

Hello Pre-K Families,

Welcome to Pre-K 4! My name is Stephanie Nichols and I will be your preschool teacher this coming year along with Maggie Wetherbee, my assistant teacher. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child, and watching them grow and learn throughout the upcoming school year. We also look forward to collaborating with you. Here is some information about the first day of school, a check-list of items to bring on the first day, and a short questionnaire for you to fill out.

We slowly transition our Pre-K students during the first week of school. This allows us the opportunity to get to know your child and provide them with more attention to learn our routine and the layout of our school. We will send you an email before July with your child's schedule. It will look something like this:

1st day of school: half of the students will attend school with a 12:00 dismissal.

2nd day of school: the other half of the students will attend school with a 12:00 dismissal.

3rd day of school: all students will attend school with a 12:00 dismissal.

4th day of school: all students will attend school with a regular 3:00 dismissal.

Our school day starts at 8:00 am, drop off is between 7:45 and 8:00. Please arrive punctually, Morning Meeting begins at 8:05. Students are dismissed at 3:00 pm, children will be packed up and ready to leave when you arrive. When you drop off your child please remember to sign-in **and** sign-out at the end of the day. A clip board will be on a counter when you enter the classroom. This is a state regulation. When you sign-in please also check off if your child is receiving a hot lunch and/or school snack/breakfast. We will have lunch the first few days of school even though it is a half day.

Saying goodbye is a big part of development for our Pre-K students. During the first week of school, we encourage you to have a plan that you communicate to your child to make the transition from home to school a little easier. For example, you might tell your child, "I will walk in with you, help you hang up your backpack, give you a hug, and then I must leave." If your child is having a hard time saying goodbye we will help you. Although it is hard, especially if your child is sad, it is best to keep the goodbye short and know that we will comfort your child. If you are concerned, you are welcome to check in with us by calling the school. Most children will happily be playing a few minutes after you leave. The morning routine for Pre-K students will be signing in, putting away their backpack, placing their lunchbox in the refrigerator, washing hands, checking their job for the day, and finally choosing a table activity.

We love to play outside and go for nature walks on the trails behind the school. **Please dress your child appropriately for the weather.** We will still go outside if it is raining or wet, make sure your child has a rain jacket, rain boots and rain pants on rainy days. The easiest rain gear is a one piece rain suit! Winter comes quickly in Vermont and warm coats, hats, waterproof mittens, snow boots and snow pants are required. Our favorite snow gear is a one piece suit. You are welcome to leave any gear at school. On sunny days, feel free to send in a sunhat and if your child burns easily, please also apply sunscreen on your child in the morning before school.

Birthdays are always an exciting time for children. Due to allergies and food intolerances we ask that you don't bring in baked goods, such as cake and cupcakes.

We will have a little celebration during our day and parents are invited to join us, but it is not necessary. Either a parent, caregiver, or a special friend is invited to read a book to the class; we will gladly read the book if parents are unable to do so. The birthday kid also gets a dress down day! Please speak to us several days **before** the day of the birthday, so that we can schedule a time that works for you.

Occasionally, our younger students have bathroom accidents. Should a student experience toileting issues that make it difficult to maintain good sanitary conditions for the student or the classroom, parents may be contacted to retrieve their student. We are very sensitive to the health and well-being of all of our students. If your child is sick, please email us and notify the front office. Please be considerate of other families and do not send your child to school sick. Children need to be fever, vomit and diarrhea free for at least 24 hours without medication to return to school.

Please be sure you have marked your calendars for our Pre-K Social on **Monday, August 18th from 4 pm-5 pm**. We will meet behind the school on the playground; the purpose of the social is to allow students and parents to connect with one another and school personnel. It is also a great opportunity to have questions answered, should you have any. Please note that the school will be closed for cleaning during that time so if weather is inclement, we will have to cancel.

I believe that good communication is the key to all successful relationships. I am always available to answer any of your questions or concerns, my email address is snichols@allsaintsvt.org. You are welcome to bring questions to the Pre-K Social or email me before school starts. I have included a questionnaire for you to fill out. Please return the questionnaire at the Pre-K Social or before school starts (All Saints Catholic Academy, 680 Laporte Road, Morrisville, VT, 05661).

Enjoy your summer!

Stephanie Nichols

Supplies for the 1st day of school...

***Extra set of clothes in a shoebox.** School uniform t-shirt, school uniform pants/shorts, underwear, and socks. Please label everything.

***Fitted rest mat sheet** (not a crib sheet) and a light blanket for rest time. Dimensions of rest mats are 20" x 44". So a 24" x 48" size sheet or something close to that works best. Children may also bring in a stuffed animal. A great option instead of a separate sheet and blanket is an "all-in-one nap bundle." A couple of companies to look at are ECR4Kids Nap Mat Companion and Urban Infant All-In-One Modern Preschool Nap Mat on Amazon.com. We love these bundles because children can manage them by themselves. Sheets and blankets will go home every Friday to be washed and brought back to school on Monday. No big fluffy sleeping bags or blankets, our storage is limited.

***Sneakers and rain boots.** Sneakers are needed for P.E. class and afternoon recess. Rain boots are needed for morning recess and wet days. You are also welcome to leave a pair of sneakers and rain boots in your child's cubby.

***Rainsuit or rain pants.** We will go outside in the rain.

***Backpack with 2 pocket folders** labeled with your child's name. One folder will stay at school and the other will be used for correspondence and art work.

***Packed healthy morning snack or signed up for school breakfast/snack on FACTS.** Fruit, cheese sticks, granola bars, crackers, veggie sticks, and yogurt are some nutritious ideas. We will send home a letter, after the first couple of weeks of school, for families to help supply afternoon snack.

***Packed lunch or signed up for school lunch on FACTS.** Please note that milk comes with a hot lunch and breakfast. If your child has brought a packed lunch or breakfast, they have the option to buy just milk. You can put money on your account through FACTS in advance of school starting.

***Leak-proof water bottle.** Wash, refill and return everyday.

***Clorox Wipes** (1 container)

***Liquid hand soap** (1 container or refill)

***Tissues** (1 box)

***Photographs** of your child (3 or 4). Please include a baby photo, current photo, and family photo or important people (or animals) in your child's life. We will make a family album for our classroom. This is helpful when children are missing their family or having a difficult time saying goodbye.

Family Questionnaire

Child's Name _____

Nickname (or name to be used for labeling in the classroom) _____

Birthday _____

Guardian's Name _____ Cell phone #: _____

Preferred email for correspondence: _____

Guardian's Name _____ Cell phone #: _____

Preferred email for correspondence: _____

My child lives with: _____

Please Check: I have full custody of my child. _____

I have joint custody of my child. _____

If you have joint custody, please let me know the custody schedule.

Other children, family members, friends or roommates that live with your family.

Name	Relationship	Age

School or childcare previously attended:

Does your child have any food allergies or restrictions by choice?

Does your child still nap? Yes No

Please tell us **anything** you believe is important for us to know about your child. Early childhood is such a critical time in a child's development. The more that we know, the more we can do to support your child and your family. This information is kept confidential. Also, if you want to meet in person to discuss anything below or would prefer to talk in person instead of filling out the form below, please email us and we can set up a time.

Things that are helpful for us to know: family situation, stressful events in your child's life to date (deaths in the family, accidents, illness, moving, etc.), holidays celebrated or not celebrated, personality, strengths, things your child needs to work on (regulating emotions, confidence, peer relationships, etc.), fears (afraid of the dark, spiders, separation, getting dirty, etc.), talents, favorite games/activities/toys. Anything that you feel will help us get to know and support your child and your family better.