



St. Peter Catholic School

3K/4K Handbook

2023-2024



“Let the children come to me and do not hinder them. It is to just such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs. I assure you that whoever does not accept the reign of God like a little child shall not take part in it. Then he embraced them and blessed them, placing his hands on them. “

Mark 10:14-16

OUR PURPOSE

The St. Peter Catholic School early childhood education program exists to nurture all children in a loving Christ-centered and developmentally appropriate learning environment. We are committed to providing an education that enriches the spiritual, social, emotional, physical and academic growth of each child in an atmosphere that fosters uniqueness and positive self-esteem.

CURRICULUM GOALS

The 3K and 4K programs are well-rounded school experiences that balance academic and social developmental skills which build a foundation for subsequent years. We believe children learn better through active involvement with play-based learning environment. Our program ensures your child will have an easier transition from home to school, making their first school experience a successful and happy one.

The 3K classes provide age-appropriate experiences in language, math, science, social studies, music and art. Children will discover letters, numbers, shapes, colors, as well as develop their small and gross motor skills. Each day includes time for center and creative play, large motor activity, snacks, socialization and faith sharing. Our children begin formal religious instruction within the 3K program.

The 4K classes expand on the skills presented in the 3K program and children are introduced to a variety of pre-kindergarten reading and math readiness and writing skills. They continue to learn about Jesus through stories, songs, prayer and drama.

The 3K and 4K programs will attend specials classes such as Spanish, music, physical education, computers and library. These classes are taught by other teachers. 4K students attend Mass weekly starting in October with their 4th grade buddies. 3K students will attend prayer services and special mass days with their 3rd grade buddies.

SCHEDULE

For flexibility to meet the needs of a dynamic age, both our 3K and 4K programs are offered:

- 2 half days in the morning (T, TH)
- 3 half days in the morning (M, W, F)
- 5 half days in the morning (M- F)
- 2 days all day (T, TH)
- 3 days all day (M, W, F)
- 5 days all day. (M-F)

The half day schedule is 7:25 – 11:00 a.m. and the all day schedule is 7:25 a.m. – 2:25 p.m. The 2, 3 or 5 day per week half day and all day format allows parents/guardians to assess the needs of their individual child and better provide them with a routine suited to their capabilities.

Both the 3K and 4K programs follow the school calendar. **Bussing is available for 4K students only.** For the all day 4K program, bussing is available in the morning and at the end of the regular school day. For the half day 4K program, other transportation arrangements must be made at 11:00 a.m. **Bussing is not available for the 3K students, per bus company regulations.** If someone besides your child's regular means of transportation will be picking up, please send a note with your child.

ADMISSION

Your child must be 3 years old on or before September 1st and have independent bathroom habits to enter the 3K program. Students entering 4K must be 4 years old on or before Sept 1st, in order to be eligible for the program. Proof of age is to be submitted at the time of registration. Students in both programs must have a current immunization record on file. Please send a copy of your child's birth certificate AND baptismal certificate to the school office by September 1st.

Registration for the program begins annually in January and continues through the start of the new school year. Parents/Guardians are welcome to tour our school throughout the year by contacting our school principal.

SUPPLIES for 3K and 4K students (subject to change)

1 Box of Crayola Crayons-Jumbo 8 Count
1 Blunt End Fiskars Child's Scissors
2 Large Glue Sticks
1 Pocket Folder
1 Set of Watercolor Paints (8 count)
2 Boxes of Facial Tissues
1 Package of Napkins
2 Containers of Hand Wipes
1 small Blanket or original Nap Mat
(All day students only, name on mat and in a bag)
Extra Change of Clothes in a gallon size Ziploc Bag
(With child's name on it)

All clothing items should be labeled with the child's name on it. Periodically throughout the year we may need to re-supply these items. We will let you know.

SNACKS AND MILK (For Half Day and All Day Programs)

Parents/Guardians will provide nutritious snacks for the entire class. Please be sure to send along plates, as well as, forks/spoons, if necessary. Special treats may be sent for the child's birthday. Milk is provided to all children. Families will be billed a required milk fee to cover the cost of the snack milk. The milk fee will be determined at the beginning of each school year.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM (For All Day 3K and 4K programs)

➤ **Hot Lunch** – (optional) will be provided by the Slinger School District according to their

schedule. Hot lunch must be paid for on a weekly or monthly basis. Cost of Hot Lunch and Milk will be determined at a later date.

- **Cold Lunch** - Milk is available for students bringing bag lunches or students wishing to purchase additional milk or snack milk. If a child forgets to bring a lunch and they are not previously scheduled for hot lunch, parents/guardians will be contacted to bring a lunch to school by 11 a.m.
- All lunches brought to school by a child should be ready to eat. It is recommended that any foods intended to be eaten hot should come in a thermos to preserve heat. If needed, lunchroom volunteers and supervisors will be able to microwave food items - only for 30 seconds or less.
- **Refunds / Credits** – If a child is ill on a day that hot lunch or lunch milk was ordered and paid and the parent called the absence in by 7:45 a.m., the lunch or milk cost will be credited. No other refunds or credits will be issued.

RECESS

The 3K and 4K students that are in the half day program will morning recess. The 3K and 4K students that are in the all day program will also have recess before lunch.

REST TIME

The 3K and 4K students in the all day program will have rest time in the afternoon. The students will be given a large bag from school to put their blanket/sleeping bag and pillow (optional) for storage.

LABEL ITEMS

Please label all items such as coats, school bags, boots, etc. with your child's name.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Parents/Guardians/Grandparents are welcome to visit us at any time. They are welcome to share a special talent or read a story. Please call ahead to plan your special time.

POSITIVE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

A newsletter describing the week's activities will be sent home every week. Encourage your child to tell you about the work he/she did and what they have learned new each day. Ask questions about any themes, activities and learning for the day or week. Help them communicate their thoughts in complete sentences. Knowing that you are interested in their day may help them remember the day's events more easily and it also makes them feel special.