



*"Let the
little children
come to me"*



St. John

LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Ignite. Infuse. Inspire.

2016-2017

St. John Lutheran Early Childhood
261 Clay Street
Wrightstown, WI 54180

A Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten Ministry

of

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
437 Turner Street
Wrightstown, WI 54180

A Member of the
WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
SYNOD

A worldwide fellowship of believers,
united for the purpose of sharing the
Good News of Jesus Christ with all people.

(Revised 6-2015)

Philosophy

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” (Mt. 19:14). Here Jesus encourages parents to bring their children to his arms, to learn to know him, to be saved by him. We at St. John consider it a privilege to assist parents in bringing children to Jesus. Our purpose is to provide an “in the arms of Jesus” learning experience for the members of St. John Ev. Lutheran Church and the community.

Governance and Affiliation

St. John Lutheran Early Childhood, a part of St. John Lutheran School, is operated by St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church. The congregation’s elected Board of Christian Education supervises and sets policy for the school. These policies are administered by the principal, who also serves as a classroom teacher.

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church is affiliated with an international church body, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). Within the WELS are 345 elementary schools with 1900 teachers and 26,000 students. In addition, there are 396 early childhood ministries serving over 9300 young children.

Nondiscrimination Policy

St. John Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic background to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of any school-administrated programs.

Entry Requirements

The preschool program is designed for children two years away from Kindergarten. Children entering it do not need to meet an age requirement or pass an assessment, but should have achieved a basic level of potty training and be ready to learn. The pre-Kindergarten program is designed for children who are one year away from Kindergarten. This program has a high academic concentration; therefore, children entering this program are asked to take an assessment prior to entry. Children who have gone through the St. John preschool program will have completed the assessment during their school year. Children who are entering St. John at the pre-Kindergarten level will be asked to take the assessment during the summer to determine the level of readiness. It is possible for students to advance from preschool to pre-Kindergarten during the course of the school year.

Parents are asked to meet with staff prior to enrolling their child. An application, health forms, and emergency information needs to be filled out and a registration fee submitted to hold a spot. Speak with the principal to learn current fee rates.

Hours

Half-day, full-day, and extended care options are now available for both preschool and pre-Kindergarten students. Half-days begin at 8:00 am and run until 11:30. Full school days run from 8:00 am until 2:50 pm. Parents may drop students off up to ½ hour early or pick students up by 3:20 with no extra charge. Extended care is available until 5:00 pm. Children may attend three, four, or five days a week. Those who pick the three-day option are asked to choose either Monday, Wednesday, and Friday or Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Parents make pick the option best suited to their family or discuss with the teacher to determine the best fit. For the child's safety, the teacher is to be made aware of who is picking up the child.

School Year

The early childhood calendar follows the calendar of our elementary school, beginning in early September and ending in early June, as well as operating during a summer session which runs throughout June, July, and August. A detailed calendar showing vacations and other days off is published each spring and will be sent to each family in the annual summer letter.

Emergency Closing

Whenever the Wrightstown School District closes for weather or other emergencies, St. John School will also be closed. If the Wrightstown School District announces a two-hour delay, the early childhood programs will begin at 10:00. Parents of half-day students who do not wish to bring them in for the remaining hour and a half should call the school so that we are aware of the planned absence. Local media carry school closing information.

Tuition and Fees

Tuition is determined by our Board of Christian Education and is to be paid in full at the time of registration or in ten monthly installments. Other payment plans may be arranged with the Board for Christian Education. Parents may speak with the principal regarding scholarship funds to help pay tuition. Contact the school office for the current fee and tuition schedule.

Absences

Parents are asked to notify the school or their child's teacher before 8:00 am on any day they will be absent or late to school. Vacations will not result in a discount on tuition.

State Health Requirements

State law requires all school students to present evidence of immunizations against certain diseases within thirty days of admission. A health form is available from the school. Immunization requirements for early childhood are as follows:

4 DPT/DT	1 MMR	1 Varicella
3 Polio	3 Hepatitis B	

Illnesses, Medications, and Medical Care

We ask that parents keep their child at home whenever they are experiencing any communicable diseases. Children who are experiencing fevers above 100°, diarrhea, vomiting, undiagnosed rashes, or nasal drainage and coughing that go beyond a typical cold. Children should be symptom free or on medication for 24 hours before returning to school.

Medications may be brought to school for administration by the teachers. We ask that no medications, even over-the-counter meds, be left in the child's possession. Teachers will store medications out of reach and return them to the parents at the end of the day. Please make sure that teachers are aware of how to give medications and when the last dose was given. All medications should be in their original packaging.

Should an accident or medical emergency occur while your child is at school, teachers will use their best judgment in determining treatment. If necessary, emergency help will be contacted and children taken to the nearest medical facility. Parents will be contacted with any serious accident or sickness that occurs at school.

Behavioral Guidance

Teachers will seek to model and encourage Christian behavior. Children who have difficulty working with those around them will be supported in a variety of ways. Teachers will work to help children see what effect their actions are having on themselves and those around them and make good choices. Positive reinforcement and anticipation of difficulties will be used to avoid inappropriate behaviors. Redirection, natural and logical consequences, and time outs are among the techniques that may be used for negative conduct. Forgiveness will be modeled and verbalized. At no time will children be subject to physical, emotional, or verbal abuse, or withholding of essential needs. Children will not be restrained physically unless they present a threat to themselves or others. Parents will be notified of any major or ongoing behavioral problems.

Snack and Meal Times

Half-day students will have one snack during the morning. Full day students will have morning and afternoon snack as well as lunch. Parents are asked to contribute snacks and juice as part of their child's school supplies on a schedule given by their teacher, with the snacks then distributed throughout the year. A child may also make arrangements with the teacher to bring a special treat for his/her birthday. Please inform the teacher if your child has any food allergies.

Lunch should be provided by the parents on a daily basis with the exception of special hot lunch days once a month. Please make sure that lunches sent include a protein, grain, and two fruits and/or vegetables. Lunches should be able to be stored in your child's backpack; therefore insulated lunch boxes with ice containers are recommended. There is a microwave available in the classroom to accommodate food that needs to be warmed. Students will be encouraged to eat their healthy foods before snacks or treats at mealtimes.

Rest Times

Due to the young ages, rest times are scheduled every afternoon. At this age each child has different needs when it comes to naps and rest times. Please communicate whether you would like your child to read books quietly, sleep for only the time given, or sleep until they wake up. We will do our best to meet individual needs.

Clothing

Your child will be most comfortable in play clothes. Since the children often sit and play on the floor, it is a good idea for girls to wear leggings or tights under dresses during cooler weather. Please dress your child adequately for outdoor play during all seasons of the year. Since we encourage independence, be sure all outer clothing is easy to put on and take off. An extra set of clothes should be kept at school in case of accident or spills.

Goals

By the end of the preschool and pre-Kindergarten programs, all children should have some ability to meet the following achievements:

Spiritual:

- Express a simple, deep faith in their Savior

Literacy:

- Recognize and write upper and lowercase letters
- Understand phonics sound out words
- Recognize early sight words
- Rhyme
- Read basic emergent readers

Mathematics:

- Count by ones, twos, fives, and tens
- Recognize numbers
- Add and subtract small numbers
- Complete patterns
- Classify items
- Sequence items and stories

Motor Skills:

- Draw basic shapes
- Write letters and numbers
- Cut shapes

Social and Emotional:

- Express feelings and needs verbally
- Solve problems
- Take responsibility for actions and belongings
- Cooperate with others
- Hold focus on job at hand

Progress Reports

A written assessment of your child's progress in these and other goals will be sent home in fall and spring, both with opportunities for parent-teacher conferences. Additional conferences may be scheduled with your child's teacher at any time.

Program

Our daily program will provide young children with experiences that will help develop their spiritual, cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth. Preschool students will participate in the nationally recognized “We Can” curriculum. Pre-Kindergarten students will participate in a Kindergarten-level math and beginning reading curriculums. The following is a brief description of our program.

Religion: Our desire is for children to express a simple, deep faith in Jesus as their Savior. Bible stories, prayers, and songs will be taught and reinforced throughout the day so that children will learn spiritual truths and values. Law and Gospel will be the main focus of any discipline issue that arises.

Because it is our desire that parents know what we are teaching the children, you are sincerely invited to attend a brief (approximately four hour) Bible Information Course conducted by our pastor.

Play: Play is an important tool in learning at this young age. When playing together, children extend each other’s experiences, practice social give-and-take, learn cause and effect, and experience emotional growth. Several learning centers are set up in each classroom so that children can experiment with a variety of learning experiences and social situations.. We ask that additional toys are not brought from home, as many toys will be available and are geared towards a variety of learning aspects.

Art: Art activities are used to develop creativity, self-expression, knowledge of color and texture, fine muscle coordination and an appreciation for God-given abilities. Activities include cutting, pasting, coloring, painting, printing, tracing, and working with play-dough.

Mathematics: Early math skills addressed include number recognition, one-to-one counting, sorting, classification, patterning, and understanding of size and shape.

Science: Children will explore their physical environment through their five senses, develop cause and effect understanding, and perform basic experiments. Full-time students will have opportunities to participate in Einstein science kits and other science classes. An appreciation and respect for God's creation will be developed.

Language: Language develops quickly during the preschool years. Students will be encouraged in letter recognition, phonics, beginning reading, and writing as they show developmental ability. A love of books, self-expression, and speaking and listening skills will also be addressed.

Music: Music is an international language that appeals to children of all ages. Participation in songs, rhythm activities, experiencing instruments, and moving to music is not only a joy, but contributes to the development of coordination and listening skills.

Physical Development: Activities throughout the day will provide opportunities for both large motor (running, balancing, jumping, skipping, ect) and small motor (writing, cutting, manipulating small toys or playdough, ect.) play. Children will have opportunities to learn special awareness and directionality.

Social Studies: Children will be introduced to a variety of cultures and will be taught to appreciate differences and similarities in all of God's children. Emotional understanding, empathy, and respect will be stressed.

Technology: Age-appropriate, development-focused computer games and technology will be available on a limited basis. While early exposure to technology functions is helpful for students, social interactions and physical play is more important for this age group.

Field Trips: Multiple field trips will be taken during the school year. We ask that parents give thought to volunteering as a chaperone and driver for their child's field trip. Drivers will need to certify that they carry liability insurance on their vehicle.

Planning for Success in School

Parents continue to be the most important single factor in determining a child's success in school. There is no substitute for a strong family life. Some of the ways you can help your child are listed below.

- Assure that your child gets enough rest, exercise, and proper nutrition.
- Read stories to your child every day. After the reading, discuss the pictures and the story. Point out familiar letters and words. Include a good dose of old fashioned nursery rhymes, such as a Mother Goose collection.
- Regularly visit the library, take a field trip, and talk about discoveries as you walk down the street. All such activities broaden your child's understanding and arouse curiosity.
- Make pencil and paper available for writing and art.
- Build social and emotional competence. Encourage play with other children. Arrange for your child to stay for a reasonable period of time with adults outside the family. Do not then slip away from your child. Instead, say a clear good-bye, and tell him/her when you will return. Practice give and take, taking turns, empathy, and sharing.
- Encourage independence in routines. Allow your child to dress him/herself, perform toiletries, brush teeth, set the table, and complete other daily tasks. When help is needed, do one step and then let the child continue.
- To encourage language development, converse frequently with your child in standard English (no cute baby talk). Following each preschool session, encourage your child to share what was done at school. Be an attentive listener.
- Above all, pray for your child, attend church and Sunday school together, enjoy family devotions, and sing spiritual songs and hymns. Let Jesus be part of your daily conversation.

A child's development cannot be taught and it cannot be rushed, but parents are influential in supporting readiness.

Directory of Administration

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