



Dear Preschool Family,

The first day of school is Wednesday, August 30, 2023, with a student drop-in day on August 29, 1pm. Do note that students in preschool will have a slow start schedule (please see below). The class is held in the Preschool Rooms on the top floor of the Early Childhood Center (Quigley House). Please drop off all your student's supplies on August 29 when you come to see the classroom and meet your teacher(s). The list can be found below.

3- & 5-Day Morning Preschool

- The **3-day** per week session will be held Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays beginning Wednesday, August 30. Hours: 8:15-11:15am.
- The **5-day** per week session will be held Monday-Friday each week beginning Wednesday, August 30. Hours: 8:15-11:15am
- A detailed schedule can be found below.

5-Day Afternoon Preschool and PreK

- Students will attend class in the Preschool and PreK Rooms on the top floor of the Early Childhood Center from 12:15-3:15pm. Students will begin school on August 30, 2023.
- A detailed schedule can be found below.

Slow Start Schedule 2023-2024

| | Tuesday, 8/29 | Wednesday, 8/30 | Thursday, 8/31 | Friday, 9/1 | Monday, 9/4 |
|---------------------------------|---|--|--|---|-----------------------|
| 3 and 5 Day AM Preschool | Meet the teacher drop in day for ALL AM & PM students 1-3pm Bring all supplies today! | Ms. Castillo: 8:15-9:15am Last names A-I 9:30-10:30am Last names J-Z Ms. Baber & Ms. Monica: 8:15-9:15am last names A-M 9:30-10:30am Last names N-Z | All 5 Day AM students: 8:15-10am * no 3 Day students today | All 5 Day AM students: 8:15-10:30am * no 3 Day students today | School Not In Session |
| PM Preschool and PM PreK | Meet the teacher drop in day for ALL AM & PM 1-3pm Bring all supplies today! | School not in session for PM students Noon dismissal today | 2 groups Last name A-L: 12:15-1:15pm Last name M-Z: 1:45-2:45pm | All PM students 12:15-3:15pm | School Not In Session |

We hope you and your child are enjoying the summer and that you are ready to embark on an important milestone in your child's Preschool life. Preschool is a time of growing socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually. Our partnership will make this a wonderful year of growth for you and your child.

Meet the Preschool Teachers:

- Hello, Preschool Parents! My name is **Vanessa Castillo**, and I am one of the Preschool teachers! I have been working at St. John School for over 17 years. I've taught grades Preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade. I grew up in Costa Rica where I earned my Early Childhood degree with endorsements in English as a Second Language (ESL) and English Language Learners (ELL). I've also taught in New Mexico and Texas in both public and private schools. I'm very excited to teach some Spanish to your children. I am happy to be part of your child's journey this year and look forward to working with you as a team!
- Welcome to Preschool! My name is **Tasha Monica**, and I have the pleasure of teaching in the Preschool this year. This is my fourth year at St. John School, and previously I taught Pre-K for five years. I moved to Seattle in 2007 from Wisconsin, where I was born and raised. I am happy to call Seattle home now! I live with my husband in Magnolia, and we love to be outside and take road trips. My husband is a St. John graduate and has many wonderful memories from his time here. I am excited to be on this preschool journey with you and your child this year!
- My name is **Ali Baber**, and I feel so fortunate to be a part of such a hard-working, dedicated community of teachers here at St. John School. I live in Seattle with my husband, our twins and our two rescue fur babies. I love art, running outdoors and traveling adventures. I strive to create a warm classroom environment that promotes openness, mutual respect, support and inquiry. I feel honored that I get to walk this journey with you and your children in preschool! I look forward to partnering with each of you!

Take a moment to imagine the preschool work: letters, numbers, stories, sharing, puzzles, play, paint and playdough. Imagination and creativity are everywhere! As you talk with your child about their day and celebrate their best effort on the work they do, remember that many times the process is more important than the product, and learning is accomplished by doing and experiencing.

At this early stage of learning, it is important to set routines in your child's life. Try to set aside time each day to discuss what your child did in school. Also spend some time talking to them about separation.

It is typical for children to feel nervous about starting school even if in the past they have had no difficulty being dropped off. The beginning of a new routine can take some time to adjust. If your child was in another preschool class last year or if this will be your child's first preschool experience, it is important for them to feel safe and comfortable. Please read below for some tips that may help you and your child deal with separation.

How to Say Goodbye: Tips for Separating

- Develop a predictable goodbye routine.
- Whatever you decide, be consistent. Rituals reassure children. Always say goodbye!
- Even though it is tempting to want to sneak away while your children are occupied, please always say goodbye. Once you say goodbye, go.
- Prolonging the goodbye makes it harder for your child.
- Have confidence that your child is capable of a successful transition.
- Believe in your child; they can feel if you are nervous or worried. Be confident.

Arrival Procedures

- The school bell will ring at 8:15am/12:15pm, and we will walk as a class to the Quigley building to begin our day of learning.
- Teachers will meet you outside each morning and bring the students up to the classroom.
- If you arrive after 8:20am for AM class, or 12:20pm for PM class you will check in at the main office so the school notes that your child is on campus.

Pick Up Procedures

We will dismiss preschool classes at 11:15am and 3:15pm each day. To ensure the safety of children and families, each class will have a designated meeting spot for pickup. Please wait for the teacher to bring your child to you as we want to dismiss in an organized and safe way.

- If your child will be picked up by someone other than their immediate family, please let your child's teacher know ahead of time.
- If you will be picking up your child early, please check in at the main office and then pick up from Quigley.

Snack: Each child will bring their own lunchbox or bag with a snack and water bottle. Every day each child will be provided with a sanitized tray during snack time. Food will not be shared with others. Often preschool children are very hungry during the day, and we ask that they are provided with hearty and healthy options. We will not be able to heat up any food; please include an ice pack.

- **Please note: we are a peanut / tree nut free preschool.**
- If your child attends XDC, please pack a separate snack for our preschool class time. Students will need a snack for our designated snack time in preschool that is separate from XDC. Often students will eat all their food during XDC and will not have any snacks left for our snack time. It may be easier to pack a separate snack and label it, so students know which item(s) is for class time.

Communication: Each Friday your child's teacher will email a class newsletter that shares the objectives, experiences and the "ah-ha" moments that our class enjoyed that week. This newsletter will also contain upcoming events, dates and other important information.

Each Thursday evening you will receive NewsViews, the school's weekly newsletter. Be sure to read each edition to stay informed on the events and updates pertaining to the entire school/parish community.

Attendance: If your child is absent for any reason – illness, vacation, appointments, et. – inform the school via [attendance](#) or an [email to Mrs. Q.](#), administrative assistant.

First Days: Tuesday, August 29, 2023 will be a student drop-in day. Bring all your student's classroom supplies, see the classroom, ask any questions you have and meet your teacher!

The first day of preschool will begin on Wednesday, August 30, 2023. Please dress your preschool student in "play clothes" and athletic shoes (velcro / slip on) every day. Please save the sandals and fancy dress up shoes for home. No laces, please! We will get dirty! We will go outside (rain or shine!) and will be painting, gluing, etc. Preschool tends to be messy.

Helping your Child Feel Independent: Coming to preschool is an important milestone in your child's life. We will encounter many new experiences. One of our goals is to help your student become a responsible and independent learner. Each student will be asked to carry their own bag and to hang up his or her jacket and change their shoes by themselves. Please do not worry if your child needs help; we will practice. I am sure you

agree that hearing your child say, "I can do it all by myself!" is a great feeling. Thank you very much for helping your child grow.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns about the first week, or at any time during the school year. More information will come home the first week, but don't hesitate to contact us if you need anything. The best way to reach us is by email:

Ali Baber: ababer@st-johnschool.org

Tasha Monica: tmonica@st-johnschool.org

Vanessa Castillo: vcastillo@st-johnschool.org

We look forward to seeing you in August, and invite you to the [Summer 2023 Playdates](#).

Warmly,
Mrs. Baber, Ms. Castillo, Mrs. Monica

School Supplies: Please bring all school supplies with you on Student Drop In Day, Tuesday, August 29, 1pm.

Ms. Castillo's Students:

- Complete change of clothes (undies, socks, pants, shirt) - labeled and restock as needed
 - If your child attends XDC, please pack a separate change of clothes to be left in their XDC cubby
- Hard plastic pencil box (this will contain their own personal supplies) - labeled
- Family picture for our classroom family wall; it does not have to be professional
- Current 4x6 photo of your child's face (upper body included is okay)
- One backpack that is big enough to fit a folder, snack and water bottle each day
- 100 stickers - any type!
- 1 box of Band-Aids - colorful or characters are best (last names A-L)
- 2 packs of wet wipes (last names M-Z)
- Comfort kit: see details below
- Water bottle - labeled and filled with fresh water daily. Please no juice or milk.
- Daily healthy snack packed in a lunch bag or box with an ice pack
 - Peanut / Tree Nut free

PM students, please label your child's PM class snack so they don't eat it before class during their lunchtime.

Ms. Baber & Ms. Monica's Students:

- Rain boots - labeled
- Full rain suit - labeled
- Complete change of clothes (undies, socks, pants, shirt) - labeled and restock as needed
 - If your child attends XDC, please pack a separate change of clothes to be left in their XDC cubby
- One backpack that is big enough to fit a folder, snack and water bottle each day
- Family picture for our classroom family wall; it does not have to be professional
- Current 4x6 photo of your child's face (upper body included is okay)
- A pair of inside non-skid slippers (no shoes) that are easy for your child to put on and take off themselves and to be kept in the classroom.
 - The indoor non-skid slippers will only be worn in the classroom to prevent dirt and germs from the outside. This will keep our classroom cleaner and since children spend much of their day on the carpet or floor (playing and learning) we want to keep the floors as clean and sanitary as possible. At the end of each day your child will leave their non-skid slippers in their cubby for the next day

- 100 stickers - any type!
- 1 box of Band-Aids - colorful or characters are best (last names A-L)
- 1 bottle Method all-purpose cleaner refill size - any scent (last names M-Z)
- Comfort kit: see details below
- Labeled Water bottle filled with fresh water each day. Please no milk or juice.
- Daily healthy snack packed in a lunch bag or box with an ice pack
 - Peanut / Tree Nut free
 - PM students, please label your child's PM class snack so they don't eat it before class, during lunchtime.

Please label all items with your child's name so they can be returned to you if lost.

Comfort Kit (Earthquake and Disasters) - New Family Only: St John requests that each child have has their own comfort kit in case of an Earthquake or disaster. This kit will be kept in the emergency shed and will help calm your child and keep them comfortable while waiting to be picked up.

If your child has one from the previous year, you will not need to send in a new one this year.

Please include the following items inside a gallon Ziplock bag labeled with your child's name:

- A small working flashlight (please include batteries loose in the bag)
- A stocking cap
- Small package of wet wipes
- 2 family photos 4x6
- 1 page written comfort / love letter to your child
- 1 pair of socks
- 1 small plastic drinking cup