 

South Church Preschool Newsletter

September 2022

It is that time of year again and our teachers are so very excited to begin the new school year with their students. We have exciting curriculum and fun events planned for our coming months. Happily, our center has grown through the years, and we have many students who can share in the fun and learning here at SCPS.

Unfortunately, the pandemic is still out there and we continue with some protocols in place due to COVID. You should have received a letter from our Preschool Committee with updated protocol for September.

Your continued diligence, transparency and cooperation with COVID issues will help to make this another successful year for our center.

As always, parents and families can help us by reading all the important hand-outs, emails and documents. Being prepared with all the paperwork that needs to be handed in by the first day of school makes it an easy transition for everyone. Parents will be expected to phone school with any absences, late drop-off, or pick-ups each day. You will also have your Head Teacher’s email address where you can reach out before school, as well, if something changes. Again, following the school rules and protocol for drop-off and pick-up will help to decrease crowds and delays at the beginning and end of school. Please remember to communicate with your Head teachers any changes, or consistent plans for transportation during the school week.

Our staff is always glad to answer any questions parents, grandparents, or caregivers may have about school protocol. We really need all of your cooperation, diligence and patience to make this school year work.

We know that our little ones are excited and probably a little anxious about starting or returning to school. We are hoping to make sure that ALL of our students transition into their classrooms happily and comfortably. We are doing our very best to set up activities and put together strategies that will ease the nerves and lure our students into our nurturing learning environment. Our classrooms will be inviting, and our teachers will be kind, caring and patient. There will be so many activities set up in our classrooms each day to help ease their fears.

Collectively, teaching teams and parents can make their child’s school

experience successful.

Our drop-off is now at the school entrances for our 4 and 5-day

sessions. Parents will be lining up on ramp where they will sign their children in. Our 2 and 3-day will drop-off through our back playground entrance until there is snow on the ground. At that time, parents will be asked to drop-off at front entrance where the ramp is located. They will continue dropping off from this point for the remainder of the school year. Your Head teachers will be in communication with you regarding this change in protocol come winter.

This year, parents of our little ones in the 2 and 3-day sessions are invited to enter the classroom at drop off time with their little ones

if and when necessary. We want to help make it a comfortable experience for parents of these first year students. Our staff will be sending lots of pictures home, so you can have peace of mind that the kids are acclimating well. We are working together to plan events that can incorporate our families into some of the fun school activities throughout the year.

**Here are some helpful strategies that parents can use to help make the transition into or back into school go smoothly.**

* Putting consistent bedtime strategies in place early in the school year. In the beginning of the school season, children may have some restless nights, so starting bedtime a little earlier can sometimes be helpful when it comes to getting enough sleep.
* Breakfast is truly one of the most important meals for children and gives them the energy they need to begin their day.
* Giving yourself and your children a little extra time in the morning before leaving for school, helps make a happier drop-off.
* Being on time for drop-off and pick-up develops trust in both parent relationships and teacher relationships with children. Arriving with other classmates helps with separation anxiety.
* Have backpacks and lunch boxes ready in the morning so when it is time to leave, it is just pick-up and go! This will avoid stall tactics on the part of your children when it comes to leaving for school.
* During these crazy times, it is so important that parents remain calm and give the children a feeling of safety, even though things in the world are a little scary right now. School should be a safe place for children to enjoy learning. Please know that we will be doing our very best to provide that. We have plans in place for just about anything that can arise.
* Again, we want to reiterate… it is IMPORTANT that parents read all the protocol information, hand-outs, newsletters, emails and resources that get sent from school.



**What to Bring to School**

\*\*\* Students should have the following in their backpacks:

* Extra pair of seasonal clothes and/or pull-up (NO DIAPERS PLEASE).
* Lunch box that fits inside their backpacks, for those students

who stay until 1:00. All lunch boxes must contain an ice pack.

* Proper shoes for playground and gym class – season appropriate
* A picture of their family or a “Lovey” from home is perfectly acceptable if it will help the child adjust to being away from family while at school.
* Water Bottle.
* All items sent to school MUST be clearly labeled.

**What Not to bring to School**

\*\*\* Students should not bring the following items to school

* Creams or lotions, or hand sanitizer of any kind.
* Any kind of medication
* Inhalers (must have a doctor’s note and be kept in our first aid cabinet).
* Toys from home, especially toy guns or any kind of toy weapons.
* Electronic equipment
* Food other than their lunch or snack

***CURRICULUM***

* The world is a rainbow! We are all different and special in our own way!
* “Manners are the Icing on the Cake” (conversation and social skills).
* All About Me ☺ (I am Unique).
* Making Good Choices. School rules and routines make our day fun!



Every Rainbow is different, but each one is so beautiful

***Gym Classes***

…this class helps to build skills in the following areas of development

* Observe large motor skills
* Foster teamwork and transition skills
* Work on gross motor muscle development
* Let some energy out with the students
* Enjoy some energetic, organized physical activities
* Mindful relaxation techniques

Mrs. Wegner will teach our gym classes again this year. Our **3**, **4 and 5-Day classes** will have gym once a week, and dates will be listed in all monthly newsletters. **2-day classes** will have gym every other week and dates will also be posted in your monthly newsletter. Teachers will also be reminding all families about gym in their weekly emails. Please be sure that students wear rubber soles or sneakers on gym days to ensure safety when they are doing indoor physical activities. **\*Our gym dates will begin in October, but Mrs. Wegner will do an introduction with all the classes and their teachers during the month of September.**



**Inclement Weather Policy**



In the case of early morning inclement weather, and school is delayed,

SCPS will follow the schedule listed below:

* 5-Day Pre-k Session will be held from 11:15 to 1:15
* 4-Day Preschool Sessions will be held from 11:00 to 1:00
* 2 and 3-Day Sessions will be cancelled

We ask that parents, grandparents and/or caretakers use discretion driving children to school during inclement weather.

In the case of afternoon weather changes, and school is dismissed early, SCPS will follow the schedule listed below:

* 5-Day Pre-K Session will dismiss at 11:15
* 4-Day Preschool Session will dismiss at 11:00
* 2 and 3-day Sessions will dismiss at 11:00

During early dismissal days, student ratios will be maintained at all times and two staff members will remain on the premises with the children until they have all been picked up.

We ask that parents be prompt during these emergency day pick-ups so all staff, students and pick-up people can get home safely.

**SCHOOL HOT LINE NUMBER: 860-652-7953**

Parents can use this number to check Glastonbury public school closures since we do follow their schedule for school weather closings. Head Teachers will also reach out to you by email on mornings where school will be closed or delayed.



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***MUSIC CLASSES WILL BEGIN IN OCTOBER***

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***Starting in October Ms. Kathye will be visiting each month for music class. Each class will have music with their individual classmates only. As you know, music is a huge part of our program. All instruments will be washed and cleaned between classes.***

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**Parking Lot Safety**

During drop-off and pick-up times, the parking lot is very busy, please be mindful of the children when walking to the school entrance.

* *Please watch your speed when entering and exiting the lot.*
* *Parents should enter through Main Street church entrance, and exit through High Street school.*
* *2 and 3-day parents can park on High Street when dropping off*

*their little ones.*

* *Please make sure grandparents and caregivers are aware of all drop-off and pick-up procedures.*
* *Encourage the students to walk, not run, when in the parking lot, and to be aware of moving cars.*

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Our center will hold an **Orientation Night** for each class in October

These dates are 10/19 for 3-Day and 5-Day parents, and 10/20 for parents in

2 and 4-day sessions. *More information to come*



**Tuition**

All first quarter tuition payments should be sent in by this time in the school year in preparation for your child’s first day of school. If you have any questions regarding these payments, please call any of the following numbers. **Your next quarterly payment is due November 1st**. **Please be prompt with these payments. They can be mailed or placed in our mailbox which will now be placed in the school by our front entrance.**

**Business Office Manager Lynn David 860-416-7726**

**Program Administrator Heidi Gourley 860-430-6734**

**Assistant Director Stephanie Murtha 860-430-6734**

**Director Stephanie Letizia 860-836-4174**

All of us at SCPS are thrilled to be starting another year with our returning families and beginning a first school year with our new families. We promise that we will help you make good memories throughout the school year.

Stephanie Letizia, Director SCPS

