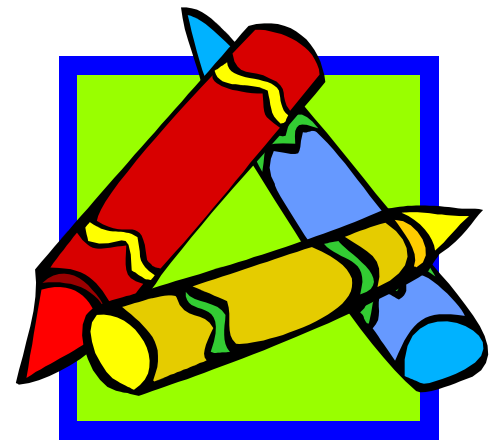


Kindergarten Parent Handbook



Beautiful Savior Lutheran School

2008-2009

Welcome to Kindergarten at Beautiful Savior Lutheran School

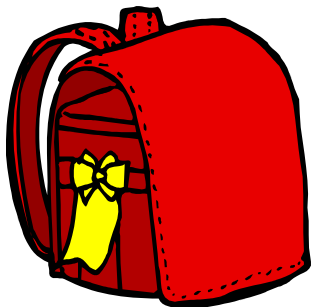
The mission of Beautiful Savior Lutheran School Kindergarten is to give children the opportunity to grow in faith and knowledge within a loving, Christian environment.

Our Daily Routine

Arrival

Please bring your child to the Kindergarten classroom between 8:15 and 8:30am every morning. You will not be able to enter the main outside school doors until 8:15am. As your child waits for the other children to arrive, he or she will sign-in, which will entail writing an answer to the daily question. Then your child will place his or her Rainbow Book on the shelf and find a center to explore. If your child will arrive on the bus, I will guide them through the arrival routine.

Your child's regular and prompt attendance at school is crucial to his or her success. Most kindergarten learning activities are group oriented and involve interaction with classmates. Therefore, it is next to impossible to make up work at home. Please view school as a priority and see to it that your child attends everyday, except in cases of illness or emergency. If your child is ill, please call the school office before school begins at (262) 542-6558.



Morning Centers

Each day the Kindergarten children have Center Time. Center Time is an essential component of the Beautiful Savior Kindergarten program, as it gives the children the opportunity to learn through play. During center time, the children engage in meaningful, hands-on learning activities, some being continuous and others related to the current theme. These fun and engaging center activities give the children the opportunity and motivation to discover the world around them, make choices, and gain ownership of their learning. The centers located throughout your child's classroom will include the following:

- Reading
- Listening
- Writing
- Math
- Science
- Computers
- Art
- Sensory
- Dramatic Play
- Construction
- Wood Working
- Music



Morning Meeting

The children will have a Morning Meeting every day. Each day we will come together as a whole group to have a short devotion in order to start our day with Jesus. Then we will engage in the Math Meeting portion of this meeting. During this time, we talk about our daily jobs, the daily schedule, the calendar, and the weather. The children also discover the number of days we have been in school by using the counting straws, our number line, and the one hundred chart. The Math Meeting will guide the children to begin to understand the concepts of time, counting by 1s, 5s, and 10s, even and odd numbers, writing numbers, and place value.

The Morning Meeting then ends with interactive writing through the Morning Message. The Morning Message is a message that I write for and with the children every day. The message will talk about things that will be happening that day. This message allows children to learn about language in a fun and interactive way, as they help read, write, and discover letters or words within the message.



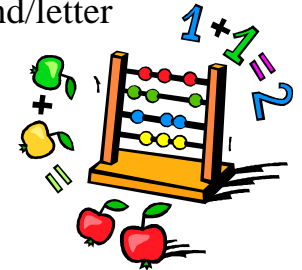
Shared Reading

Most days during the week the children will come together for Shared Reading time. Each week the children will also focus on a big book, trade book story, or rhyme. They will listen to the story or rhyme at the beginning of the week. Then we will discuss the

story or rhyme, find words, discover rhyming words, echo read, and by the end of the week the children will often be able to help read the story.

The children will also engage in creating a predictable chart with the whole class. These charts will include a sentence dictated from each child according to a patterned sentence. At the end of the week, the children will illustrate their sentences and compile the pages to form a class book.

This time is very important for language development! Through shared reading, the children will begin to develop print awareness, such as left to right and top to bottom progression, spacing between words, use of capitalization, use of punctuation, and recognizing letters. This time will also help develop your child's understanding of sound/letter relationships, vocabulary, and comprehension.



Math Lesson

The class will learn about math concepts together as a class through the Math Lesson. These lessons will be short, interactive, and hands-on to keep the children highly interested in the lesson. The math concepts we will be learning this year include:

Patterns
Sorting & Classifying
Counting
Graphing
Numbers 0-100

Joining & Subtraction
Place Value
Number Relationships
Comparing
Measuring

Music

On Mondays, your child will travel to the music room to have a Kindergarten music class with Mrs. Marose. During this class, the children will learn about rhythm, levels of sound, instruments, and more through many fun songs and activities. Then, on Wednesdays, the children will have Cherub Choir (K-1st), which will give them the opportunity to sing with children from another class.



Library

The children will go the library every Friday, with the opportunity to select their own books every visit. Each child is allowed two books per visit, which should be returned on the next visit to the library. The due date will be indicated in the library books.

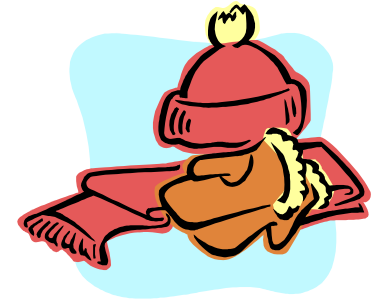
Your child will not be able to check out more books until the previously checked out books are returned. Each child may only have two books checked out from the library at a time. This will help your child with the routine of selecting, checking out, and returning books on a regular basis.



Morning Recess

The Kindergarten children will be going out for morning recess Tuesday through Thursday, unless it is raining or extremely cold. Please keep this in mind as you help your child choose both indoor and outdoor clothing for the day.

During the snowy, winter months, the children will need to wear snowpants, boots, coats, hats, and mittens to be allowed to play in the snow. It is strongly recommended that the children are able to manage these clothing items on their own. Also, please clearly label all of your child's clothing items.



Physical Education

We will have the opportunity to use our gymnasium each week. On Tuesdays, the children will have P.E. class instead of morning recess. They will still have the opportunity to get their energy out, but they will also be learning at the same time. The Full-Day children will also have P.E. on Friday afternoons. In Kindergarten, we will focus on learning basic moving skills, including balance, hopping, fleeing, running, throwing, and much more. The skills will be introduced through group activities and then reinforced through fun, stimulating games.

Snack Time



The children will have snack time each morning following recess. Each child brings their own healthy snack to school. Healthy snacks include fruits, vegetables, yogurt, crackers, dry cereal, . During snack time, the children are encouraged to practice good manners, talking quietly, neatness, and cleanliness.

The children will be having milk for snack each day they attend school. You will prepay in the office for your child's snack milk for the whole year. If your child is lactose intolerant, or will not drink milk, please send an alternate nutritious beverage to school for your child. Any type of juice you send to school should be 100% fruit juice. If a beverage is not provided or paid for, your child will have the option to drink water for snack.



Show-and-Tell

Sharing is a wonderful way to learn about one another. It also allows students to gain confidence, as they speak in front of their classmates. Your child will have a particular day each week that they will be able to bring a Show-and-Tell item in the Guessing Bag. When it is your child's turn, please encourage him or her to bring in items to share that are meaningful or will tell us something about him or herself. As we

continue with this activity throughout the year, your child may be asked to bring an item that starts with a particular letter of the alphabet or that relates to our theme.

ABC Lesson



Several days of the week, the children will have a special time to learn about letters and sounds through the ABC Lesson. During these lessons, the children will review the names and shapes of the letters, engage in rhythm and rhyme, participate in listening activities, work with syllables, and discover sound/letter relationships. Later in the year, the children will be putting these sounds together to create words.

Your child will also learn about "Popcorn Words" during this time. Popcorn Words are also frequently referred to as sight words. We call them Popcorn Words because they are the words that "pop" up frequently while we are reading and writing, such as: the, is, it, a, and so on.

In addition, the children will receive paper books, which I will refer to as "paper readers." You child will first receive "Pre-Decodable Readers." These readers will contain both words and rebus pictures, often referring to the Popcorn Words we are learning. Later in the year, the children will receive "Decodable Readers." These books will still have illustrations, but the sentences will only be words. The words in the readers will contain many of the letter sounds we are working on at that time.

Writer's Workshop

The children will be engaged in Writer's Workshop several days a week. This time will begin with the class joining together for a group mini-lesson. Following the lesson, the children will have the opportunity to write in their Writer's Notebook.

They will be using pictures and words to write about their topic of choice. Since the children are just beginning to learn about writing, we will be talking about using Kindergarten Writing. This means that they are to spell to the best of their ability, but also lets them know that they will not be using this invented spelling forever.

Each Writer's Workshop session will close with a time for sharing. Your child will have a special day each week on which they will be able to share their writing. This is usually their favorite part of Writer's Workshop!



Literacy Centers

On Monday and Friday, your children will engage in Literacy Centers. These centers will include the Reading Center, Writing Center, Listening Center, ABC Center, Magnet Center, etc. The class will be divided into several groups, which will rotate between these centers each week, completing three centers each day. The children may be required to do a specific

activity, or they may be able to choose from a variety of activities within the center. Throughout the year, I will also be working with the groups individually to do phonemic awareness or phonics activities and guided reading.

Guided Centers

Guided Centers will be on Tuesday and Thursday. During Guided Centers, the children will be visiting specific centers throughout the classroom to engage in math activities, activities related to our current theme, and Writer's Workshop. The children will be in the same groups as they are for Literacy Centers. However, these groups will change throughout the year.

The groups will rotate through three centers each day. The activities may be in the Science Center, Construction Center, Sensory Center, Writing Center, Math Center, or any other center within the classroom. The children will have a specific activity to complete at each center.



Jesus Time



While the love of Jesus is shared with your child throughout each day, we have a special time each day to learn about God and His love for us. During Jesus Time, the Word of God is taught through the use of big books, children's literature, puppets, flannel figures, drama, songs, and various other exciting resources.

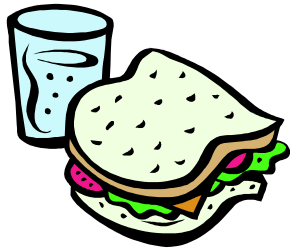
Your child will bring home a family letter at the end of each week that relates to the Jesus Time story we learned about that week. This letter will be attached to the weekly kindergarten newsletter. Please encourage your child to retell the Bible story using the pictures and background scene or flip the letter over and read the story together with your child.

AM Dismissal

At the end of the Half-Day Kindergarten day, the children will gather together for a review of the day and a closing song. Then the half-day children will pack their backpacks and get ready to go home.

You may pick your child up through the front doors of the school. However, the doors to the classroom hallway will be locked. Please remain outside the doors until your child comes to greet you and to tell you all about their day.

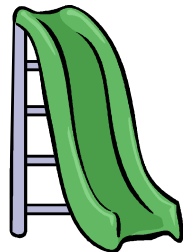
Lunch



The Full-day Kindergarten children will have lunch every day following the AM dismissal. Your child will have the option each morning to choose hot lunch or cold lunch. If your child will be having cold lunch, your child should bring a healthy lunch, including items such as a sandwich and fruit.

If your child will be having hot lunch, you will need to pay the office in advance for these meals. A hot lunch calendar will be available each month.

Milk will be available to all children, both those with a packed lunch and those with a hot lunch. You will also need to pay the office in advance for milk. If your child will not be having milk with lunch, you will need to send another nutritious drink (100% fruit juice) with them to school.



Noon Recess

After lunch, the children will have a time for outside recess with the 1st through 4th grades. If it is raining or extremely cold, the children will have recess in the gymnasium. As mentioned in the “Morning Recess” section, please be sure that your child has proper clothing for the outdoor weather.

Rest Time

The Full-Day children will have a period of time each day for rest. During this time, the children lay quietly on their mat brought from home, while listening to relaxing music or stories. Children occasionally fall asleep during rest time, especially at the beginning of the year, but most children just quietly lay and listen to the music or stories provided.

Please note, if your child brings a blanket for rest time, it will be sent home every Friday to be washed. Please wash your child’s blanket and send it back to school every Monday.



Specials

The Full-Day Kindergartners will have several different “special” activities in the afternoon throughout the week. They will have an additional Writer’s Workshop time on Mondays and Wednesdays. The children will have a second Physical Education class on Tuesdays, which will reinforce the skills they learned earlier in the week. On Thursdays, they will be able to use the computers together in the Computer Lab. Then, on Fridays, the children will have the opportunity to have an art class in the art room!

Guided Centers

Each afternoon, the Full-Day Kindergarten class will have an additional Guided Centers time to engage in activities that relate to our theme and reinforce math and language concepts that we learned in the morning or earlier in the year.

Afternoon Centers

The Full-Day Kindergarten class will have an additional Center Time each afternoon. This is an important time for the children to freely explore the activities offered to them throughout the classroom. Please see the earlier section labeled “Center Time” for further information.



PM Dismissal

At the end of the Full-Day Kindergarten day, the children will gather together for a story, a review of the day, and a closing song. Then the children will pack their backpacks and get ready for the trip home.

Please pick your child up at 3:30pm by the front doors of the school or pick them up in the drive through line. If you choose to pick up your child in your car, you will wait in line in your car and your child will wait inside until the teacher calls them out.

Core Subject Areas

Language Arts

Children need many opportunities to explore reading, writing, and listening in a print-rich environment in order to develop their language skills. This environment is seen throughout the centers within our classroom and supported through various group activities.

Several days a week the children will engage in Shared Reading supplemented by the Open Court Kindergarten Reading Program. During this time, we will use to big books, authentic literature, poems and rhymes to learn to recognize and understand letters, sight words, sentences, rhyme patterns, and much more.

Other language activities your child will engage in include interactive writing, Writer's Workshop, predictable charts, literacy centers, and guided reading. Once a week, your child will also receive an issue of Let's Find Out, which is a language arts rich publication related to our science and social studies themes.



Mathematics

The Kindergarten mathematics curriculum, Saxon Math, is offered to the children through a hands-on, explorative, and playful approach. Throughout the year the children will use everyday objects and math tools to make patterns, graphs, count, and much more. By using these concrete materials the children will gain an insight and understanding of mathematics. The students will engage in math activities many times throughout the day, including during Center Time, our Math Meeting, the Math Lesson, and even during transitions.



Science and Social Studies

The children will learn about a wide array of science and social studies topics through our changing themes. Every few weeks, the children will learn about a new science or social studies theme through big books, children's literature, discussion, songs, and hands-on activities. Themes may include: All About Me, Leaves and Trees, Community Workers, Insects, the Ocean, and more. They will even help choose and plan some of our themes this year!

The ABCs of Kindergarten

At-Home Library

Throughout the school year, your child will be bringing home paper readers. These blackline (copied) books are the Pre-Decodable and Decodable books mentioned in the section on ABC Lesson and other books that relate to our theme. I would like your child to have a special place at home to keep these books. Therefore, we will be decorating a shoebox at school for the children to keep their books in at home. By having this special place, your child will enjoy reading these books over and over again, without them being lost in the shuffle.



Birthdays

Birthdays are special occasions for young children. Your child will be the Star Student of the Week near their birthday. See “Star Student of the Week” for further details. If your child has a summer birthday, we will celebrate his or her half-birthday during the school year.

Book Orders

Your child will be bringing home book order forms about once a month. If you wish to order books for your child, simply fill out the form and send it in an envelope with a check made out to the book club company, not to myself or the school, for the correct amount of the order. Please do not pay with cash.

These book orders are provided as a convenient way for parents to buy quality books at low prices for their children. In addition, your orders will also help to build our classroom library, as we receive free books and resources from points accumulated from your orders!

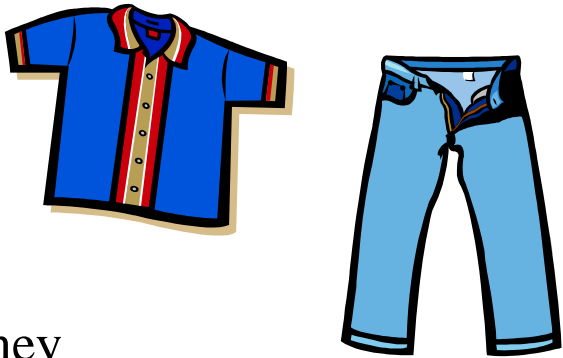


Changes in Transportation

If you plan to pick up a child that normally rides home with their parents or you wish for your child to ride home with another parent, **you must write a note.** Please, do not rely on your child to tell their teacher this information! Children often become confused and may relay the message incorrectly. If your child does not bring a written note to school stating otherwise, I will assume that your child will be returning home by his or her usual method of transportation.

Extra Clothes

Please send an extra set of clothes for your child to keep in his or her cubby at school. You never know when he or she might need it! Even if your child rarely has an accident, Kindergarten children often become caught up in exciting activities, which will sometimes cause them to spill or forget to use the facilities.



Money

On occasion, it will be necessary for your child to bring money for school. Always send money in a sealed envelope with the following information written on the outside of it:

- Your child's first and last name
- The purpose for the money (field trip, book order, etc.)
- The amount of money
- The teacher's name

Then place it in the Money Pouch in your child's Rainbow Book.

Parent Helpers

Parent helpers are an important aspect of the Kindergarten program. If you wish to be a parent helper, there are numerous ways you can help. You can choose to help at home by taking items home to cut out or sort. You can choose to volunteer your time in the classroom doing various tasks, such as changing bulletin boards or stuffing folders. You can also choose to work with the children in the classroom. Parents are invited into the classroom to help with a wide range of activities everyday during the second half of the morning or the afternoon. A form was included in your parent packet for interested parents to sign up for specific days and times. The children love to see their parents in the classroom, whether you can help one time or twenty times!



Parent Participation

Throughout the school year, there will be a variety of special classroom activities, field trips, and celebrations. During these special events, we will need the help of parent volunteers. I encourage you to attend these functions, when possible, or support them by sending needed supplies or treats. By supporting school activities, you will make your child feel important and show them that you value school.

Some of the special events in Kindergarten may include:

- Retzer Nature Center Field Trip
- Pumpkin Farm Field Trip
- A Taste of Thanksgiving
- Birthday Party for Jesus
- 100th Day of School

Parent-Teacher Communication

A good parent-teacher relationship is necessary to meet the needs of your child, allowing your child to have a positive and successful school experience. Throughout the year, we will communicate with each other through notes, telephone calls, newsletters, report cards, and parent-teacher conferences.

A Parent Center is also available by the door inside the classroom. The center includes several parent resource books, a suggestion and comment box,

and a Parent Communication Notebook. If you would like to check-out a parent resource book for a while, please write your name, the book's name, and the date in the Parent Communication Notebook. You may also use the Parent Communication Notebook to ask questions or express concerns. This notebook may be written in at school or brought home and returned the next day. I will respond promptly to any questions or concerns you may have in the notebook.



Rainbow Book

Your child will use the colored binder they brought to school as a communication book between school and home. This will be used to send and receive your child's schoolwork, notes, money, and other information. It will also house the current newsletter, calendar, class list, and more. Please check your child's Rainbow Book daily. I will also check each Rainbow Book every day. This will be an efficient way to communicate important information.

A more detailed explanation of the contents of the Rainbow Book can be found in the front of your child's book.

Star Student of the Week

Your child will be the Star Student of the Week during the week that is closest to his or her birthday, or half birthday if his or her birthday is in the summer. On the Friday before your child is the Star Student, he or she will bring home a Star Student bag. This bag will contain several different activities for the Star Student to do at home and bring back to school on Monday. These activities will include making posters about themselves, an estimating jar, and a stuffed animal with a journal. Your child will also have the opportunity to bring a snack for the children to make or just to enjoy. Please help your child complete these activities, as this is a very exciting time for your child!

