete and sign the **Medication Form** each day so the assigned caregiver can administer it to the child. This is **Mandatory**; each time medication may be required, **NO** exceptions.

Only medication prescribed by a doctor, verified through a prescription label or a written statement from a physician, will be administered to the child. Medication will not be given to children unless the form is properly filled out, dated, and completed in full.

Over-the-counter medication is **NOT** an **EXCEPTION**, unless a physician's prescription statement is provided. There needs to be a prescription on the bottle for both prescribed and over-the-counter medications, or **It Will Not Be Given to the Child**.

Health Records & Immunizations

Children must receive standard age-appropriate immunizations. The Archdiocese of Miami requires that, prior to attending school, each student present, or have on file with the school, a Florida Certificate of Immunization (DH680 Form) for the prevention of communicable diseases required by the Department of Health. A Florida Certificate of Immunization (Form DH 680), completed by a health care provider participating in Florida Shots, is required to document the administration of prescribed immunization doses or a permanent or temporary exemption form. An exemption from immunization requirements is permissible only with a physician's certification of the need for a temporary or permanent medical exemption. An exemption from immunization requirements is not permissible for religious, philosophical, personal, or other reasons.

The Archdiocese of Miami does **NOT** accept immunization exemption requests based upon religious, philosophical, personal, or other reasons. Medical-related immunization exemption requests are reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Such requests must be made by submitting the Florida Certificate of Immunization (Form DH 680), signed by a health care provider licensed in Florida. Medical exemptions are approved only for legitimate, documented medical needs. The Archdiocese reserves the right not to accept any medical.

Should there be an outbreak of a communicable disease at school, students with medical immunization exemptions may be asked to remain home during the incubation period.

Toilet Training

At 24 months of age, parents are strongly encouraged to begin teaching their child to use the toilet. This process will also be integrated into the school day for students enrolled in the Pre-K 2 program. It is important that parents and teachers communicate and partner to ensure consistency in the toilet training process. By age 3, children **MUST** be fully toilet-trained to attend our preschool center.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Faculty members are always eager to discuss student progress with their parents. Conferences for early childhood students are scheduled twice a year; however, conferences may be requested at any time. We ask that parents make these arrangements with the teacher via email, phone messages, and/or notes. At no time during school hours are parents to present themselves to speak with the teacher without a prior appointment, or to do so during arrival or dismissal. Conferences and appointments may be scheduled before or after school hours, or during the teachers' planning periods. All matters discussed at conferences are confidential.

Accidents/Incidents

Parents will be promptly informed of any accident or incident involving their child. A written Accident/Incident Report form will be completed and provided to the parent. The parent is required to sign and return the school's copy of the form to the teacher, while retaining the parent copy. If the child needs to be transported to the hospital, immediate arrangements will be made with the parents or emergency ambulance services. In cases where the child requires urgent medical attention, our staff will call 911 for professional assistance. Parents will be contacted simultaneously.

Child Protective Investigations

Florida law provides that any person who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child is abused by a parent, legal custodian, caregiver, or other person responsible for the child's welfare must report such knowledge to the Department of Children and Families (DCF). The school will cooperate with all child protective investigations by DCF or the local law enforcement agency. Reports should be made to Florida's Department of Children and Families by calling the Abuse Hotline at: 1-800-96-ABUSE (1-800-962-2873).

In addition to contacting DCF, abuse may be reported to the Safe Environment Office of the Archdiocese of Miami by calling 305-215-6635 or emailing abusereporting@theadom.org.

Child protective investigations by DCF or local law enforcement agencies sometimes include interviews of students at school and may occur without advance notice. When it is reasonably possible, the school will seek to notify the parents that their child has been asked to participate in a child protective investigation. The school may also request that a school staff member be present during investigative interviews on school property. However, please note that, under Florida law, DCF and local law enforcement agencies have the discretion to conduct unannounced interviews and to disallow school staff members' presence during these interviews.

Emergency Procedures

While it is impossible to foresee every type of emergency that might occur, St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School has an emergency plan that provides guidelines and procedures for different situations.

When emergency conditions have been declared by the county (such as severe weather), St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School will dismiss and resume classes in accordance with the Miami-Dade County Public Schools and public announcements for Archdiocesan Parochial Schools. Parents should tune in to local television/radio broadcasts pertaining to the events.

Financial Obligations

The satisfaction of all financial obligations to the school, including tuition and fees, constitutes a material condition of continued enrollment. Tuition is paid through FACTS Management.

By executing the acknowledgment of receipt of this Handbook, I hereby agree to be responsible for the full balance of tuition and any related fees, regardless of any scholarship that may be available. Should such scholarship awards not cover the entire balance due or otherwise not become available, Parents/Guardians agree that they remain responsible for the full tuition amount and fees. Tuition is due, regardless of the student's attendance record.

Closed Campus

St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School is a closed campus, whereby students are not allowed to leave the school premises at any time during the school day unless picked up by a parent/guardian or authorized individual.

St. Brendan Catholic Elementary School Early Childhood Center Parent Handbook Acknowledgment Form 2026 - 2027

I, as Parent or Legal Guardian, acknowledge that I have read the entire contents of the Early Childhood Center Parent Handbook and understand the consequences of any violations of the school's rules and policies.

I agree to cooperate with the school in interpreting and enforcing the policies outlined in the Early Childhood Center Parent Handbook. I also understand that the school has ultimate authority over the administration and the interpretation of its rules and policies. Moreover, I understand that all the school's policies, whether written or verbal, are guidelines and subject to change at the school's sole discretion, with or without notice.

I also hereby acknowledge that I have read and agree to the terms of the **RELEASES** outlined in the School-Sponsored Events Policy, the Participation in School Athletics or Organizations Policy, and the Use of Photos Policy.

(Print Parent/Legal Guardian Name)

(Date)

(Signature Parent/Legal Guardian)

(Print Student Name)

(Grade)