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# Kindergarten & PreSchool Orientation

**St. Benedict School**

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*Candace Wallace, Principal*

*May 15, 2017*



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Dear Parents:

Welcome to St. Benedict School. We are pleased that you have chosen SBS to begin your child's lifelong journey of learning. Entering a new school is a special time for your child, and for you, and SBS is a special place. We strive to provide the best academic education that includes Twenty First Century learning experiences, as well as foundational basics of Literacy, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies.. First and foremost, however, is that our educational practices and daily journey of learning are faith-based and rooted in the Catholic values that we hold true. Our students enter high school with the advantage of a superior academic education, as well as an understanding of the tenets of our faith. They are doubly blessed.

The packet and presentation provided should give you a good indication of the daily routines for your child. We are excited to begin this journey with you and your child. Please feel free to call the office with additional questions.

Sincerely,

Candace Wallace  
Principal

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## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

- School hours for Kindergarten are 8:00 am - 2:15 pm
- School hours for PreK are:
  - 5 FULL DAYS/3 FULL DAYS: 8:15 am - 2:00 pm
  - 5 HALF DAYS: 8:15 - 11:00 a.m.
- Kindergarten Orientation will be on Tuesday, September 5th. Details will be forthcoming.
- The first day of school for Kindergarten will be Wednesday, September 6th. It is an early dismissal day so dismissal is 12:15 pm. The first full day of school for Kindergarten is Thursday, September 7th, with regular dismissal at 2:15 pm.
- Kindergarten Students (there is no bussing for PreK) who are bussed must be at the stop at least 5 minutes before their assigned pick-up. At the end of the day parents must be waiting at the stop for drop off at the assigned time.
- Kindergarten Students who are car riders must be dropped off between 7:30 and 8:00 am. We have a CAR LINE that begins at the entrance on Hillcrest. The car line moves to the front of the building where there will be teachers and aides to help them disembark. PLEASE DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAR. Someone will come and open the door and help the students out. For the first few days there will be Grade 8 Ambassadors who will walk the students to the gym or their classrooms. Students will be held in the gym until 7:45 am, and are then released to their classrooms. At the end of the day parents should park their cars and walk to the small courtyard by the church entrance. Students will be walked out by their teachers and handed off to parents or designees.
- There is no PreK Orientation. The first full PreK day will be Thursday, September 7th.
- PreK students will be dropped off at the door at the end of Wing 2. Aides will be at the doors to bring the students to class. Please say goodbye at the outside doors. I promise that they will be well cared for and happy once they get into their classrooms. It is a hard transition, often hardest for the parents. Students will be released at the same door at 11:00 am (half days) or 2:00 pm. Please park alongside the entrance, and wait at the entrance for the children to be dismissed. Children will be released one-by-one to their parents or designees.
- A form will be completed that designates those people who are allowed to pick up students. No student will be handed off to an adult who is not listed on that form.
- If you are dropping off or picking up your child at an off time, you must park in the lot and walk into the building to sign your child in or out. Students can be dismissed up until 1:45 pm. Any student remaining in the school at 1:45 will be dismissed at the regular time.

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- Please make sure to label all of your child's belongings to avoid loss.
  - UNIFORMS - K students have the regular uniform items. PreK will have the option of a relaxed assigned uniform or street clothes. You can buy items through Flynn O'Hara in Holmdel, and there is a uniform swap closet where you can find items for no cost.
  - VIRTUS Training and Criminal Background Check - All parents should proceed with the background check and VIRTUS training BEFORE September. Only parents who have this training can be volunteers and chaperones for the classes.
  - LUNCH - Kindergarten - bring or buy lunch and milk daily. A small, healthy snack should be sent in for daily snack time.
  - LUNCH - PreK - bring or buy lunch and milk daily - Classroom Aides will pick up bought lunches from cafeteria and deliver them to classrooms. Students will eat snacks and lunch in the classrooms. A small, health snack and drink should be sent in for daily snack time.
  - EXTENDED DAY - PreK and Kindergarten students can be dropped off for before care at 6:30 am. at Door #11 in the back of the building. At 7:30 am Kindergarten students will be directed into the gym, and PreK students will be escorted to their classrooms where the teachers and aides will be waiting.

## **COMMUNICATION**

- Each family will receive 2 St. Benedict School email addresses. They will be of this format: (lastname)p1.stbenedictnj.org  
(lastname)p2.stbenedictnj.org  
All communication, alerts, and information will be sent using only these email addresses.
- We have the HONEYWELL ALERT SYSTEM. You will receive information for access and set up soon.
- Remember to check your child's backpack and lunchbox daily for Class News.
- A weekly school newsletter is sent via email for information.
- Daily notification of any transportation changes will be done by accusing the "Transportation Changes" form on the website, or by sending a note to the teacher with your child.

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- Requests for early dismissal must be made in writing to the teacher, and the child must be picked up NO LATER THAN 1:45 pm. Any child remaining in school after 1:45 pm will be dismissed with the rest of the school at 2:15 pm.
  - WEBSITE - [www.stbenedictholmdel.org](http://www.stbenedictholmdel.org)
  - FACEBOOK - Accessible from the website, up to the minute information, reports, and pictures. Check it daily!
  - CALENDAR - District calendars are accessible through the website. We are a Google based directory of calendars.

### **TIPS FOR A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO PREK/K**

#### Before School Begins:

- Establish bedtime and wake-up routines a couple of weeks before the first day of school.
- Practice drop-off or bus routines.
- Practice pick up routines.
- Provide social situations for your child that will build your child's sense of independence and competence. Build up time away from you.
- Let your child show what they can do. Encourage him/her to get dressed by independently.
- Encourage him/her to be responsible for his/her own things.
- Practice opening items you will be sending in lunch box.
- For Kindergarten: phase out nap-time. Wean from comfort items.
- Go easy on afterschool activities until your child had adjusted to the new routine.
- Practice! Role-play situations that your child has expressed anxiety about.

#### The first day:

- Be on time.
- Give a cheerful "Good-Bye", and drive away. This is not a day to linger.
- Remember: tears are not unusual.
- Don't share your anxiety or sadness with him or her.
- Be on time after school.
- Create a tradition for the first day of school.

#### Every day:

- Be on time for drop-off and pick-up.
- Go easy on afterschool activities until your child had adjusted to the new routine.
- Communicate concerns and seek clarification.
- Continue to practice or role-play new situations.

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- Encourage competence and independence.

**PREK**  
READINESS

1. Manage his/her bathroom needs.
2. Able to understand directions.
3. Use scissors appropriately.

PreK SUPPLY LIST and CURRICULUM will be forthcoming at a later date. The daily routine will be established and published along with further details on the PreK webpage in late June for your review.

**KINDERGARTEN**  
READINESS

Your child should:

1. Be able to recognize own name and begin writing with lower case letters.
2. Attempt to hold pencil correctly.
3. Be able to recognize some letters and their respective sounds - Play "find the letter game while riding in the car, shopping...Write letters in the sand at the beach. Have a "letter day" (select food, video, book beginning with a letter).
4. Be able to count to ten - Count the steps in your house, count how many red (any color) cars (also good for color identification).
5. Practice right and left - Have your child help you set the table. When he/she needs a shoe ties, ask which side?
6. Recognize rhyming words.
7. Understand that actions have both causes and effects – Discuss stories being read, videos, and TV shows.
8. Recognize the colors – Help with laundry – find all the blue shirts, white socks, look for cars on the road, houses...
9. Understand left to right progressions – be sure to follow reading a story with your finger under the words.
10. Cut with scissors on a line.
11. Manage his/her bathroom needs.
12. Be able to put on and off his/her coat.

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13. Button and zip.
  14. Be able to control oneself.
  15. Understand that Liturgy is a quiet time to be with God.

## **SUPPLY LIST**

- Backpack
- Smock (Dad's t-shirt works best)
- Tissues
- Zip-lock baggies (all sizes – even Jumbo)
- Paper Towels
- Baby Wipes
- Disinfectant Wipes (Clorox or Lysol)
- Box of Band-Aids

## **CURRICULUM**

### **Religion** – “Faith First” - RCL

- A. Prayers – Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Grace Before Meals
- B. God's gifts of creation, family, friends, teachers and neighbors
- C. Jesus' life
- D. Liturgical Seasons (Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter) and Holy Days
- E. Introduction to the Mass

### **Reading Readiness** –“Journeys” – Houghton-Mifflin/Harcourt

- A. Letter Recognition Aa – Zz
- B. Analyzing different texts
- C. Initial, Medial, and Final Sounds
- D. Blending sounds to form words, using words to form sentences, reading short stories (fiction and informational) independently and writing simple sentences.
- E. Identifying high-frequency words
- F. Listening Skills

### **Math** – “Progress in Math” - Sadlier

- A. Shape recognition (Plane & Solid figures) and Parts of a Shape
- B. Classifying & Sorting Objects (More or less)
- C. Patterns
- D. Numeral recognition (1-31)
- E. Matching, Counting & Comparing Sets of: (0-31)

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- F. Counting 0 – 100
  - G. Telling Time – to the hour, analogue & digital
  - H. Money – recognition of coins and counting coins
  - I. Simple addition – sums to 10
  - J. Simple subtraction – facts to 10
  - K. Weights & Measurements

### **Science – Harcourt School Publishers**

Introduction: Senses and scientific inquiry

- A. Living and non-living things: Plants and Animals
- B. Habitats
- C. Earth, water, weather, caring for the Earth
- D. Earth and Space – day and night skies
- E. Matter & Energy – states of matter, properties of matter
- F. Motion – gravity, magnets

### **Social Studies**

- A. Sense of self (All About Me)
- B. Community Helpers
- C. Responsibility
- D. Government
- E. Maps and Globes – Arctic/Antarctic
- F. Holidays

All subject areas are approached through the use of sensory materials and manipulatives. Various modes of instructions are used to reach each child's diverse learning style. We encourage creativity and discovery, nurture spiritual growth and enhance self-esteem.