



Preschool Handbook

Rooms 101, 102, and 103

Welcome to SSBVM School Preschool wing. Let the fun and learning begin! We are so glad you are joining our school family. We are truly honored to have the opportunity to share this very special time in your child's life. This handout is designed to help answer any questions you may have about our program now or in the future.

Nothing contained in our handbook, or in any other document, custom, or practice, is intended to or shall be construed to, create any contractual obligations, expressed or implied, or on the part of the diocese or school. Contents of the handbook are subject to alteration or modification by the school as circumstances may require.

Arrival

Students will be dropped off in the school car line between 7:55 to 8:15. A teacher or staff member will be waiting to greet your child and make sure they get safely into the building. **Parents may not walk their child into the building.**

Clothing

Please be sure to send your child to school in comfortable season appropriate clothing. Also, please dress them in clothing that you are comfortable getting dirty. We will be painting, coloring, and digging in our playground space and we get messy. Given that our students are often outside, please send a complete change of clothes appropriate for the weather including socks and underwear in case they are needed.

Any extra clothing sent in must be **labeled with their first and last name.**

Please choose hair accessories that are simple, secure, and appropriate for the preschool classroom. Accessories that are oversized, noisy, or likely to distract the student or others from learning should be avoided or the student may be asked to put it in their cubby.

Helping your child learn to dress himself/herself to go outside or go to the bathroom is a big part of learning independence. Please encourage your child as often as possible to practice snapping, zipping, and pulling up and putting on their own pants, coats and shoes. The pride in their little eyes and in their voices when they say, "I did it all by myself!" is priceless. It is also very helpful to us!

Communication

Communication between all of us is vital to a successful year. If you ever need to contact us please feel free to do so. We will do our best to return your phone calls or emails promptly, usually within 24-48 hours. If it is an urgent matter please call the School Office at **717 944 5371**.

We can be reached via email:

dchmielewski@ssbvm.org, (Miss Daria) and Class Dojo

emccue@ssbvm.org (Mrs. McCue) and Class Dojo

mcloonan@ssbvm.org (Ms. Cloonan) and Class Dojo

You must email or call the school office if your child is absent, needs to leave for an appointment, arrives late or needs to have medicine administered during the school day. Contact our school office email attendance@ssbvm.org or 717-944-5371 with any questions or concerns.

Curriculum/Goals for Preschool

Religion

- To instill a respect, love, and excitement for God and His Word.
- To sow seeds of Bible truths in our littlest ones' hearts.
- To build connections between everyday life and what the Bible says.
- To expound upon their sense of awe and wonder about their world.
- To experience different art mediums with the process as the goal, not an end product.
- To emphasize a love for learning through enjoyable, developmentally appropriate experiences.

Language Arts

- Identifies front, back, title, and author of a book.
- Demonstrates top to bottom, left to right progression
- Identifies all uppercase and lowercase letters
- Demonstrates knowledge of beginning sounds
- Rhymes
- Makes predictions
- Demonstrates comprehension of stories by orally retelling or acting out
- Identifies characters, setting, and main idea of a story
- Orally state the names of the days of the week
- Identifies the eight basic colors
- Understands and follows one and two step spoken directions

Mathematics

- Demonstrates 1 to 1 correspondence
- Sorts and classifies objects by position, shape, size, color, number of corners, etc.
- Identifies and copies patterns
- Can count to 10
- Identifies and draws the basic shapes
- Identifies numerals (0-10)
- Labels sets (0-10) with correct numeral
- Compares sets of objects and uses the terms equal, more than, or less than correctly
- Compares measurements and uses the terms shorter, longer, taller, heavier, warmer, cooler, holds more, etc. correctly
- Uses positional words to explain location (left, right, on, off, inside, between, above, below, etc.)

Science

- Natural Science: animals, plants, weather, space
- Physical Science: magnets, float and sink
- Health & Safety: body parts, nutrition, five senses, fire safety

Fine Motor Skills

- Holds pencils and scissors correctly
- Cuts on lines
- Outlines and colors neatly within the lines

Gross Motor Skills

- Hops on both feet together
- Hops on one foot (left and right)
- Marches
- Gallops
- Skips

Social and Work Habits

- Puts forth best efforts in work
- Takes care of school materials
- Uses self-control to follow school rules
- Works independently
- Completes work in a reasonable amount of time
- Follows directions
- Listens attentively to others
- Stays on task
- Willingly participates in activities

If you are interested in learning more about our curriculum, you can visit the Harrisburg Diocese Website here:

<https://www.hbgdiocese.org/catholic-schools/diocesan-elementary-curriculum/pre-school-curriculum-draft>

Discipline

Students learn about acceptable and unacceptable behavior expectations. It is modeled and reinforced with various strategies.

- Talking with the student one on one asking questions such as ... How did that....make you feel? How do you think so and so feels about what happened?

Can you tell me more about what is causing the problem? What can we do differently?

- Redirection as needed
- Giving options as a solution
- Positive reinforcement and encouragement
- Communication and partnership with parents

Dismissal (Door #13 next to preschool playground)

- **Full day students:**
Will be dismissed from door #13 or playground if the weather is nice at 2:55pm.
- **Half day students:**
Students will eat lunch before being dismissed at **12:00pm** at door number 13. Be sure to pack them lunch.
- **Early dismissal or late arrivals:**
If your child needs to be picked up early or will be late to school you must notify the school office in advance. Pickup or drop off will be from the front office and you will be required to sign them in or out of the office.
- **Permission for pickup:**
If your student will be picked up by someone other than the guardian you must contact the school office and individuals will be required to show ID at pickup.

Emergency School Closings

You will also receive an email and text regarding the closing. Information on school closings can be found on the school website, and on television stations (WGAL, WHTM, FOX and WHP). We typically follow Middletown Area School District related school closing policies.

Health Policies

Please understand, if your child is showing any signs of illness please keep them at home particularly if he/she has a fever. If your child has a temp of 100.4 or higher they will be sent home and are not able to return to school until they are fever free for 24 hours without aid of fever reducing medication. Should your child develop a fever or become sick once they are in school you will be called immediately.

Lunch (Full & Half Day Students)

Please pack a lunch for your child each day that has healthy food choices included.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Conferences for the preschool students will be November 6, 2025 and March 11, 2026. More details to follow closer to the dates.

Religious Education

First and foremost we are a Catholic school and in our classrooms Jesus will be very present everyday. We will begin each day with prayer as well as prayers at snack, lunch, and throughout the day as needed. Our Catholic faith is very important to us. It is why we choose to teach in the Catholic school system. We don't believe we can teach without having Christ at the center of the entire day, everyday. As part of the Catholic school system, we offer a developmentally appropriate religion curriculum. Your child will learn that God created each of us for a reason and we are each precious to Him. We will practice the art of being grateful for all that God gives us every day. We will do that by learning traditional and age-appropriate prayers and songs. We will also practice being respectful, kind, and loving through acts of service as Jesus taught.

Rest time (Full day students)

Each child will need a labeled rest mat and sheet/blanket for rest time (we don't want them on the cold floor). Suggestions are available on the supply list. A special lovie or blanket can be sent along to school; however, it must fit inside their bookbag. Let us know if this is something that can stay at school or needs to come home every evening with your child. We will send blankets/lovies home on Friday afternoons to be washed.

Sample Schedule (schedule will vary depending on class and student needs)

8:00-8:15	Morning prayers and arrival
8:15-8:40	Handwashing, unpack, tabletop manipulatives
8:40-9:00	Circle time working on social skills, math, letters and prayers
9:00-9:15	Story time
9:15-9:30	Snack
9:30-10:15	Small groups (May be outside weather pending).
10:15-10:40	Recess/Gross motor skill activities
10:45-12	Recess/Lunch/Bathroom
NOON DISMISSAL at preschool playground for half day students	
12:00-1:15	Quiet Circle/Story & Rest time
1:15-2:30	Bathroom/wash hands/clean up/large group activity/snack

2:00-2:30	Circle time
2:30-2:55	Specials
2:55	Dismissal

Snacks

Each classroom will have either a morning or afternoon snack. It is an opportunity to enjoy each other's company, learn appropriate social and language skills, and reinforce table manners. Teachers will contact you with specifics related to snacktime as well as potential allergies in the classroom.

Toilet independence

Children enrolled in our 3, and 4-year-old classes are expected to be able to use the toilet independently. In addition to scheduled toilet breaks for the entire class, the children have access to the bathroom whenever needed. Fully toilet trained children must be able to do the following without adult assistance and minimal adult prompting:

- Be accident-free in regular underwear (not training pants, disposable diapers, or pull-ups)
- Recognize and be able to tell a teacher in words that they need to use the toilet before they have to go
- Pull down/up their pants/underwear or lift dress/skirt (teachers can help with difficult snaps or buttons if needed)
- Wipe themselves after using the toilet
- Flush the toilet
- Wash/dry their hands

If a child has an accident, teachers will guide them to change his/her clothes into dry clothes. The wet/soiled clothes will be sent home in a bag. This policy is intended to ensure the safety and happiness of all children and staff at the preschool. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Toys From Home

- We cannot assume accountability for personal toys. Please keep at home.
- **Technology of any kind is prohibited at school.**

We can't wait to have some fun learning to love and loving to learn
with your children! Jesus loves you and so do we!