



Dear Pre-K Children and Parents,

Welcome to the 2018/2019 school year! My name is Ms. De Nardo and I am so happy to be your teacher! I am looking forward to helping you grow, develop, and learn many new and exciting things with your classmates this year. The first few weeks of school are a time of transition and becoming familiar with our daily routines, as well as getting to know all about each other. I wanted to share some of my favorite things about myself with you. I love animals, especially cats. I enjoy doing craft projects and coloring. I love spending time with my family and learning new things. I am excited to learn about your interests and favorite things so we can include them in our classroom. Our class is lucky to have Mrs. Santiago as our assistant teacher! We both look forward to meeting with you soon.

Parents, below you will find brief details of expectations, requirements, and how we will be communicating with one another throughout the year. Thank you in advance!

□ **What will be coming home:**

At the beginning of school, your child will be bringing home a folder and a notebook. The notebook will be used as our communication tool between home and school. It is important that it comes to school with them each day along with their folder. The folder will be used for sending home notices, as well as the beautiful masterpieces your child creates in Pre-K!

□ **What is needed from home: (PLEASE SEND IN BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH)**

- Pre-k is an exciting, noisy, and messy place. We learn best with lots of interaction with peers and our environment. Please help us by sending in a **waterproof smock** for your child that you don't mind getting dirty when we are creating arts and crafts. This smock will also be used at our sensory table so please be sure the smock is waterproof.
- Accidents can happen to the best of us and we never make a child feel ashamed or upset by one if it does occur. In case of an accident, please send in an **extra set of clothes** (top, bottom, socks, underwear) in a Ziploc bag, labeled accordingly. Note - We will be swapping out their change of clothes routinely throughout the year as seasons change and bodies grow!
- Pre-K has a set and required rest time that will be implemented during the school day. Children will have their own individual cot that will be used only by them throughout the school year. Please send a **fitted crib sheet or a special cot sheet** to cover the cot, as well as a **sheet or blanket** to cover your child. Rest time blankets will be sent home every month for laundering. Children may also bring a small comfort item, such as a stuffed animal, to be kept at school with their blanket. **This comfort item should not make noise or include batteries and will be used only during rest time.** Rest Time comfort items will remain at school and will not be sent back and forth each day.
- We ask that children use a 14-16inch backpack- large enough to fit a standard notebook and folder.
- To personalize our classroom, we also ask that you send in one recent photo of your child and one family. Photo for us to display in our cozy corner.

***** Please note: As part of the Pre-K For All program, you will not be required to purchase school materials. All school materials will be provided for the classes.**

**** Please make sure that all items (jackets, backpacks, etc...) are labeled.**

- **Breakfast/Lunch:**
Pre-K For All provides each child with breakfast and lunch. Breakfast and Lunch menus will be distributed as they are received, generally once per month. Children eat in small groups in the classroom and not in the cafeteria.
- **School Uniform:**
Since our program is Pre-K For All, a Divine Wisdom Catholic Academy school uniform is not mandated, so clothes they can manage easily are the best choices! For safety reasons, sneakers are always recommended as we visit the playground each day during recess. Sneakers are required on days your child's class will visit the Gym.
- **Parent-Teacher Orientation:**
TUESDAY, AUGUST 28 at 7pm in Father Smith Hall (school cafeteria)

Information about the Pre-K for All Program and the first few days of school will be discussed.

First Day(s) of School:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2018 SCHOOL BEGINS!

- From 9:00-10:00, families whose last names begin with letters A-J
- From 10:30-11:30, families whose last names begin with letters K-Z

***We ask that families stay the hour with their child to help them explore their new classroom.**

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

- From 9:00-11:30, ALL children attend and this time parents are asked to say their goodbyes at the classroom door.
- Please pick up your child at 11:30 from the classroom, as dismissal will not occur at the main entrance until Friday, September 7th which is the first FULL DAY of classes.

□ **Arrival/Dismissal Procedure:**

- We will begin our normal schedule starting on Friday, September 7th. The school day begins at 8:00am. At this point we encourage goodbyes at the classroom door. Our goal is to have children enter the classroom and complete their daily morning routine independently.
- Dismissal will take place through the main entrance doors at promptly 2:20 every day. Children will be released one at a time as authorized adults wait for children outside the doors. For safety reasons, identification will be required if you are an unfamiliar face.
- ****You must inform us if your child will be picked up by another family member or friend, as we cannot dismiss them if the school or teacher is not notified by the guardian of this change. We understand that during the first few weeks it may be hard to make the separation, but there are a few things that you can do to help ease the transition. It is important to develop a routine that works for you and your child. Always say goodbye and communicate with them when you'll be back. Try to act confident yourself. If you seem anxious and unsure about leaving your child, your child will pick up on that. Reinforce that you support and feel comfortable with them being here. As always, we are here to support you during this transition.**

Attached to this letter you will find a "Getting to Know You" sheet. This will help us learn about your child and what their interests are. Please bring this with you on the first day of

school and feel free to include any additional information that you feel is important for us to know.

Once again, I want to say how pleased I am that your child will be part of our class. I am excited to meet all the students and families and begin our school year! Enjoy the rest of your summer and please contact me with any of your questions or concerns. My email address is mdenardo@dwcaonline.org

Looking forward to a year of fun and learning!

Sincerely,
Ms. De Nardo

Child's Name: _____ Child's Birthday (MM/DD/YY): _____

What do you want your child to be called at school? _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Best Contact Phone Number: _____

Preferred Email Address: _____

Who will be picking up your child from school? _____

Child's Sibling(s) Name/Grade: _____

Family Pets: _____

Child's Allergies (please include food, animal, or other allergies): _____

What are your child's interests? _____

What are your child's dislikes (food, activities, other)? _____

If there is anything else you would like to tell us about your child: _____
