



SS. CYRIL AND METHODIUS
2026/27
PRESCHOOL HANDBOOK

SSCM



Faith, Family...Future!

www.school.steyril.org

2019 National
Blue Ribbon School

SS. CYRIL & METHODIUS

607 Sobieski St.

Lemont, IL 60439

Phone: 630-257-6488

Fax: 630-257-6465

Attendance: Ext. 10

Principal: Mr. Daniel Turney

P3 Teacher: Mrs. Kelsey Grennell

P4 Teacher: Mrs. Paulina Strama

PRESCHOOL INFORMATION

Pre-K 3/4 ~ Monday - Friday ~ Full or Half Days

Start Time ~ Between 7:20 am and 8:15 am

Half Day Dismissal: 11:00am

Full Day Dismissal: 2:15pm

PK ARRIVAL 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."

- Pre-School drop-off will begin at 7:20 am and conclude at 8:15 am. All students who enter the building after 8:15 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 the entrance. Please note that parents will no longer walk their students to their classes. Parents will drop students off at the main entrance 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 Villasenor (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 foyer by name and guide each student to the Preschool hallway.

- PreK Instructional Aides and other support staff will be present in the foyer and hallway guiding students to their classroom and supporting them when and where needed.

- Between 7:20 am and 8:00 am, all Grade PK teachers 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 8:00 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's 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.

ABSENTEEISM

Procedures:

1. Call the school office prior to 7:00AM, if your child will be absent. The Attendance extension is 10.
2. If your child is ill, please call the office to discuss symptoms and discuss current COVID guidelines for returning to school.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar indicates specific holidays and teacher in-service days. Please note these days so that you can plan accordingly.

SAFETY

For his own safety and the safety of others, your child must know:

1. HIS/HER FULL NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER
2. ONLY CROSS THE STREET IN THE PRESENCE OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN, AND WHEN PROPERLY DISMISSED BY HIS/HER TEACHER.
3. LOOK BOTH WAYS WHEN CROSSING THE STREET.
4. NEVER ACCEPT RIDES OR TALK TO STRANGERS.
5. KNOWS WHAT TO DO IF HE/SHE SHOULD GET LOST.
6. THE DANGERS OF PLAYING IN THE STREET.

POTTY TRAINING EXPECTATIONS FOR PRESCHOOL (PK) STUDENTS

To help ensure a successful and positive preschool experience, all students enrolled in our PK program must be fully potty trained before their first day of school. Being potty trained means that a child can recognize when they need to use the restroom, communicate that need, use the toilet with minimal assistance, and manage their clothing and personal hygiene independently.

We understand that occasional accidents are a normal part of early childhood, and our faculty and staff will always respond with kindness, patience, and reassurance. If an accident occurs, staff members will provide verbal guidance and encouragement as the child changes into clean clothing independently.

For the safety of both students and staff, faculty and staff members are not permitted to change a child's clothing or assist with toileting in a manner that requires direct physical contact. Therefore, if a child is unable to change independently following an accident, a parent or designated guardian will be contacted and asked to come to school to assist their child.

We appreciate your partnership in helping your child develop these important self-care skills before entering preschool. These expectations allow our teachers to maintain a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment while promoting each child's growing independence.

CLOTHING

It is important to dress your child in comfortable washable play clothes that will adapt to food spills, paint, sand and water play. Velcro gym/tennis style shoes are recommended. No backless shoes, sandals, or crocs are acceptable.

Accidents can occur throughout the day. In order to be prepared, please place a zip lock baggie with two pairs of underwear, a pair of pants, a shirt, as well as one pair of socks in the bottom of your child's backpack in case your child needs to change his/her clothes.

Winter outerwear can pose a problem. If you are purchasing new clothing, look for the easiest on and off capabilities possible. I ask you to please label all articles of clothing that might be left at school, such as sweaters, coats, hats, gloves, boots, etc.

Please NO Dress up clothes that will interfere with using the bathroom.

We go outside all year. Please always send your child to school with appropriate outerwear and footwear.

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.

SNACKS

Please send your child to school with a snack, and (for full day) a lunch. Snacks should be nutritious options to ensure your child has the energy they need for their day. PLEASE DO NOT PUT JUICE IN THE WATER BOTTLES as they tend to leak. NO cans of pop will be allowed. Make sure all items are labeled with your child's name.

DISCIPLINE

Positive discipline encourages healthy development of a child's self-esteem. I will be calling attention to appropriate behavior to influence and reinforce the children in a positive manner. Sticker books and bucket fillers will be our reward system this year.

Our classroom rules stem from safety measures and respect for one another. The children will be a part of establishing and following our classroom rules throughout the year.

LETTER RECOGNITION/READING

Letter Recognition/Reading is covered in daily literacy centers which include activities that focus on letter recognition, handwriting activities, inventive spelling activities, sight word recognition, and pre reading through Jolly Phonics & Heggerty Early Childhood Phonics as well as videos by Jack Hartman.

MATH

Students receive the bulk of their math instruction during Calendar Time. At this time, we focus on number recognition, simple addition and subtraction, counting by ones, fives, and tens, and shape recognition. Daily mathematic center work is also completed which focuses on shapes, simple arithmetic, patterning, measuring, sorting, ten frames and number lines.

RELIGION

Religion class will offer your child exposure to Christian attitude and prayer. Much attention is given to creating positive self-image within the children. The name of our religion book is *Stories of God's Love*. We will also be learning four prayers throughout the year. Please use your own prayer time at home to practice these prayers with your child.

NAPTIME

We do have nap/quiet time every day. Students are allowed to bring a blanket or stuffed animal from home for this time. At no other time will toys from home be allowed in the classroom.

PRAYERS IN THE CLASS

BEGINNING PRAYER:

Jesus, help me all this day
In my work and in my play
Both to love and to obey, Amen

GRACE BEFORE MEALS:

Bless us, O Lord
and these thy gifts
which we are about to receive
from thy bounty
through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

HAIL MARY:

Hail Mary, full of grace
the Lord is with thee;
blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners
now and at the hour of our death. Amen

OUR FATHER:

Our Father, who are in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen

PRINTING

Please help your child to recognize his/her name in print. When teaching your child how to write his name, remember that just the first letter is a capital and the rest are small letters. We use the D'Nealian printing style, teaching both upper and lower - case letters.

WORKTIME - PLAYTIME

Social skills, creative thinking and fine and gross motor skills are utilized and further developed throughout this time. Your child will be exposed to a kitchen area, puzzles, games, playdough, stencils, beads, blocks and more. Your child is learning to use a variety of manipulative materials, to express himself with them, to care for school property, to follow directions, to take turns, to work and share with others, and to plan and carry projects to a conclusion.

STORYTIME

Story time is very important part of our preschool program. Your child will be read to on a daily basis. By listening to stories, the preschooler is learning to appreciate literature, develop an imagination, acquire a sense of humor, remember what he hears, and acquire a larger vocabulary. Also, to re-tell a story and recognize fiction/nonfiction.

NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters or important information will either be sent home by email or in their red folders. Please check folders daily. Homework will be sent home in folders also.

CLASSROOM VISITS AND PARTICIPATION

We will reach out if we need any parent volunteers or participation. You need to be Virtus approved to volunteer in the classroom/school. Please contact the school office for more information. Room mom and field trip chaperones will be needed this year.

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 PRE-K 😊