



St. Michael's

Preschool

Parent Handbook

2016-2017

*“Guiding little hearts & minds in
God’s love”*

2499 N. Westmoreland Drive

Orlando, FL 32804

(407)843-8448x245

Preschool@stmichaelschurch.com

Mrs. Melanie Olivier, Director

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Pre-School will provide a cheerful and educational pre-school experience for children toddler age and older. The children participate in free exploration of play centers and materials, as well as planned group and individual activities. Art, music, Spanish, dramatic play, literature, science and discovery, hands-on-math, creative cooking and outdoor recreations are all part of the curriculum. All activities are based on developmentally appropriate practices of Early Childhood Education.

St. Michael's Preschool provides a cheerful and educational preschool experience for children from toddler age to pre-kindergarten. It is the mission of the Preschool to provide a nurturing, safe and stimulating environment for children where the love of Jesus Christ is reflected in actions of the teachers and children. Our desire is to ensure that our students are receiving quality, early-childhood education in a Christian manner which reflects our Spiritual goals. We believe that each child is a gift from God. In the Preschool Ministry, we strive to guide each child towards his/her special God given talents.

Our Preschool teachers and staff strive to reflect the love of Jesus Christ in their thoughts, words, and deeds. Daily prayer, Bible stories and Christian songs are an integral part of this curriculum and daily chapel. In addition, our older children visit Chapel once a week to learn more about God's love expressed through Jesus Christ.

As part of our weekly curriculum, our children participate in free exploration of "themed" centers, art, music, Spanish, dramatic play, literature, science and discovery, hands-on-math, creative cooking and outdoor recreations. All aspects of our curriculum are based on developmentally appropriate practices of Early Childhood Education.

SCHOOL HOURS

School hours are from 8:30-12:00, with extended day students staying until 2:00. Carpool runs from 8:25-8:40 and afternoon carpool is from 11:55-12:05. **PLEASE BE DILIGENT IN OBSERVING THESE HOURS.**

Immediately before and after school, teachers are busy with planning and preparation. If you have an emergency, which prevents you from arriving on time, please call the school office 407-843-8448 **ext. 245** or 407-425-8550. If you are consistently late picking up your child, you will be charged a late fee of \$10.00. Please strive to drop your child off between 8:25-8:40. Classes are distracted when a child arrives late interrupting circle time or classroom instruction time. To avoid distractions, students arriving after 8:40 will need to be checked in at the office and office staff will take your child to their classroom.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR AND THEMES

All students will receive a copy of our school year calendar. Classes begin on Tuesday, August 16th. With a few exceptions, we follow the Orange County school calendar. You

will also receive monthly calendars from your child's teacher informing you of activities and important dates.

REGISTRATION AND SUPPLY FEES

A **non-refundable** annual registration fee of \$100.00 is required to guarantee placement in our program.

The **non-refundable annual supply fee** rates are as follows:

2 days/week \$80.00	3 days/week \$100.00
4 days/week \$120.00	5 days/week \$140.00

EXTENDED DAY

Extended day, also known as Lunch Bunch, begins the third week of school. Lunch Bunch will be held Monday-Thursday from 12:00-2:00. Lunch Bunch is available to all children who are able to completely feed themselves and who do not need a nap.

The cost for Lunch Bunch is \$15.00 per day. If your child stays every day for lunch, the cost will be discounted to \$10 per day. Charges for Lunch Bunch will appear on your monthly statement.

Send a lunch and a drink in a marked lunch box. We cannot heat up any food. Please do not send carbonated drinks.

POTTY TRAINING

All children entering four day threes or Pre-K should be potty trained. Teachers will assist with potty training in the younger classes when the parents have made a commitment to training at home. When your child is ready, thick training pants should be worn to school.

REGISTRATION PAPERS

Please submit all registration paperwork prior to the first day of school.

- *Registration form (blue)
- *St. Michael's Preschool Discipline Form
- *The preschool medical forms (immunization and physical) from your pediatrician
- *"Getting To Know You" information sheet (pink)
- *Pick-up authorization Form

SUPPLY LIST

All classes will receive a school tote bag at "Meet the Teacher". Your child will use their tote bag each day to carry their daily folder/art/etc.

Your daily tote bag/backpack should include the following items:

- *A complete change of clothes (including socks).
- *A full sip or straw cup. Labeled with first & last name (Toddlers/ Two's only)

*Labeled diapers for untrained children; two or more extra underwear for children who are potty training.

Please leave all toys at home. Favorite blankies or lovies should be sent only if necessary. These items are often very distracting to the children.

NOTE: PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME, INCLUDING DIAPERS.

DAILY SCHEDULE/CALENDARS

At the beginning of the year, you will receive a copy of your child's daily schedule. If this changes, you will be informed with a new schedule. You will also receive a monthly calendar with all planned activities, skills/concepts, etc. at the beginning of a new month.

COMMUNICATION

We communicate with families through a variety of ways. The director and the teachers will send weekly emails. We also put flyers in your child's folder so be on the lookout there as well. Please know that you can always call the office if you need to ask a question. Toddlers and Two's will receive a daily behavior report that needs to be signed and returned on their next scheduled class.

CONFERENCES

We will hold conferences in Fall/Spring post Fall/Spring assessments for all of the children. If you need to discuss a concern, please contact the teacher to set an appointment that meets everyone's needs. Your teacher will contact you if there are any problems or concerns.

FACILITIES

The pre-school classrooms are located in Rowe Hall. Each room is divided into play centers equipped to encourage imaginative play, motor development and socialization. The administrative office, toddlers, twos and three day threes classes meet downstairs. Four day threes, Pre-K & Enrichment classes meet in the upstairs classrooms.

For outdoor recreation, we have an enclosed space for "ride on" toys and a variety of other toys that develop large muscle coordination. Our toddler playground is directly outside of the toddler rooms and our big playground, on the side of Rowe Hall, features a large, modern play structure appropriate for our older students.

We also use Quigley Hall for special events and programs. The kitchen in Quigley Hall is sometimes used for simple cooking activities.

DRESS FOR SUCCESS

Children's work is play. Your child should wear comfortable, washable play clothes. Shoes should fit properly and allow freedom of movement on the playground and patio. **Please avoid flip-flops, backless shoes, bulky boots or slippery dress shoes.** Always consider the ease of undressing and dressing during diapering or potty training when choosing school clothes. Remember, cold Florida winter mornings often warm up quickly and dressing in layers often allows your child to remain comfortable throughout the day. **Please label all coats and sweaters with your child's name.**

SNACKS

***Due to several nut allergies in our school, please note that we are a peanut free campus. Please refrain from sending any type of peanut butter, nuts, etc. for snacks and/or lunches.**

Toddler/Two-Year Olds: Students need to bring a drink daily. Please make sure their cup is labeled with your child's name. It is very important that you keep us informed of any allergies your child develops (do this in writing).

Entire School: We will have a Snack Basket again this year, it will be sent home on an alternating basis. Return the basket filled with enough nutritious snacks of your choice for your child's class. Please do not send candy, sugary snacks, chocolate or food that requires teacher preparation. Gum is never allowed at school.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE OF THE "ALLERGY TAG" ON YOUR CLASS SNACK BASKET.

Please do not send your child's snack in a lunch box. Lunch boxes are strictly for students staying for Lunch Bunch.

BIRTHDAYS

We recognize every child's birthday. If you would like to add to the celebration by providing a special birthday treat at snack time, please let the teacher know in advance. When providing birthday supplies, please do not bring anything depicting a violent theme (Power Rangers, Batman, etc.)

HEALTH POLICY

Please do not send your child to school if he/she exhibits any of these symptoms:

- Fever within the last 24 hours
- Nausea
- Thick or colored runny nose
- Severe skin rash
- Inflamed eyes
- Swollen glands
- Ear ache
- Diarrhea within the last 24 hours
- Bad cough
- Chills

If any of these conditions have been attributed to a non-contagious condition such as allergies or teething please ask your pediatrician for a written confirmation before returning your child to school.

If a child develops any of these symptoms during the school day, a parent will be notified to pick the child up **immediately**.

DROP OFF/PICK UP LINE

The semi-circular driveway at the north side of our campus that enters from and exits onto Bryn Mawr Street will be used as our drop off and pick up line. Each morning beginning at 8:25, there will be staff member to take your child out of your vehicle or to greet your child. Children will then be walked to class to start their day. We ask that you drop your child off between the hours of 8:25 and 8:40am.

Pickup begins at 11:55. Please pull up and remain in your car at all times with your car sign displayed on your windshield. A staff member will put your child in their car seat. Children who are not picked up by 12:10 will be taken back into the building to wait with the teacher. A late fee of \$10.00 may be charged for excessive tardiness.

Please do not use drop off and pick up time to engage the teacher in lengthy conversation. If you need to come earlier, please come to the office and we will retrieve your child from the class to not disturb the other children. In the event of heavy rain during carpool, please park and come in and pick up your child from Quigley Hall. It is very difficult to load children in the rain and the carpool line backs up which interrupts the traffic flow on Bryn Mawr St.

RELEASE OF CHILDREN

Please let us know in writing if someone who is not listed on the pick-up authorization form will pick up your child. Anyone unknown to the teacher should be prepared to show a picture I.D.

STORM POLICY

In the event of a hurricane or other severe conditions, we will close if Orange County Public School System closes. If we are under a tornado or severe warning, the children will stay in the hallway downstairs. Parents will need to pick up their child inside.

SPECIAL EVENTS

We have many fun family events planned for this year. Please check the calendar and look for updates on how you can get involved and meet other St. Michael's families.