

# Welcome to Holy Cross Full Day Kindergarten

I hope you have had a great summer so far. I have been planning many activities for full day Kindergarten! I am looking forward to working with your child this year. Through the remainder of this letter, I will share some of the information about kindergarten.

## School Supplies

Pencils, scissors, paper, and glue will be provided by the school. Please do not send in these items to school.

### **School Supplies Needed:**

- \*back pack (NO WHEELS) include an extra set of clothes, in case of spills, etc.
- \*one 2-pocket folder for home/school papers (please put name on the front)
- \*one 2-pocket folder for P.E. Class (please put name on the front)
- \*two **solid color** folders with 3-prongs in the middle
- \*one 70 page spiral notebook (please put name on the front)
- \*two pink block erasers (not pencil toppers)
- \*two boxes of 24 count Crayola crayons (not glitter or specialty)
- \*one box of tissues
- \*a beach towel; to keep at school for D.E.A.R. Time (please put name on towel)
- \*each child should have a water bottle to use every day, all year (they will be able to refill their bottles as needed)

***(3-prong folders, crayons, and erasers will be shared with the class. Please do not put names on these items. Thanks.)***

## Lunch/Snack

Your child will need to bring a nutritious lunch, afternoon snack and water bottle every day. We will eat lunch about 11:30am. We can not heat up lunches so a termos would be a good option. Please have your child eat a good breakfast before school because we will not have a morning snack break. (They will be able to have water breaks throughout the day.) We will have an afternoon snack break. This snack item can be added into their lunch box. Your child will be able to get their snack and their water bottle at that time. Milk is available to purchase for lunch and/or snack time, also. Every Friday is Fun Lunch Friday. Your child may order a lunch for those days. We will be offering pizza, Subway, and Chick-fil-a on a rotating basis.

## Parent/Teacher/School Relationship

It is a good habit to review all the papers from the school bag each day with your child. It is the most beneficial way of finding out what some of the activities were that day or the previous day. At the beginning of each week (by Monday morning), Kindergarten information will be available through the school website, at [www.holycrosslutherschool.org](http://www.holycrosslutherschool.org) and on renweb. [\(more information about renweb at Meet the Teacher day\)](#) These announcements, calendar information, lesson plans, and resources help to stimulate conversation with your child about school.

Throughout the year I will communicate with you through report cards, parent-teacher conferences and other notes that will also be sent home in their folders or on renweb (please check renweb every

week). Please stop in the classroom if you have any questions, comments or concerns. The best time would be after school about 3:50pm (after dismissal).

**\*\*Parents should begin to check email messages regularly (mid- July). The school office will begin to communicate important school information as the new year begins to approach.\*\***

## **Chapel**

Chapel will be held weekly on Wednesdays for elementary students (k-5th). Kindergarten will attend Chapel on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays with the elementary students. We will also attend the early childhood Chapels on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays. Chapel starts at 9:05am. Parents are always welcome to join us!

## **Field Trips**

We will be taking some field trips off campus and having outside speakers during the year. General permission slips are signed at the beginning of the school year to cover all field trips. If you volunteer to drive for a trip, you will need to have an insurance form filled out in the office. Also, please do not bring younger siblings. This is a time for you and your kindergartner. The siblings will have their turn too, when they go to Kindergarten.

## **Celebrations**

Birthdays will be celebrated in the classroom by the teacher. We will have activities to make each child feel special. Every child will go to the office to get a birthday sticker and/or a treasure box prize. We will not be able to have food treats or goodie bag items brought in by parents. You may have those kinds of things at a birthday party outside of class time. Please also remember not to send invitations to school to be passed out in school bags. Invitations will need to be mailed to their classmates.

There will be a Fall, Thanksgiving Feast, Christmas, Valentine, and Easter celebration in the classroom. The room parent will work out the details of the parties with the teacher. Information about each party will be communicated to you so you can help out if you would like.

## **Health Information**

Inform the teacher of any health problems such as hearing or vision deficiencies, frequent ear infections causing temporary loss of hearing, allergies, asthma, etc. Be sure you have enough phone numbers listed and updated with the school office so you can be reached in case of illness or accident.

## **Church and Choir Attendance**

Your child will learn about God by your example and guidance. This is done through regular church attendance as a family. We encourage you to attend Holy Cross Lutheran or your own home church. (Each Monday, I will ask about Church and Sunday School attendance.) Daily family devotions and prayers are also important. The children will learn several prayers and they can share them with you at home.

On certain days your child will be asked to sing in church. The Kindergarten class will be known as the Cherub Choir. Watch for more information on the Kindergarten renweb site, school newsletters or special notes from the music teacher, Mrs. Happersberger. Usually the children will sing as a school during the first month of school, one Advent service, one Lent service, a few Sunday services, and sometime during Lutheran Schools Week (in March).

## **School Hours**

Kindergarten students in the full day class attend school from 9:00am to 3:40pm. Please do not bring your child to school any earlier than 8:50 am as they are not permitted in the building before this time. Please use the parking spaces if you will be bringing your child into the classroom or you will be meeting your child at the school door for pick up. You may also use the drop off/pick up line.

If you need to pick up your child during the school day, you must sign him/her out in the office. The office will call the classroom to have your child come to the office.

Your child may also use the before and/or after school program. You may drop your child off any time after 7am and pick up by 5:30 pm. See the school office for more details.

**If your child is going home with someone other than you (play date, car pool, etc.), please send me a short written note so we can have your child ready to go. Do not rely on your child to tell me this information, because children often confuse and relay messages incorrectly. You must also have written permission filed in the office on a release form if someone else is picking up your child.**

## **Discipline**

Proper classroom, bathroom, and playground behaviors will be explained to the children at the beginning of the year. The children will be held accountable for correct behavior. Children are not allowed to behave in a way that hampers others from learning, keeps the teacher from teaching effectively, or infringes on the rights of others. Failure to live up to the school or teacher expectations in any area will result in loss of privileges (spending time out from recess time or time out away from the class in the classroom for disruptions or bothering other children) or some other approach that might prove more effective. For severe cases, a visit to the principal's office and a phone call to the parents would be used.

## **Outdoor Recess/P.E.**

The children will be going out for recess as much as possible unless it is raining or very cold (below 25). Please keep this in mind when helping your children to select clothing for the day. We also have climbing equipment outside. Please keep this in mind when selecting shoes. Cowboy boots, dress shoes, flipflops, and crocs are not appropriate for climbing and running. Shoes with back straps are the best that stay on their feet. We will be having P.E. on Mondays and Thursdays. Your children should wear **tennis shoes** on that day.

## **Spirit wear/Uniforms**

Information about uniforms for the elementary is available on the school website. A pre-order form

will be available soon. Anything ordered before August 4, will be available for pick up on the Meet the Teacher Day. If you have questions about the dress code and clothing orders, please call the school office.

## **Homework**

On Mondays, after hearing about the letter and practicing its sound, a letter sheet is sent home for homework. Please help your child find at least six things that begin with the letter to put on the back of the letter sheet. These can be cut from a magazine or catalog or drawn by the child. Under the pictures, write the word that starts with the letter. You may help your child or let him/her use "pretend" spelling which leads to correct spelling in the future. Your child should also color the letter and bring it back to school by Friday when he/she will share the words found. A complete book of all the letter homework will be sent home at the end of the year. It's priceless when finished!

Read with your child every night. "Decodable Readers" from the reading curriculum will be sent home each week. After practicing the stories, please return them to get a sticker on the books. Also check the reading curriculum website ([pearsonsuccessnet.com](http://pearsonsuccessnet.com)). The username will be your child's first and last name in lower case and no spaces. The password will be `fullday`. Stories will be available to read on this website that we have worked on in class.

On Mondays, the religion flyer will be sent home. A memory verse will be on the flyer. The children will have the week to practice the Bible verse in school and at home. Please say the Bible verse with your child each day so they will be ready to recite the verse to the teacher on Friday. A memory chart is used with stickers to record the Bible verses they say.

Sometimes there may be a special one night activity to do at home. Book buddy bags, with books, tapes, and a stuffed toy, are sent home on Mondays. Math bags are also sent home during the week for a day or two. These bags are returned to school during the week.

## **Curriculum**

Children will be studying Religion, Handwriting, Phonics, Reading, Math, Science, Social Studies, Art, Music, and Computer. Evaluation of progress in these areas will be communicated to parents through daily work papers, parent-teacher conferences, and progress reports. There are differences in abilities and prior school achievement. Some children are capable of exacting work in these areas but have never been interested in sitting still long enough to do these things and so it is a new experience for them. Many children are very interested in learning to read and expend great effort in this area. The rate of growth varies from child to child. This curriculum tries to meet each child's individual needs.

We are using the Scott Foresman series as our language arts program where we will be covering reading, handwriting, and phonics. In Math, the children will work on patterns, counting, reading and writing numerals through one hundred, shape and size discrimination, and simple addition and subtraction, money, and time. We will be using the Every Day Math program. Some Science units include nature, our bodies, the five senses, space, and plants. Large motor activities will develop strength and coordination. Art education will focus on recognizing and working with shape, line, color,

and texture of many artists. Art and craft activities are designed to provide practice in skills as well as to encourage creative expression. Music activities acquaint the child with an appreciation and joy of singing. The Computer education activities will allow the children to get acquainted with the computer on a "hands-on" basis. Children will learn simple terminology and practice correct procedures for use of the computer. The Religion is based on stories in the Bible and is designed to introduce the child to Jesus, the loving Friend, as well as to acquaint them with God's expectations for living a Christian life. Voyages, a Lutheran Church Missouri-Synod publication, is the text used.

### **Learning and Activity Centers**

Learning centers provide an abundance of independent activities for children. These experiences aid in providing a balance between structured and open-ended activities. Learning centers can function as a supplement for learning, as an integrated part of the curriculum, or a basis for teaching. A teacher-directed center is teacher-controlled with small groups of children working on skill development towards a specific goal. Some learning centers focus on activities related to the current topic of study in math, science, social studies, and reading.

An independent activity center provides activities that are initiated and carried out by an individual or small group of children working together. Independent activity centers are organized around on activity such as art, manipulative items, listening to tapes, or playing learning games, etc.

### **The End**

In closing, I would like to say that I am looking forward to a great year working with your child! Please save this letter for future reference. I will ask if you have any questions from this letter when I see you at "Meet the Teacher" on Wednesday, August 11. SEE YOU THEN !!

\*First day of school is Thursday, August 12 at 9:00am!!

Serving the Master Teacher,

Sheryl Rolf  
Full-Day Kindergarten Teacher

**Fully Rely On God**

**F.R.O.G.**