

SSCM



Faith, Family...Future!

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2019 National
Blue Ribbon School

SS. Cyril & Methodius School Kindergarten Handbook



2026/27 SCHOOL YEAR

SSCM



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Dear Parent,

Kindergarten is an essential part of your child's Catholic education. Now that your child has started Kindergarten, success in this school year will depend primarily upon the degree of understanding and cooperation between home and school. I hope this booklet, in addition to the SS. Cyril and Methodius Handbook, will be helpful to you in preparing your child for the new experiences he or she will have in Kindergarten.

I enjoy having your child in my class. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kristyn Coyle

Kindergarten Teacher

SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS SCHOOL

SCHOOL INFORMATION

PRINCIPAL..... Mr. Daniel Turney

OFFICE..... Jackie Lazowski

ADDRESS..... 607 Sobieski Street, Lemont, IL 60439

PHONE..... (630) 257-6488

FAX NO..... (630) 257-6465

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL INFO

ARRIVAL..... 7:20 AM
CLASS BEGINS..... 7:45 AM
DISMISSAL..... 2:15 PM

SECTION ONE

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS
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ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Students feel a greater sense of belonging while at SSCM."

When teachers started class by welcoming students at the door, academic engagement increased by 20 percentage points and disruptive behavior decreased by 9 percentage points—potentially adding "an additional hour of engagement over the course of a five-hour instructional day."

ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

- Kindergarten drop-off will begin at 7:20 am and conclude at 7:40 am. All students who enter the building after 7:40 am will be marked as tardy.
- At 7:20 am, the principal will be present at entrance 1 to welcome students into the building.
- The principal will set up the cones where parents should drop off their student(s).
- The principal will greet students at their car by name and guide students toward entrance 1. Please note that parents will no longer walk their students to their classes past September 1. Parents will drop students off at entrance 1 and SSCM faculty and staff will be present to guide students to their classroom and support when and where needed.
- The following staff members will be present in the foyer and hallway until 8:15 am guiding Pre-School and Kindergarten students to class: Mrs. Anderson/Mrs. Kucera (Learning Specialists at Turn to Classroom), Nicole O'Hare (PK Aide at Foyer Entrance), Julie Dolak (PK Aide/Specials Teacher at Hooks/Turn to classroom), Ron Hilger (Specials Teacher - At Hallway 2W), Bob Villaseñor (Specials Teacher - Foyer).
- The principal will hold the door and greet students by name at the entrance 1 door.
- Mrs. Lazowski will greet students in the foyer by name and guide each student to the Kindergarten hallway through entrance 2E to room 202.
- PreK Instructional Aides and other support staff will be present in the foyer and hallway 2E guiding students to their classroom and supporting when and where needed.
- Between 7:20 am and 7:40 am, the Kindergarten teacher will meet their students at the classroom door and welcome students into their classroom by name and help each student prepare for their school day. Students are not to line up outside the classroom door/in the hallway for any period of time between 7:20 am and 7:40 am. Teachers are to maintain supervision of all students (inside classroom and/or at the classroom entrance threshold) during this time.

- Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance, and Announcements will begin promptly at 7:40 am. Once the bell rings, teachers are to prepare students for announcements. Students and teachers stand engaged for the prayer and pledge and remain silent and attentive to the remainder of announcements.
- Teachers and students are to begin their educational day beginning with Schoolwide Religion at the 7:45 am bell.

DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

Dismissal begins at 2:15PM. Each class will be escorted by the teacher to the appropriate lot. At dismissal, please pull stadium style into the designated lot for the youngest/only child in the family. Please remain in the car and follow school staff directions for dismissal.

Front of School & Lot #2 (Lot next to gym):

Grades PreK - 1st

Lot #3 (across from the gym lot): Grades 2, 3 & 4

Lot #4 (playground lot): Grades 5, 6, 7 & 8

Effective dismissal procedures are essential to student safety, supervision, and school order. Dismissal is a high-traffic transition involving multiple forms of transportation and many adults entering or leaving the school area. A consistent schoolwide dismissal plan helps ensure that every student is accounted for, released only through approved procedures, and supervised until safely transferred to a parent, guardian, bus, aftercare program, or authorized activity. Clear routines also reduce confusion, protect instructional time, support positive student behavior, and strengthen parent confidence in the school's ability to maintain a safe and orderly environment.

SECTION ONE

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Your child must be five years old on or before September 1st before he/or she can attend school for that school year.

You must provide the school with a birth certificate and, if Roman Catholic and NOT Baptized at SS. Cyril and Methodius Parish, a baptismal certificate at the time of registration.

Registration fees and ALL school fees must be paid prior to the start of school. Tuition must be paid on time, or a late fee will be charged. (Please see contracts for all details regarding the Tuition payment)

TRANSPORTATION

KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN, WHO LIVE WITHIN DISTRICT 113 MAY TAKE THE BUS TO AND FROM SCHOOL.

HEALTH

When you received your welcome letter, you were given a physical and dental examination form.

THESE FORMS MUST BE COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BEFORE THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. NO STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND OR START THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL WITHOUT THE PROPER MEDICAL RECORDS ON FILE. EVERY STUDENT HAS A CUMULATIVE AND MEDICAL FOLDER.

Please be sure to assess your child's health daily. If your child is sick or exhibiting any symptoms (ie runny nose, sore throat, vomiting, fever, etc.) PLEASE keep them home!!

WHEN YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT

Procedures:

1. Call the school office prior to 7:15AM if your child will be absent.
2. If you know your child will be absent the following day, please send a note to the office and contact your teacher.
3. For early dismissal a call or a note must come into the school office.
4. If your child is exhibiting two or more symptoms, or is running a temperature, please have a doctor's note/assessment prior to returning to school.

SAFETY

Your child's welfare and safety are very important to us. You can assure this safety by having your child follow these simple rules:

1. Your child should know his/her full name, address, and telephone number, including area code.
2. Your child should know that he/she can only go home with you or a designated guardian. (PLEASE INFORM THE TEACHER IF SOMEONE BESIDES YOURSELF OR A DESIGNATED GUARDIAN IS PICKING UP YOUR CHILD)
3. Your child should know the safest and shortest route to and from school or bus stop.
4. Your child cannot cross the street without the supervision of a parent or teacher. Please always remind your child that he/she should look both ways when crossing the street.

BUS SAFETY

1. Stay seated while on the bus.
2. Move away from the bus quickly after getting off.

REPORT CARDS

Parents will receive a written evaluation **THREE** times a year, beginning in **NOVEMBER**. Parent/Teacher conferences will be held in November.

A NEW START

If your child is not familiar with SS. Cyril and Methodius School, try to visit the school, meet with the teacher, know his/her name, and let your child know that this is a school where he/she is an important person. Familiarize your child with the school grounds before the beginning of school. Help your child look forward to school. Talk about it in a friendly way so your child will think of it as a happy place. Discuss school activities, school friends, new experiences, and new things to learn.

If your child expresses doubts or fears, do not pass them off. Try to answer all the questions in a positive, reassuring way and let your child know that there will be friendly people to help on those first uncertain days.

When you bring your child to school on the first day, reassure him/her briefly that you will see him at the close of class. **DO NOT LINGER!**

Should your child cry, we ask that you leave anyway. The tears subside when activity begins. If we need your assistance, we will telephone you.

GOALS

IN THE SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS KINDERGARTEN, WE ENDEAVOR TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING:

- TO HELP THE CHILD FEEL GOOD ABOUT HIS/HER, TO DEVELOP A POSITIVE SELF-CONCEPT.
- TO CHANNEL THE CHILD'S NATURAL CURIOSITY BY ALLOWING HIM/HER TO CREATE, MANIPULATE, DISCOVER AND COMMUNICATE.
- TO FOSTER EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL STIMULATE THE ABILITIES OF EACH CHILD.
- TO HELP THE CHILD KNOW THAT THE TEACHERS AND PARENTS ARE INTERESTED IN HIS/HER DEVELOPMENT AND ARE WORKING TOGETHER FOR IT.
- TO PROVIDE THE CHILD WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THE SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE.
- TO PROVIDE A SETTING IN WHICH EACH CHILD CAN ACCEPT HIS /HER LIMITATIONS.
- TO DEVELOP THE ABOVE BY PATIENTLY WORKING WITH THE CHILD AT HIS/HER OWN PACE WHEREBY THROUGH EXAMPLE AND GUIDANCE THE CHILD WILL EXPERIENCE A CHRIST-LIKE ATMOSPHERE AND A SENSE OF BELONGING AND FEELING COMFORTABLE IN SCHOOL.

SECTION TWO

CURRICULUM

We have a pre-academic program that follows the Archdiocese of Chicago guidelines in reading, mathematics, social studies, religion, art, music, PE, and science which stimulates a desire to learn. The readiness activities in kindergarten are an integral part of the total school program. Before a child can learn to read, he/she must acquire readiness skills. The Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) Reading Series program will be used for reading, supplemented by Wilson FUNdations.

RELIGION

A Catholic School education places Jesus in the center of life and faith, and in kindergarten, this attitude and value is shared with the children. Emphasis is placed in Christian ideals, caring, sharing, loving, helping, and the building of an impression of Jesus. He was like us and everyday human needs are related to stories of Jesus' life. Religion includes songs, stories, workbook pages for coloring and pencil activities. We attend Mass as a school family each week.

KINDERGARTEN ACTIVITIES

Each kindergarten activity has an educational purpose. These activities are enjoyable learning experiences which are appropriate for five-year olds, and help him/her grow physically, socially, intellectually, and emotionally.

CLASSROOM TREATS, CANDY, AND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

At SS. Cyril and Methodius School, we value celebrating our students and the special milestones that make our school community joyful. At the same time, we are committed to fostering healthy habits, maximizing instructional time, and maintaining a safe environment for all students, including those with food allergies and dietary restrictions.

To support these goals, teachers may not distribute candy to students as classroom treats or rewards during the school day unless prior approval has been granted by school leadership. We encourage teachers to recognize and celebrate students through non-food rewards, positive reinforcement, and classroom privileges that support our educational mission while minimizing disruptions to learning.

For the health and safety of all members of our school community, all birthday treats must be commercially prepared, individually packaged, and free of common allergens, as determined by the school. Homemade treats may not be distributed. Families are encouraged to contact their child's teacher in advance to coordinate birthday celebrations and confirm that the selected treats meet school guidelines.

We appreciate the partnership of our families and faculty in helping us create celebrations that are joyful, inclusive, safe, and respectful of every student's needs while keeping our primary focus on learning.

Finally, please do not send birthday invitations to school unless the entire class is invited.

LUNCH/SNACK

Provide a good breakfast for your child. Lunch should be brought to school in a bag or lunch container. We will not heat or refrigerate bag lunches or snacks. Show your child how to open and close a new lunch box, thermos, and juice box or bag. Please supply 1 drink and 1 small snack each day. We usually have snacks around 9:15 each day. Soda and candy are not appropriate snacks. Please label lunch boxes with the first and last name. The snack should be sent in a separate paper bag and not included with lunch food. The snack should also have your child's name on the bag.

QUIET TIME

Quiet time will be provided every day after lunch. This will be a short period of time for the children to relax, enjoy a story, listen to classical music, or look at a book.

NEWSLETTERS

The school newsletter contains valuable information about programs, school dates and activities. ALL SCHOOL NEWS IS SENT HOME VIA VRE. AN EMAIL ADDRESS IS REQUIRED SO THAT YOU CAN RECEIVE INFORMATION FROM THE SCHOOL. THIS INFORMATION IS SENT OUT EVERY THURSDAY. Kindergarten Newsletters will also be sent home.

SECTION THREE

PARTICIPATION IN THE PARENT SCHOOL ORGANIZATION (PSO)

Your support in the Parent School Organization will be important to your child from the very beginning of his/her school life. Through this organization you will work with other parents and with the school personnel to promote the best interests of your child.

HOW PARENTS CAN BE HELPFUL

1. Encourage regular attendance.
2. Be consistent in dealing with your child. Make reasonable demands and expect them to be met. The same reaction should be consistently given for a definite type of behavior.
3. Share your child's interest in the work done. Praise your child when he/she is deserving. Encourage your child to try harder when his/her work is not praiseworthy.
4. Share your child's ideas and activities. Take time to listen to and be interested in what your child says to you.
5. Help your child learn to take care of his/her belongings by putting toys in their place after play, cleaning up after play, and taking care of clothing.
6. Encourage your child to use a tissue when your child coughs or sneezes.
7. Practice proper bathroom skills.
8. Encourage the use of "please," "thank you" and "I'm sorry."
9. Teach your child to listen quietly while others are speaking.
10. Provide opportunities to use crayons, scissors, paints, blocks, etc.

11. Help your child develop the habit of promptness.
12. Speak clearly and carefully to your child.
13. Communicate often with the teacher, read all school publications carefully, and know what your child is studying.
14. Put all notes to school personnel in your child's RED HOT NEWS FOLDER. Do not rely on your child to deliver an oral message to his/her teacher.
15. Have boots large enough so that your child can put them on unassisted.
16. Bring your small problems to us before they grow into larger ones.
17. Send your child with his school bag and RED HOT NEWS FOLDER EVERY DAY. Please check and empty the folder daily.
18. When your child is absent from school, a note must be sent when he/she returns explaining his/her absence.
19. If your child is a bus rider and for some reason your child will not be riding the bus home, please send a note informing the teacher that day.
20. Be sure your child leaves any unnecessary trinkets, toys, and jewelry at home.
21. It is important that the teacher knows which name your child goes by, and how you want it spelled.
22. Whenever money is sent to school, please put it in a sealed envelope with your child's name, amount, and purpose for the money printed on the front.
23. Your child will be bringing home a variety of projects, so you may want to designate a special place to post or display them.

AMENDMENTS TO THE HANDBOOK

SS. Cyril and Methodius and/or the principal retain the right to amend this Handbook for just cause with or without notice. The school will attempt to keep parents promptly informed of all changes made to this Handbook. However, some changes may have to be made immediately due to unforeseen circumstances and to meet the needs of the students.

We are looking forward to a GREAT year!!

WELCOME to
SSCM Kindergarten 😊