

Welcome to Our Lady of Fatima Kindergarten!!!



Welcome to Kindergarten!

Welcome to Our Lady of Fatima Kindergarten Program. It is a pleasure to have you join our school community. We are very proud of our program as it has blossomed into an exciting part of Our lady of Fatima where children grow, learn, pray, and make friends that last a lifetime. We realize that some sacrifices must be made to send your child to a Catholic school but we believe it is a sacrifice worth making.

Our lady of Fatima School continues to thrive with a strong faith formation, academic excellence and a passion to carry on our outstanding Catholic tradition. This tradition of Catholic education has been inspired, prioritized, and supported by faculty and staff, parents, parishioners, and local community business leaders. This high quality does not just happen. Many ordinary people have come together to make our school community extraordinary! The faculty and staff are extremely dedicated in striving to instill core values as a foundation to become active participants in the local community. We believe that we are giving our students the tools needed to become successful adults who will continue to be enthusiastic life-long learners and followers of Jesus.

Our goal at OLOF is to build for the future. At Our Lady of Fatima this bright future does not just happen; we plan it, build it, and welcome it. Our foundations are four-fold; we build on faith; we build a "Christ centered" school community, we build on excellence, we build on tradition. We believe that these pillars will set a strong foundation in molding a young lady/man while paying dividends that will last a lifetime.

Our Catholic schools are critical to the future. They educate the mind, heart and spirit. Our graduates succeed academically and bring to their adult life a concern for others, especially the poor and to be of service to the larger community.

OLOF is a school where we invite parent involvement. Our PTG is responsible for our fundraising goal which is an important part of our budget. We have a "Fair Share" program in which each family is responsible to raise a net profit for the school.

In closing, thank you for entrusting your child with us. Our promise to all parents is our continued efforts to challenge your child academically, to ensure a safe environment, and to instill a faith-filled and service oriented attitude in our children.

This packet contains important information to know throughout the school year. It is, however, non-inclusive as we are very, very busy each day!





Arrival:

The first week of school only, parents are welcome to walk their child to the Kindergarten classroom. I will be in the room to assist all students getting organized for the day. Morning arrival begins at 7:30 a.m. Any child who arrives at school before 7:30 a.m. must wait in the office hallway area.

- If you choose to walk your child to the front door or the music room door (Door 4), please park in the parking lot behind the music room. Parking in front of the school is for faculty and visitors for Fatima House only.
- If you choose to drop your child off at the main entrance of the school please keep with the flow of traffic and pull up facing Brodhead Road. If you are using this method, please do not exit your car and walk your child into the school. Exiting your car will delay the drop-off flow. There will be a greeter at the door to make sure your child enters the building safely.
- Bus riders will be dropped off at the back of the school. A faculty member is always at this door (Door 4) greeting the students.

Arrival/Dismissal

Morning arrival: The school day begins at 7:55 a.m. Busing is offered by school districts who are within a 10 mile radius of Our Lady of Fatima School. If your child rides the bus, they will arrive at school at the back door (Door 4) and will be greeted by a faculty member who monitors this area. If you choose to drive your child to school, please use our drop-off policy for the front doors (see above).

Contact your bus company! If your child will be riding the bus to Our Lady of Fatima, please contact your school district bus company to make sure they are aware and they schedule your child to ride the bus to and from school. A letter should be sent to you before school begins in August with the pick-up time and drop-off time.

Dismissal: The school day ends at 2:05. Bus riders are dismissed at the end of the day at the back door of the building. A faculty/staff member will escort them to the bus. Car riders are dismissed at the doors by Kohler Hall. We assign a faculty member to oversee the dismissal process at all doors.

Delays:

Please watch KDKA (Channel 2) or WPXI (Channel 11) news for school delays and cancellations. An email will also be sent to the email address on file with the school. Our Lady of Fatima follows Hopewell School District's schedule. It is important that you are aware of your own districts status as they may not be the same as Our Lady of Fatima. This can create a concern having your child come to school with no one to open the doors.





Supply List: (First day of school)

- **Backpack** - Large enough to hold a 9x12 folder.
- **16 Pack Crayons** - 10 crayons - red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, pink, black, brown, white peach and gray
- **2 Pencils**
- **Two-Pocket Folder**
- **Paint Shirt** - button down is easier to put on and take off, especially if they became messy.
- **Glue Stick** - big glue stick lasts longer
- **Pencil Box** - hard plastic and large enough to fit crayons and glue.
- **Milk and Lunch Money** - can be put in a change purse, envelope, or a sandwich bag in folder or small pocket of backpack.
- **Headphones** - to connect to tablet or computer

*****Please label All of the above items with your child's name.*****



Folder:

The student folder will be used daily. The students are asked to bring the folder to each class. This is the best means to send and receive any correspondence. Please check your child's folder every day and take out any papers that should stay home.

There will also be an incentive chart on the inside left side of the folder. Each day your child will color one square on their chart based on what color he/she was on for the day.

Class Rules:

1. Listen when your teacher is talking
2. Follow directions
3. Make smart choices
4. Raise your hand
5. Respect yourself, your class, and your school

Consequences:

1. First Warning - Verbal
2. Second Warning - Yellow
3. Third Warning - Red - Phone call or note home to parents or guardians
4. Sent to the Principal's, if warranted
5. A scheduled conference

Rewards:

1. Green color on incentive chart
2. Extra play time and/or computer time

*Each day is a new start for every student. The policy may vary throughout the school year to meet the needs of the class.

Daily Dress Code:

School uniforms are the following:

- White, navy, light blue or (kelly) green polo
- Navy, black, or khaki slacks/pants (inside pockets only)
- School skirt for girls (purchased at Schoolbelles)

Gym Day: (First Friday and all Holy Days)

Gym Day is Tuesday. Students are permitted to wear their gym uniform every Tuesday. Gym clothes can be purchased through our Athletic Department.

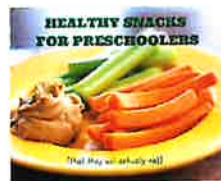
Church Day:

For all grades, Event Attire is mandatory for days we attend Mass (First Friday and Holy days). Event attire consists of a solid white shirt with a collar. The shirt must not have any embroidery or embellishments. Black or Navy shorts/pants are to be worn. Please no cargo shorts or pants.

These styles can be purchased at our school store (Schoolbelles) or local retailers.

Lunch:

You may purchase your lunch daily for \$3.30. Additional money may be sent in. The cafeteria manager keeps track of your balance. You can check your balance anytime through OptionC. (You will be provided a username and password at the beginning of the school year). Please send money in an envelope with your child's name and the amount enclosed. If you choose, your child may bring a packed lunch. If so, he/she may purchase milk for \$0.50. Please place this money in a separate change purse and keep it in his/her lunch box.



Snacks:

Kindergarten will follow a snack system until December. A monthly calendar will be provided to you. Each child will be asked to bring a snack for their entire class on his/her assigned snack day. We encourage healthy snacks; pretzels, raisins, yogurt, pudding, fruit snacks, fruit bars, carrots, apples, bananas, etc. Please send appropriate utensils, if needed. Since snack is only 15 minutes, individually wrapped snacks are encouraged. We have storage in our room for leftovers or extra snacks in case snacks are not available. If your child has an allergy and you would like to send a snack every day to be safe, you may do so. Your child may purchase milk for \$0.50 at snack and lunch or if you choose you may send a small water or juice.

****Cookies and cakes can be saved for special days, such as birthdays!**

Please avoid cupcakes, as they are very messy.

****If your child is attending Extended Day, please pack an extra snack.**

Specials:

Your child will have the following special classes during the week:

- ★ Gym - Gym uniform (purchased through the Athletic department)
- ★ Library
- ★ Music
- ★ Computer



Send a Note:

- ✓ When your child has been absent
- ✓ Is allergic or on medication
- ✓ Has a problem we need to be aware of
- ✓ Is being picked up by someone other than a parent or guardian
- ✓ Going to attend extended day
- ✓ Is not riding the bus
- ✓ If there is a change in routine especially at dismissal

Newsletter:

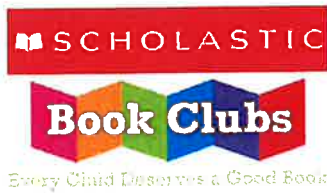
A newsletter will be sent home weekly with your child to update you on what we are learning in our classroom, upcoming events, and any school news.

Conferences:

Conferences will be held at least two times a year. At any time you may schedule a conference by sending a note or calling the school office at (724)375-7565.

School Programs:

The Kindergarten will be involved in up to (three) programs per year. We usually have a Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Moving On program. More information will be provided closer to the events.



Book Orders:

Scholastic book orders will be sent home monthly. We will place book order for books, software, and supplies for the classroom throughout the school year. Completely optional, unless you want to make a purchase.

Field Trip:

We will go on one field trip this year. Information will be sent home at that time. Younger siblings cannot attend field trips due to insurance reasons.

Safe Environment Policy (SEP):

The diocese of Pittsburgh has implemented a Safe Environment Policy for all Catholic Schools and Parishes. You must complete this policy to attend any parties / celebrations, field trips, or volunteer in school. The policy can be completed by following these steps. The information can be viewed at the diocesan web-site @ www.diopitt.org or you can go to our school website @ www.ourladyoffatimahopewell.org

- ✓ Register online at www.diopitt.org
- ✓ Take Protecting God's Children Class (Live or on-line)
- ✓ Sign Two Documents
- ✓ Obtain Child Abuse Clearances (Child Abuse and Police Clearance)
- ✓ Sign a waiver of not arrest record
- ✓ Take a child abuse training class (online)

Detailed steps are available to you in the school office, on the diocesan website and our school website. Clearances must be updated every five years.



Illness:

If your child is sick, please keep him/her home. Please do not send your child to school with any of the following symptoms:

- Fever – All students must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school
- Rash
- Diarrhea
- Vomiting
- Lice (please go through the RID process)
- Pink eye / conjunctivitis
- Chicken Pox
- Or any other symptoms that could affect the health of other children

If you will not be sending your child to school due to illness, please contact the secretary, Mrs. Conti, and leave a message at 724-375-7565.

What to Expect in Kindergarten

Kindergarten students learn beginning read skills and phonics with Journey's. Journey's is a comprehensive program that teaches letter recognition, letter sounds, blending to decode words and many other skills. Here are some of the skills we learn with Journey's. Most of our school day is some part of Language Arts.

- Capital and Lowercase Letters
- Letter Sounds
- Vocabulary
- Blending to Decode words
- Rhyming
- Fluency in Reading
- Comprehension

Math is taught using Sadlier math. The program is taught in a logical order where skills build in a natural progression. Hands-on manipulatives are used on a regular basis to provide the fullest understanding of the concepts. Here are some of the skills taught in Kindergarten Math.

- Numbers 1-10 (Count, Identify, Represent, and Write)
- Shapes
- Patterns
- Attributes
- Teen Numbers as Tens and Ones
- Groups of 10
- Addition
- Subtraction
- Making Quantities
- Money
- Time
- Measurement

Our Religion program, We Believe, explains our Catholic faith to students in a simple, understandable way. Students gain an understanding of God, Jesus, Mary, Joseph as well as the true meaning of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter. Prayer is an important part of our day. Class prayers are available on my website. We begin and end each day thanking God for all the gifts He has bestowed upon us. Our class will attend Mass on the first Friday of each month and all Holy Days.

All skills are reviewed throughout the year!

If at any time throughout the school year you have questions, concerns, or ideas to assist your child to achieve, please contact me as soon as possible. Communication is key to the development of your child and we want to work together to make this happen.

Websites:

The school website is www.ourladyoffatimahopewell.org This website provides you with forms, activities, other teachers' web pages, and much more.

The classroom website is marissahaney.weebly.com which will be updated periodically. I will upload important information for your reference.

My email is marissahaney@gmail.com