

SCHOOL SAFETY

Volunteers or teachers monitor the playground from 7:45 to 8:00a.m. **School begins at 8:15.** Please do not drop your children off any earlier than 7:45, as they will be unsupervised. Classrooms will not be open until 8:00.

School ends at 2:50. Children being picked up after school will wait for parents in the car pool line on the west side of the building until 3:05. After 3:05, they will be sent to Kaleidoscope Club. Please park your vehicle in the parking lot east of the school to retrieve your child after 3:05.

Please discuss the following safety rules with your child:

- *Use crosswalks on streets
- *Look both ways before crossing the streets
- *Don't talk to strangers
- *Proper behavior is expected on the school bus

NO PARKING IS ALLOWED IN FRONT OF THE BUILDING.

PARKING

When dropping off and picking up your child, please **DO NOT** park in the bus-loading zone in front of the school. This area is for buses only. Parking is available in the parking lot on the east side of the school. For safety purposes please use the tarred lot.

S.F.
FRANCIS
of the Lakes Catholic School
OUR CHILDREN. OUR FAITH. OUR FUTURE.



KINDERGARTEN HANDBOOK

OUR CHILDREN, OUR FAITH, OUR FUTURE

Creating confident lifelong learners.

Welcome to the St. Francis Community!

Thank you for supporting our Catholic school by entrusting us with the most precious of gifts, your child. St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School works to provide many rich opportunities for each student to flourish in a Christ-centered atmosphere. We take this responsibility very seriously and continue to strive for excellence in all areas of our system.

St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, or athletic and other school-administered programs.

REGISTRATION

All children attending St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School must have completed registration forms on file in the office, including up-to-date health forms with necessary immunizations and two emergency contacts in the event you cannot be reached.

A non-refundable registration fee of \$150 per child (\$300 maximum per family) is due upon registration to retain your spot in the specified class. This fee is applied directly to tuition.

TUITION

Please refer to the **Tuition Policy**, found in your registration packet.

CLOTHING

Dress your child for the weather! The children have more fun if they are comfortable. The children go outside everyday when the temperature is above -10, including the wind chill. Please make sure your child has warm outerwear, including hat and mittens. Please label your child's clothing and school supplies so that they will be easily identified if misplaced or forgotten.

KALEIDOSCOPE CLUB

Kaleidoscope Club is our after-school care program. This program can be used on a regular basis, or as last minute drop-in care. Kaleidoscope Club runs from 3:05-5:30pm, and students can be picked up any time. There is a fee for care, and the rates can be found on the Kaleidoscope Club registration forms. These forms are available throughout the year in the school office.

RESPECT AND WELLNESS

Children should use good habits and good manners in school. We appreciate your assistance in helping your child acquire these and other good habits and manners:

- *Wash hands before eating and after going to the restroom.
- *Cover a cough or sneeze.
- *Say "Please" and "Thank you."

MILK BREAK/LUNCH

Kindergarteners receive milk during snack time. Information regarding milk break will be sent home the first week of school. We participate under the State of Minnesota's Kindergarten Milk Program as a satellite school of the Brainerd School District. There is a separate fee for snack milk, which can be paid in the school office. Juice is available for those with milk or lactose allergies.

Lunch is purchased through the Brainerd School District. Students are assigned a pin number, and parents need to make payments directly through the ISD 181 website; www.isd181.org – For Parents. You can also drop off a check in our school office. **All checks must be made payable to ISD 181 and include your child's name in the memo line.** These payments will be sent to the district several times a week, but may take a few days to credit to your lunch account.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES AND TREATS

Parties are held at the teacher's discretion and are kept to a minimum. St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School wants to encourage "healthy" treats or a non-food item to share with the entire class for birthdays. Following Health Department Guidelines, treats must be individually wrapped, or you may order cookies through ISD 181 food service (no cupcakes or cakes). Cookie orders must be made two weeks in advance.

Below are some examples of alternative birthday celebration ideas:

- *Treasure chest full of trinkets for students to choose from, such as small prizes/toys, pencils, gel pens, chalk, post-it notes or bookmarks
- *Birthday child brings in a wrapped gift to donate to the class, such as a game, activity, or book.
- *Mini Play-doh (store bought only)
- *Show & Tell (share favorite things or pictures)

BUS TAGS

If your child is riding the bus, a bus tag will be issued at Kindergarten orientation. Early in August, you will receive a form in the mail. Please complete the form immediately and mail it to the school district. The Transportation Office relies on this blue postcard to arrange your child's bussing.

The bus tag includes your child's name, parent's name, address and telephone number. **Please review tags to ensure your child's bus numbers are correct.**

Children must wear the bus tag on their jacket or backpack. It will help bus drivers locate the child's bus or parents, if necessary.

SCREENING & IMMUNIZATION

A pre-school screening is required for students entering Kindergarten.

Immunization records must be up to date by September 1st of the current year. Immunization records must be provided to the school office prior to your child starting school. If the records are not up to date, your child may not be able to start school.

CLASS TIMES AND AGE REQUIREMENTS

St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic Kindergarten offers all day classes.

Children must be five by September 1st to be eligible for the Kindergarten classes.

CURRICULUM

At St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School, we are continually reviewing national, state and Diocesan standards to assure our students are receiving the academic skills needed to go on to higher education and a successful Christian life.

It is the integration of our Catholic faith into all curriculums that sets us apart and provides what others can't – the same Christian values you teach at home.

RELIGION

Imparting the Catholic Faith to our students is the primary and glorious task of the Catholic school, the parish, and the parents of the child. It is our responsibility to teach a child to know and love God and neighbor. Indeed, as we instruct the child in the Catholic Faith, we strengthen our own understanding and love of God and His church. Catholic schools have as their focus the integration of faith with life and learning.

MATH

Areas covered in the Kindergarten Mathematics Curriculum are:

- *Basic addition and subtraction
- *One to one correspondence
- *Basic shapes and comparing sizes
- *Positional concepts
- *Numbers 0-100 (counting)
- *Counting by 2's, 5's & 10's
- *Classification & sorting
- *Estimating
- *Patterning
- *Time on the hour
- *Graphing
- *Sequencing
- *Basic measuring

SOCIAL STUDIES - Your child will learn about:

- *Cooperation
- *His/her school and community
- *Special days and holidays
- *Use of the Calendar
- *Famous People
- *Following directions

At home you can help by visiting many interesting places such as the zoo, park, circus, museums, etc.

SCIENCE - Your child will:

- *Become aware of simple concepts in nature
- *Observe changes in growing things
- *Experiment and predict

Develop a curiosity and interest in the world

MUSIC -Your child will:

- *Participate in bi-annual music programs
- *Learn new songs and nursery rhymes
- *Keep time to music
- *Perform in the Christmas program, held at Tornstrom

At home, sing along with your child and encourage him/her to sing "fun" songs.

COMPUTER

Your child will become acquainted with the mouse and the location of the letters and other keys on the keyboard in the classroom.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Your child will:

- *Play games indoors and outdoors
- *Use balls, jump ropes and other physical education equipment
- *Exercise by running, jumping, skipping, etc.

WHOLE LANGUAGE

The Whole Language approach is incorporated into the units that are studied in Kindergarten. Your child will learn the following:

- *Letter recognition
- *Consonant and vowel sounds
- *Nursery rhymes
- *Rhyming
- *Following directions
- *Identifying colors and color names
- *Printing his/her first and last names
- *Inventive spelling through journals
- *Retelling a story in the proper order

PARENT INFORMATION

The following section contains important classroom information for parents. Please read carefully.

ABSENCES & ILLNESS

Please keep your child home if he/she shows signs of being ill. If your child is absent, please call the school. If your child contracts a communicable disease, please let us know as soon as possible.