

Parent Handbook 2026-2027

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten. We are excited to have you and your child in our program this year!! We want to come alongside you to give your child the best preparation for life, in an environment filled with God's love. As parents, you play a vital role in the success of your child at school. This handbook is designed to help you understand our program, its mission, and the guidelines under which we operate. You are always welcome to visit, ask questions, and make suggestions. Cooperation between parents and staff will contribute to a successful experience for your child. Our church values children and believes in families. We sponsor this weekday early education program as a ministry of the church to provide a learning environment that will help preschoolers grow as Jesus grew. *"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* (Proverbs 22:6). Every school year brings challenges and hurdles as we strive to keep every child and staff member healthy and safe. Policies and procedures can change daily as we comply with all state regulations and mandates. You will be notified of all changes through email, "Remind", and in writing sent home in your child's communication folder. Communication is key, and we want you to be informed as we work together for a safe, healthy, and fun year.

—Sharon Johnson, EC Preschool & Kindergarten Director

Our Mission and Ministry Statement

St. John Lutheran Preschool & Kindergarten is the place where a strong foundation is built upon the cornerstone, Jesus Christ. It is a place where transitions can occur in a nurturing environment. We assist parents in the education of their children, providing age-appropriate activities for academic, social, emotional, physical and spiritual development. Our goal is to bring young children into a relationship with a God who loves them unconditionally and who desires them to be all He created them to be. We want to connect them with Jesus, so they can connect with others and change the world. Our Christian teachers share knowledge with them but also model Christian living in the process of nurturing and loving them. The children also enjoy the arts and technology. We want to come alongside you to give your child the best preparation for life, in an environment filled with God's love. We would love to be part of the educational foundation for your young child. **Our Mission Statement: Connect with Jesus, Connect with Others, Change the World.**

Philosophy/Purpose

St. John Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten (SJPS&K) is a ministry to young children and their families in our church and community. As members of the Family of God, we share our faith and joy in Christ by nurturing the spiritual, physical, social, emotional, language and cognitive development of each unique child of God in a safe, healthy, and loving environment. The value of early education is now recognized as one of the most important parts of the child's educational life, if not the most important. It is in these early years that good attitudes are formed, beginnings of skills developed, concepts built basic to all fields of knowledge, and love of learning instilled. Good early childhood experiences will surely help children now and develop strength and stability for the future. SJPS&K provides an educational program of the highest quality in tune with the child's age, developmental needs and the importance of play. By using the Christian-based curriculum "*Wee Learn*", we are promoting hands-on experiences that are meaningful to the young child. This curriculum guide is developed around themes that provide opportunities for children to learn about God's world and how to live in it. The themes are designed to help lay a foundation for understanding God, Jesus, the Bible, the church, self, community and world, and creation. A child's growth and development is viewed as a process, not an event. Our goal is to give each child an opportunity to grow as God intends, he should grow at his own pace with a concept of God and the whole world around them. We are always open to your suggestions, involvement, evaluations, and constructive opinions regarding policies, curriculum, and better communication.

Policies, Goals, Regulations & Requirements

SJPS&K functions by monthly tuition of the children enrolled. In order that the program can operate more effectively and efficiently, the following policies and goals were set by the Director, and the Board of Directors of St. John Lutheran Church.

General Program

The operating hours for St. John Preschool and Kindergarten are from 9:00A-2:00P daily with “XTRA” hours from 7:00A-9:00A and 2:00P- 3:00P. Months of operation-Late August-Mid May.

Standards

Our program has been granted a license to operate by the City of Mansfield and the State of Texas and is inspected regularly by the Tarrant County Health Department, the Mansfield Fire Department, and Texas Child Care Licensing. St. John Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten admit students of any race, religion, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate based on race, color, national or ethnic origin.



Supply List

Please bring these supplies by the 1st day. The school will replenish supplies as needed.

18- month Classes

- 6 glue sticks (purple)
- 1 box of washable watercolor paints with small paint brush
- 1 bottle of Elmer's glue
- 1 package of hand wipes
- 1 small count of white card stock
- Disposable Diapers & Wipes (**You will need to replenish when asked by the teacher**)
- Refillable and/or Reusable Water Bottle (with child's name) & Nap Mat

2- year-old Classes

- 8 count- boxes of LARGE Crayola Crayons
- 6 glue sticks (purple)
- 1 pair of **age-appropriate** scissors
- 1 box of washable watercolor paints with small paint brush
- 1 bottle of Elmer's Glue
- 1 package of hand wipes
- 1 gallon size baggies/**or** 1 disinfectant wipes
- Disposable Diapers & Wipes (**You will need to replenish when asked by the teacher**)
- Refillable and/or Reusable Water Bottle (with child's name) & Nap Mat

3- year-old & 4-year-old Classes (Pre-K)

- Pencil Box
- 24 count- box of REGULAR Crayola crayons
- 10-count- box of classic washable Crayola markers
- 6 glue sticks (purple)
- 1 pair of **age-appropriate** scissors
- 1 box of washable watercolor paints with small paint brush
- 1 bottle of Elmer's Glue
- 1 package of hand wipes
- 1 gallon size baggies
- Refillable and/or Reusable Water Bottle (with child's name) & Nap Mat

Kindergarten- Kindergarten will NOT need a sleep mat

- Pencil Box
- Backpack (Kindergarten will not use the tote bags)
- 12 #2 Pencils
- 2 Composition Journals
- 24 count- box of REGULAR Crayola crayons
- 10-count- box of classic washable Crayola markers
- 6 glue sticks (purple)
- 1 pair of **age-appropriate** scissors
- 1 box of washable watercolor paints with small paint brush
- 1 bottle of Elmer's Glue
- 1 package of hand wipes
- 1 gallon size baggies
- 4 pack of Expo markers
- Refillable and/or Reusable Water Bottle (with child's name)

Enrollment Information: The following forms are required for admission:

		Purpose
	Checklist	For our records
	Enrollment Record -Front & Back (blue)	General information and important names and phone numbers of people we can contact in case we cannot reach you. Licensing requires two names and numbers, even if they are located out of town. Photo/Video Release, Directory Information and Handbook Acknowledgement.
	Automatic Payment/Withdrawal Form w/ Instructions	Monthly tuition payments are paid through our automatic payment system using credit card/debit card, or bank account withdrawals. Full year (due 7/30) payment plans can be paid with cash, check, or credit/debit card and receive a discount. <u>The first automatic payment will be processed within the first 15 days of August or the first week of school for children beginning after school starts.</u>
	Emergency Authorization (beige)	Serves as an authorization for emergency medical care if your child needs immediate medical care and we cannot reach you.
	Medical Form (white) <u>**MUST be renewed EACH year!</u>	Required by the state to maintain our license. We must have a signed release from your child's doctor stating that your child is in good health and is able to participate in our program prior to the first day of school. This form must be dated within 12 months of the first day of school for the 2024/2025 school year. Licensing requires all children 4 years old by September 1 to be screened for vision and hearing. This part of the form may be completed by your doctor or clinic.
	Emergency Food/Allergy Plan (orange)	Required by the state to maintain our license. We must have a signed food/allergy plan from your child's doctor for any allergy diagnosed by a physician. This plan must include what our staff should look for in case of a reaction and an action plan for our staff to follow. If your child has more than 1 allergy, you will need an allergy plan for EACH allergy. The office will provide more forms, if needed.
	Immunization Record (Copy from your doctor or clinic)	Please compare your child's record with the state requirement. If your child does not have the necessary immunizations, we will notify you. <u>NO CHILD BE PERMITTED TO BEGIN SCHOOL WITHOUT UPDATED IMMUNIZATIONS ON FILE. All 4-year-olds must have hearing & vision section complete.</u>
	Teacher's Information Sheet (yellow)	Personal information about your child will better enable the teacher to relate to your child and meet his or her needs. The teacher keeps this sheet in the classroom.
	XTRA Care Enrollment Contract (green)	The enrollment form for our before and after school program is for enrolled children only. <u>Must be turned in with your enrollment packet by August 1st.</u> <u>This is a first come, first serve since we have limited spots.</u>
	Volunteer Form (salmon)	Helps us to identify areas of interest for parents.

Curriculum

Our classes offer age-appropriate, hands-on activities which promote developmental skills. At the preschool level, we stress pre-reading and pre-writing activities. These are necessary in helping young children to develop the basic skills necessary to read and write. Since young children learn best when they are actively involved in their own learning, our curriculum offers experiences that eliminate the excessive use of worksheets.

Bible stories: During chapel & in class.

Learning Centers: Home living center, dolls, dress-up, puppets, block building, transportation toys, science, fine motor manipulatives and outdoor play.

Creative art: Painting, coloring, pasting, cutting, and modeling with playdough.

Health & Safety: Basic health practices, safety, and nutrition.

Music: Singing, action rhythm movement, music appreciation, rhythm band instruments and exercise. Two music programs per year.

Language Arts: Stories, finger play, poetry, nursery rhymes. Pre-reading activities - sequencing events, reading to children, labeling objects in the environment; Pre-writing activities - tracing, coloring, dictating stories.

Number Readiness: Recognizing geometric shapes, sorting, and comparison.

Science and Nature: Nature study and seasonal experiences concerning God's world.

Physical Fitness: Games in organized and supervised play both indoors and outdoors. We will have weekly Stretch N Grow classes for all ages. Stretch N Grow provides a curriculum for specific outcomes through music and movement.

Phonemic Awareness: Preschoolers develop these skills gradually through playful, auditory activities building up to more complex phonemic actions. (Friday only)

Kindergarten Curriculum:

The Kindergarten Class will follow all TEKS set by the TEA. They will use Wonders and Reading A to Z for ELA and Go Math curriculums! STEM, Science, and Social Studies will be learned through various books and hands-on experiments which will also follow the TEKS guidelines. We also use the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Curriculum that provides students with instruction in phonological awareness, progressing to the phoneme level through language play activities. It covers all consonants, short vowels, digraphs, blends, and rime patterns, with hearing words with long vowels being introduced in the later weeks of this curriculum. They will attend music and Stretch N Grow daily.

Chapel Services:

During Chapel we sing songs, say pledges to the Christian and American Flags, pray and hear a Bible story. Chapel is at 9:10 a.m., Monday & Tuesday for Threes through Kindergarten. 18-month-old & two-year-old classes will experience special curriculum taught by the teachers in the classroom—THE BLESSING PLACE until Easter and then the twos will join Chapel through the end of the year. 18 months will also use THE BLESSING PLACE taught by their teachers in the classroom the entire year.

Rest Time:

Licensing requires that all children in the program except kindergarten observe a rest period in the afternoon. A small stuffed animal (12" or smaller), pillow or blanket will often facilitate nap time for the child. These must fit in the child's bag and be taken home each day. Please provide a comfortable child-sized mat that is waterproof or washable for your child to use at nap time. Mats will be sent home daily to be cleaned and sanitized. We ask that all mats be brought to and from school in a bag of some type (kitchen garbage bag or extra-large storage bag).

This will help cut down on the spread of germs. We will provide the first bag, if something happens to that bag it will be the responsibility of the parent to provide a new bag. ***Please mark ALL bedding with your child's name!***

Enrichment:

Throughout the school year, St. John schedules community helpers and other special guest to visit our preschool. Our Assistant Director schedules these events and guests to enrich our curriculum if there are no restrictions due to pandemics or any other concern for the safety of children and staff.

Outdoor Play:

The children at SJPS&K play outside every day, weather permitting. We have an outside or inside, 20-minute scheduled physical play each day. This does not include our Stretch & Grow PE class. Dress your child appropriately to enjoy God's beautiful world! This is required by the state of Texas.

What are the benefits of outdoor play?

- It invites children to learn science. ...
- It creates opportunities for social interaction and collaboration. ...
 - It promotes physical health. ...
 - It invites new contexts for learning. ...
 - It promotes better sleep. ...
 - It gives children a chance to take appropriate risks.

Discipline:

The staff of SJPS&K are committed to providing a positive learning environment and will use discipline procedures set by the program policy to achieve this goal. Constant supervision, proper room arrangement, and curriculum planning contribute to a positive system of classroom management. Praise and encouragement for correct behavior and clear positive directions from the teacher set the tone for a well-managed learning environment. When corrective action is required, we use re-direction of the child using positive statements first, removal from the activity second; separation from the group third; and intervention from the Director, fourth.

Child Dismissal:

The program reserves the right to dismiss any child if, after entering, he/she is unable to participate in group experience, is not potty trained, including papering (ages 3 & up), or if fees have not been paid. Parents will be notified in writing and verbally in a conference with the teacher and the director.

Insufficient Funds/Overdue Accounts Policy

Tuition and Payment Delinquency

- As soon as you become aware of a financial hardship, please speak with the director.
- Tuition and fees are due on the **due date**.
- A late fee of \$25 will be assessed after the due date.
- Accounts more than **30 days past due** will be considered delinquent and the child will be withdrawn from the program.
- Payments returned for insufficient funds will incur a fee of \$25. For failed bank drafts after the second auto draft attempt. The third failed bank draft will require future payments to be made in cash.
- Continued enrollment is contingent upon maintaining a **current account balance**.

Tuition for 2026-2027

Days Registered	Registration Fee Non-refundable	Monthly Tuition	Yearly Tuition
2 Days-TTH Available for all ages	\$235 one-time payment due when registering	\$280 due monthly on 1 st of month from August to April	\$2520 \$2420 if pd in full by 7/30/2026
3 Days-MWF Available for all ages	\$235 one-time payment due when registering	\$365 due monthly on 1 st of month from August to April	\$3285 \$3185 if pd in full by 7/30/2026
4 days-M-TH Available for PK classes only	\$275 one-time payment due when registering	\$515 due monthly on 1 st of month from August to April	\$4635 \$4535 if pd in full by 7/30/2026
5 Days-M-F Available for all ages	\$275 one-time payment due when registering	\$550 due monthly on 1 st of month from August to April	\$4950 \$4850 if pd in full by 7/30/2026
Kindergarten Children must be 5 on or before 9/1/2026	\$315 one-time payment due when registering	\$565 due monthly on 1 st of month from August to April	\$5085 \$4985 if pd in full by 7/30/2026

All classes 3-year-old and older MUST be completely potty trained including papering.

****Monthly payment plans are paid through automatic payments using credit card, debit card, or bank withdrawals August through April. Tuition is based on the number of class days scheduled and divided over 9 months to make 9 equal payments. After making the 1st payment in August, you have options on the back of your payment form to have tuition to be taken out on the 1st or the 15th. Please check the appropriate box.**

****XTRA care will be paid through automatic payments September through May.**

****Year payments may be paid with cash, check, or credit.**

****10% discount for siblings**

XTRA Fees for 2026-2027

Registration Fee (**non-refundable**) - \$60 per child, \$85 max per family
(one-time fee due the first month you enroll)

Days Registered	Morning Care 7:00-9:00	Morning Care 8:00-9:00	Afternoon Care 2:00-3:00
2 Day	\$120	\$60	\$60
3 Day	\$170	\$85	\$85
4 Day	\$220	\$110	\$110
5 Day	\$280	\$140	\$140

School Calendar and Important Dates

St. John Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten will follow the holiday calendar of the Mansfield Independent School District (MISD) as far as ½ days, early releases, days off, Christmas vacation and Spring Break, and any other holiday. **The exceptions are beginning & end dates & Friday, February 25 & 26, 2027—no school—statewide Lutheran Early Childhood Educators Conference in Austin.**

August/September 2026

8/19-All M-F & MWF Classes Meet the Teacher Time-6-7P (Book Fair-5:30P)

8/20-All TTH, M-TH & Kindergarten Classes Meet the Teacher, Time-6-7P. (Book Fair-5:30P)

8/24-First Day of School!!!!

7-Labor Day Holiday (No School)

18-MISD Holiday (No School)

24 & 25-Fall Pictures

October 2026

2-Pumpkin Day, more information to come

9-MISD Student Holiday (No School)

12-Columbus Day/MISD Holiday (No School)

November 2026

2 & 3- Kindergarten Parent Conference (Check with your teacher)

9-10- Pre-K Parent Conferences (Check with your teacher)

23-27-Thanksgiving Holiday (No School)

December 2026

10-18m, Twos and Threes Christmas Programs-9:15A

10-PK (Fours) and Kindergarten Christmas Program-10:15A

16-Happy Birthday Jesus Parties for MWF & M-F children

17-Happy Birthday Jesus Parties for TTH & M-TH children

17-School ends at 2:00P-NO AFTERNOON XTRA CARE

18-January 6, 2027-Christmas Holidays (No School)

January 2027

7-Classes resume from Christmas Break (Thursday)

18-Martin Luther King/MISD Holiday (No School)

19-Current Students Enroll for the 2027-2028 School Year

February 2027

1-Siblings of Current Families Enroll for the 2027-2028 School Year

12 & 15-MISD Holiday (No School)

25 & 26-ECE- Early Childhood Conference- (No School)

March 2027

1-5- Read Across America Dress-Up Week w/Grandparents Day 3/4 and 3/5

15-19-Spring Break (No School)

24 & 25- Easter Celebrations

26- Easter Holiday-No School

April 2027

4-Preschool Sunday

6-Silent Auction Begins 8A

8-18m, Twos and Threes Spring Music Program-9:15A

8- PK (Fours) and Kindergarten Spring Music Program-10:15A/Silent Auction Ends 9P

20 & 21- Parent Appreciation Breakfast & Student Appreciation Pizza Lunch

28 & 29-Cap & Gown Celebrations for Pre-K & Kindergarten Classes ONLY

May 2027

3-7-Staff Appreciation Week

7-Field Day for ALL Classes

11-Last Day of School-NO AFTERNOON XTRA CARE

****We do not make up bad weather days.**

****We will follow MISD in school closures no matter the reason**

Arrival

If allowed by licensing, children will be dropped off in the building by a parent/guardian. The parent/guardian and child will walk to the classroom. Children must always be left in the presence of a staff member. A quick goodbye is the best, so they can start their day. Classroom doors open at 8:50A. We encourage you to bring your child to preschool as close to 9:00A as possible. Children who arrive later in the day will miss some of the planned activities. "XTRA" arrival must be in accordance with your contract. Children attending morning XTRA care will enter at the main preschool entrance. You will sign in at the check-in through ProCare on your phone or QR code on the sign located at the door. You will then walk your child to the appropriate classroom. At times, a prolonged good-bye only makes separation harder for the child. As a rule, the child settles down and becomes interested in an activity or play before Mom or Dad is out of the parking lot. Please don't be offended if we suggest that you leave; we are thinking about you as well as your child. See the "Checking In & Out" section for information if we are required to drop off and pick up outside of the building.

Bad Weather

If there is a question of school being in session because of "Bad Weather", please listen to the TV stations (Channel 4, 5, 8, 11) for this information. If Mansfield I.S.D. has closed, we are closed also. **If MISD schedules a late opening, we are closed.** If they close the Elementary schools during the middle of the day due to weather, we will call all parents to pick up their child(ren) immediately. If severe weather arrives while we are in school, we will take all the necessary precautions and possibly call the parents to pick up the children. **SJPS&K will NOT make up for bad weather days nor will a refund be given for any days missed due to bad weather.** SJPS&K has two, three, four, and five-day options for classes. Therefore, no one designated make-up day would be effective. Furthermore, our preschool does not fall under any state regulation concerning "number of school days required." Emergency drills are scheduled and practiced regularly so the children will be ready and not as frightened if an emergency arises. Fire drills are scheduled monthly. Severe weather drills are held every three months and more often if deemed necessary. The opportunity for fresh air and outdoor play or exercise is an important part of a child's school day. Moderate to strenuous activity along with physical training increases

lung capacity, endurance, and cardiovascular fitness. Students benefit from outdoor activities and the opportunity to break free from the structure of the classroom. While opportunities for outdoor activity are strongly encouraged for all students, there may be times when it is necessary to suspend outdoor activity due to weather conditions.

The following guidelines are for the health and safety of our students.

COLD WEATHER GUIDELINES

On school days when there is excessive cold weather, the following procedure should be used for determining whether students can participate in outdoor activities, including but not limited to recess, physical education and outdoor field trips.

- The wind chill factor should be taken into account in determining whether outdoor activities are appropriate.
- The recommended temperature to allow students to be outside for recess, physical education, or outdoor field trips is 40 degrees Fahrenheit or above, including the wind chill factor.
- If campus staff determine a student does not have sufficient warm clothing for outdoor activities, the student should be excused from the activity.
- Any request from a parent that their child be excluded from outdoor activity due to weather conditions will be honored.
- Students should be encouraged to drink water whenever engaging in any physical activity.
- Current local temperature, including wind chill. can be obtained from one of these websites:

<http://www.weatherbug.com> and www.weather.com

HOT WEATHER GUIDELINES

On school days when there is excessive hot weather, the following procedure should be used for determining whether students can participate in outdoor activities, including but not limited to recess, physical education and outdoor field trips.

- The heat index should be factored in when determining whether outdoor activities are appropriate. As the heat index increases so do health risks.
- Students should not have outdoor recess or physical education classes when the temperature or heat index is greater than 95 degrees Fahrenheit.

- On days when the temperature is 90 degrees or greater, the campus administrator or designer will determine whether outdoor activities will take place based on the heat index & current ozone air quality. Use precautions, especially if the heat index is high. Limit recess to no more than 15 minutes.
- Students must have access to water before, during and after the outside activity. Access to drinking water will never be used as a punishment or motivator.

Again, current local temperature, including wind chill. can be obtained from one of these websites:

<http://www.weatherbug.com> and www.weather.com

Birthdays & Holidays

We follow the MISD calendar for all holidays and days off with a few exceptions. We begin school after MISD, we end school prior to MISD, we are closed for 2 days to attend an Early Childhood Conference to help our staff meet the state licensing requirements of 24 hours of continuing education each year. Those dates are posted on the yearly calendar.

Parents are encouraged to make birthdays and holidays special events for their children. Special days have been set aside for holiday celebrations and parents are urged to volunteer to provide special items on these occasions. If you wish to share your child's birthday with his/her class, we welcome you to do so by providing a special treat for snack time or end of day only. All food items that are brought must be store bought, unopened, and must contain a list of ingredients of foods. **This is specifically for those who want to share with the class.** Example: Christmas parties, birthdays, etc. Special birthday lunches or "parties" will **NOT** be allowed. "Mini" cupcakes, do-nut holes, or miniature cookies are a good choice and easy for the children to handle and do not make such a mess in the classroom area and on clothing. We do not recommend large "regular sized" cupcakes, chocolate cake, chocolate cupcakes, candy, or nuts. In order that each child receives a treat, let your teacher know what you are planning, and she will tell you how many children there are in the class and if there are any allergies in the classroom. Please feel free to talk to the office if you have any questions. Parents wanting to participate in the celebration will need to check with the office first. Depending on the health concerns, we may have to deny this request.

Biting

When a child bites, a note will be sent home to the parents of the child who bit, as well as the child who was bitten. The child who bites will remain anonymous for privacy purposes. Copies will be put in each child's permanent file.

If a child continues to bite, despite the teacher's and the parent's efforts to stop biting, the child may be dropped from our enrollment at the discretion of the director. What constitutes continual or chronic biting is up to the discretion of the

director and will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Age, severity of bites, temperament, cooperation of parents and teacher opinion will all figure in the decision.

Readmission will be considered after a period of four weeks, based on a case-by-case basis and if there is an available spot in the class. The possibility of readmission will depend on all the factors listed in the preceding paragraph.

When a child bites, he/she will be sent home for the day if:

- *The child bites twice or more, unprovoked
- *The child bites on the face
- *The bite breaks the skin
- *The child bites a staff member

Breastfeeding

Any mother who needs to breast feed may do so in our church nursery located in the church building. In addition, parents do have the right to breastfeed or provide breast milk for their child while in our care.

Checking In & Out

If we are allowed by licensing to drop off in the building, please stop by the check in counter, scan the QR code with your phone, and log your child in using your private passcode (Passcodes will be established prior to the first day of school or when registering once school has begun). After logging in, you may then take your child to the appropriate classroom. Pick-up each day will be at your child's designated outside door. We will have a sign with the QR code for you to scan with your phone. You will then enter your private passcode. **Each child must be "Checked In" and "Checked Out" each attending day.** We need this for our records on attendance, finances, and security measures. This is required by the state of Texas. All children are required to be checked in/out every day they attend school. This is a mandatory requirement for Child Care Licensing and must be completed to stay in compliance. Checking your child in/out every day they attend is the responsibility of the parent/guardian that brings or picks up the child. SJPS&K uses an electronic system to meet these requirements. **Thank you for helping us stay in compliance with the state of Texas.** It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to notify the preschool office of all authorized people allowed to pick up the child so the child's account can be updated. **Every authorized person dropping off or picking up MUST have their own check in/out passcode. Please do not share your passcodes.**

Child Abuse Policy

Child abuse and neglect in the U.S. represents a state of emergency. More than four children die a day from maltreatment. All abuse and neglect that is observed will be reported to the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TxDFPS) or to the Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-252-5400. This number is answered 24 hours a day. This includes physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, and neglect. St. John Preschool reserves the right to protect any child whose parents or guardians have abused drugs or alcohol and are unfit to transport and/or care for their child effectively. If, in this instance, parents or guardians refuse to comply, Mansfield police will be called immediately to handle the situation.

Class Placement

Class Placement is determined by the child's age and the days the child will attend. An attempt is made to balance each class by gender. Class placement is at the discretion of the Director.

Clothing

Please provide 2-3 complete changes of clothing, including underwear and socks, in a bag to keep at school. We will ask you to periodically change out the clothes for sizing and season. Each item should be **marked clearly with your child's name**. Accidents do happen!

If the child is in diapers, please provide disposable diapers & wipes adequate for the day's needs. Children partially trained must be in disposable diapers or pull-ups with Velcro on the sides. Sending adequate clothing and diapers/wipes is required in the 18 month and Twos classes. We cannot be responsible for keeping your child in dry clothing and diapers unless they are provided by the parents.

Clothing for the child should be:

- Loose enough to provide comfort and freedom of movement.
- Large enough to pull on easily (especially outerwear)
- Suitable for outdoor play (we go outside every day, weather permitting)
- Washable (our activities are hands-on and include playing in paint, dirt, markers, shaving cream, and many other messy items!)
- Marked adequately with the child's name
- For girls - shorts worn under dresses (due to all the climbing they do on the playground)

Shoes: For the safety of your children tennis shoes or closed toe shoes and socks are the only choice for preschool. Sandals, flip flops, crocs, and backless shoes are not allowed. **Cowboy boots are not permitted except for rodeo day.**

AGAIN, PLEASE put your child's name on everything!!

Departure

Children not attending afternoon XTRA care will be picked up at the end of each day at their designated pick-up door. 18m & 2's pick-up door is the glass door closest to the water tower on the East side of the building. 3's pick-up door is the main school entrance. PK & Kindergarten pick-up doors will be the Sanctuary entrance at the West side of the building by the large water fountain. Siblings will be at the youngest sibling's door. Pick-up will begin at 1:45P. There you will find the standing sign with the QR code to sign your child/ren out. The parent/guardian will need their child's school issued pick-up sign before the children will be released to the person at the door. A picture of the school-issued sign will be accepted at the door.

XTRA Care children that are picked up at 3:00P will pick up at the playground, weather permitting. If it is raining, the temperature below 40 degrees including wind chill or above 95 degrees including heat index, children will be picked up at the preschool entrance. Parents/guardians will enter the preschool doors, sign their child/ren out using the QR code, and the child/ren can be picked up in the assigned location/room.

The staff cannot accept the responsibility of sending a child home with a stranger. If a parent/approved pick-up person forgets their pick-up sign, we will ask for an ID. ***We are not allowed, by law, to give the child to anyone who is not listed in our records.*** If you find it necessary to have your child leave school before dismissal time, please notify the teacher of that effect in the morning. This will help us to ensure we have all his/her things ready to make the departure easier.

Late Pick-up Fee of \$15.00 will be charged to your account at 2:05 p.m., Monday through Friday, our clock. An additional \$1.00 will be charged for each minute thereafter. The same policy will apply to the "XTRA" hours at 3:05 pm. **Late fees will be added to the child's automatic withdrawal for the following month's payment.**

Withdrawing from the Program will require a 30-day written notification. Withdrawal notice given after March 1 will not excuse the April payment.

Insufficient Funds/Overdue Accounts Policy

Tuition and Payment Delinquency

- As soon as you become aware of a financial hardship, please speak with the director.
- Tuition and fees are due on the **due date**.
- A late fee of \$25 will be assessed after the due date.
- Accounts more than **30 days past due** will be considered delinquent and the child will be withdrawn from the program.
- Payments returned for insufficient funds will incur a fee of \$25. For failed bank drafts after the second auto draft attempt. The third failed bank draft will require future payments to be made in cash.
- Continued enrollment is contingent upon maintaining a **current account balance**.

Emergency Preparedness Plan

SJPS&K has adopted an emergency preparedness plan to ensure the safety of the children during all types of emergencies. Those emergencies include but are not limited to fire, tornado, health events, communicable disease outbreak, and human-caused events such as intruders with weapons, explosions, or chemical spills. Each classroom and the office have detailed Emergency Plan books explaining each plan in more detail. Fire drills are practiced every month, and severe weather/tornado drills and lock downs are practiced every three (3) months.

Emergency Relocation Addresses

If SJPS&K evacuates the building due to fire, flood, or any other emergency where we are unable to re-enter the building, the teachers, staff, and church personnel will relocate children to:

The Children's Spot
1222 E. Debbie Lane
Mansfield, TX 76063
817-473-0441

If SJPS&K must evacuate the city due to any emergency, the teachers, staff, and church personnel will relocate children to:

St. Paul Lutheran Church
1800 W. Freeway
Ft. Worth, TX 76102
817-332-2281

Once everyone is relocated safely, SJPS&K staff will notify parents immediately where they can pick up their children.

Food & Nutrition

A refillable water bottle is required every day when the child attends school. Please make sure the bottle is labeled with the child's name. The child will have access to their bottle throughout the day, especially during snack and lunch times. Snack time will be at the discretion of the teacher/s. It will depend on the class schedule. The teacher will inform parents if there will be a daily snack during Meet the Teacher in August. If the class has snack time, the snack is provided by the parent. We are not required to provide a "snack time" due to school starting at 9:00A and lunch time at 11:15A. A snack will be provided for those children who attend our 7:00A XTRA care and/or stay for afternoon XTRA care from 2-3P.

A nutritious lunch is to be provided by the parents. Make this as well-balanced as possible, prepared so that the child can handle his lunch easily. Often finger foods such as cheese or meat, diced fruit, crackers, or cut chicken nuggets are eaten better by young children than sandwiches. Don't forget appropriate eating utensils (spoon, straws, etc.) If your child does not come to school with lunch and we are unable to contact you; we will provide an "emergency lunch" for that child. We will charge the parents \$6. This is a limited selection since we do not provide daily lunches.

Please do not send carbonated drinks, red or purple drinks, Pizza Lunchables, or cupcakes in your child's lunch. If these items are included, we will assume it is a gift for the teacher! Please pare and cut up apples and peel oranges before they are sent in your child's lunch. Also, do not send candy in your child's lunch. Be cautious of the food you send with your child. Large pieces of fruit and nuts can be very dangerous as they are easily choked on. We are unable to refrigerate or heat food. If you need items to stay cold, please place an ice pack in their lunch box. We suggest a thermos if food items need to be kept warm.

An Emergency Food/Allergy Plan is required by the state to maintain our license. We must have a signed food allergy plan from your child's doctor for any allergy diagnosed by a physician. This plan must include what our staff should look for in case of a reaction and an action plan for our staff to follow. "Special Lunch" from local fast-food restaurants will be available to the children once a week. The children not interested in the special lunch will need to bring their own lunch as usual. Watch the monthly newsletters/calendar for the days and menus. The special lunches are \$6.00.

Special lunches must be ordered in advance and prepaid by check or EXACT CHANGE by the due date listed on the Special Event Form. We will not be able to give change back if you do not have the correct amount. We are unable to accept orders on the day of the special lunch. Please place your order form and payment in your child's communication folder each month or turn it into the preschool office.

Fundraisers

SJPS&K uses "fundraiser" monies to purchase special items that enhance our program. Funds are used to buy equipment and materials for our classrooms as well as updates to our facilities.

We will be utilizing the following to help earn extra dollars:

Butter Braid & Cookie Dough

Silent Auction

Spirit Night

Valentine's Dance

Gang-Free Zone

SJPS&K and the area within 1000 feet of the facility is considered a gang-free zone. Under the Texas Penal Code, any criminal offenses related to organized criminal activity are subject to increased penalty under state law.

Health

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to monitor their child's health each day. We will check the temperatures of all children in class during lunch. Children showing signs of illness are isolated from the other children and we will contact the parents for immediate pickup. We will continue to be diligent about keeping all children and staff healthy.

*****Children must stay home when they have any of the following symptoms and they must be free of fever or symptoms (without the use of medications including fever reducing medications) and all symptoms for 24 hours before returning.**

- Signs of a fresh cold, sore throat, runny nose, cough, or frequent sneezing.
- Measured temperature greater than or equal to **100 degrees**

- An upset stomach or diarrhea
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Chills
- Croup
- Flu or Covid
- Children must stay home when they have any of the following symptoms and they must be free of fever or symptoms (without the use of medications including fever reducing medications) and all symptoms for 24 hours before returning:
 - Any symptom of the usual childhood diseases: Scarlet Fever, German measles, Mumps, Chicken Pox, Whooping Cough or Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease.
 - Any unexplained rash
 - Any skin infection: boils, ringworm, impetigo, lice
 - Pink eye and other eye infections such as conjunctivitis

If a Child Becomes Sick During the Day

- The child will be taken to a designated quiet, supervised area away from other children.
- A staff member will stay with the child to monitor and comfort them.
- Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately to collect the child.
- If the parent/guardian is unavailable, the emergency contact will be called.
- The child should be picked up within **1 hour** of being notified.

We are aware of the crazy allergies in Texas. We will take each “allergy” on a case-by-case basis. Our number one priority is the health of your child and our staff.

We thank you for your grace and understanding as we try to make the best decision for everyone regarding sending your child home. If the child has allergic conditions or reactions, please have your doctor note them on his/her medical form so that this can be taken into consideration in determining health conditions.

NOTE*St. John Preschool staff are not required to have any vaccines required for employment.**

Medications

Only lifesaving medications will be given at school. The only exception to this policy is diaper rash cream. If your child requires medication because it is listed on the child's Emergency Food/Allergy Plan that has been signed by the child's doctor, please bring it to the school office and a representative from the office or your child's teacher will administer it to your child. You will need to sign a release form in the office naming the medication and the time to be given. Prescription medicines must be in the original container with the child's name on the label. All medication must be left in the school office in its original container; medication is not to be left in the child's belongings for any reason.

All children must have up to date immunization records as set by the Texas Department of State Health services on file in the preschool office or a notarized exemption letter from the state of Texas prior to the first day of attendance. Because of our regional Texas Department of Health requirements, St. John Preschool children are not required to undergo Tuberculosis testing, although it is recognized as a part of our immunization records.

Medical/No Nurse Liability Policy

Medical Care and Emergency Response

- The school does not employ a full or part-time licensed nurse on campus.
- Staff members are trained in basic first aid and may administer limited emergency care, including:
 - EpiPen
 - Basic first aid
 - Medications authorized by in writing by parents
- For students with chronic or serious medical conditions (e.g., diabetes, severe allergies), parents must:
 - Meet with the Director to determine if we can provide the necessary level of care.
- In the event of a medical emergency, the school will:
 - Contact emergency services (911)
 - Notify parents/guardians immediately
- By enrollment, parents acknowledge that the school provides **basic care only** and is not a medical facility.

Medical Emergencies & Parental Notification

In case of a medical emergency, we will call 911 first and then we will call the parents. We will make every effort to follow your directions regarding where to take your child for emergency care, however the paramedics will make the final decision if we are unable to reach you. It is very important that we be able to reach you during the school day in case of an emergency regarding your child at our facilities. Please be sure that your emergency notification form is up to date and that you sign in and out completely each day.

Planning for Care with a Child with Special Needs

St. John's Lutheran complies fully with the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA Federal, State and Local Laws. We will make any reasonable accommodation we can to meet the needs. We shall follow the guidelines outlined on 746.2202 relating to our responsibilities when planning activities for a child with special needs. Parents should notify us of any special care needs.

St. John's Lutheran will work with the individual needs of our children and will work with the parents whose children may need additional support or have special care needs. When applicable, we will make referrals to outside support services including but not limited to, early intervention, speech, occupational, and physical therapy and other types of services, and participate in IEP (Individual Education Plan) or ISFP (Individualized Family Service Plan) meetings when appropriate to best meet the needs of the child. St. John's Lutheran will provide a designated space for intervention sessions or therapies during the day while in care.

St. John's Lutheran will make appropriate accommodations for a child with special care needs as recommended by the child's healthcare provider and/or qualified professionals affiliated with the school district or an early childhood intervention program. Accommodation may include, but are not limited to adapting equipment, procedures, and methods to meet the child's needs in the classroom setting. St. John's Lutheran will allow outside resources/therapists into the program to work with any child as needed, provided those services are communicated in advance, the provider of the services has the appropriate clearances to be in the building.

Parent Procedures

Policies and procedures are updated annually to reflect changes in licensing requirements, tuition and fees, hours, etc. If a change must be made during the

school year, each family will receive notice through email, and/or a form that will need to be read and signed for compliance.

Questions and concerns regarding policies and procedures should be brought to the Director. Any changes or exceptions will be decided in cooperation with the St. John Church Board of Directors.

Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time, without an appointment. Parents are also welcome and encouraged to volunteer and participate in our program and activities if there are no health concerns.

A copy of the Minimum Standard rules for Licensed Child-Care Centers is available in the Directors office for parent review at any time. The most recent Licensing inspection report is also available for your review. If you have a concern or question that our office cannot answer to your satisfaction, you may contact one of the Following:

Local Licensing Office:

Child Care Licensing

1501 Circle Drive Suite 310

Fort Worth, TX 76119

1-800-582-8286

817-321-8604

PRS Child Abuse Hotline: 1800-252-5400

PRS Website: www.hhs.texas.gov

