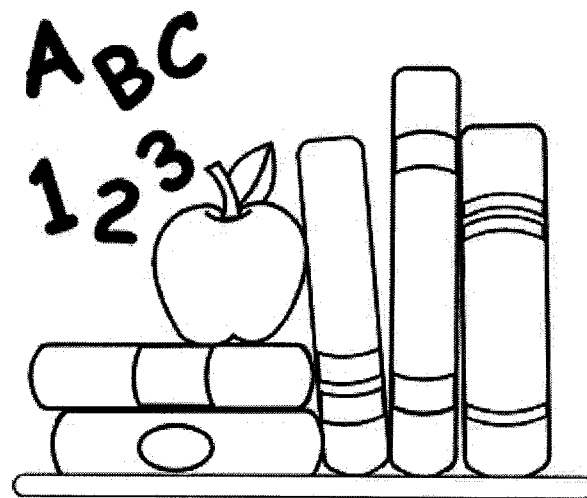


Welcome to Kindergarten

2018-2019

Mrs. Lacombe's Class



Dear Parents,

Welcome to kindergarten! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you as your child's teacher at J.E. Cosgriff Memorial Catholic School. I'm sure you must be feeling a bit anxious and excited about your child starting school. No matter what previous school experience your child has had, being in kindergarten will open many new doors. It is my intent to give you some background information about myself and our classroom so that we have a smooth transition into the start of a busy year.

As a teacher with over thirty years of experience in various primary grades, I hold a Master's Degree in reading. I have taught in both parochial and public school settings. This will be my eighth year at Cosgriff. One of my favorite hobbies is drama and I have the pleasure of working with students in grades 5th through 7th to produce a Broadway production every spring. Drama also carries over into my classroom as I enjoy directing a Christmas play with my students and helping them to develop their oral speaking skills and creative expression.

My husband and I, relocated to Salt Lake City from northern New York State, so he could take a position with the Attorney General's office. He worked here for 6 years before taking on the position of Lead Counsel for Salt Lake Community College. We have kept our home in NYS and will continue to travel back and forth to be with family. We have two married daughters and our family has grown with the addition of four beautiful grandchildren. Our youngest daughter Colleen, is a pediatric dentist and lives with her husband Adam in New York State. Our oldest daughter Marcie and her husband Pete, live in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is also a teacher. Both of our girls attended Catholic schools from kindergarten through twelfth grade. I can appreciate the sacrifices families go through to send their children to a Catholic school and I assure you it will be worth it.

In New York State, we live in a rural setting surrounded by the Adirondack Mountains and Lake Champlain. Winters are harsh with below zero temperatures for weeks. The humidity in the summer ranges around ninety five percent with lots of mosquitos. Chris and I, enjoy the milder weather that Utah offers!

I feel it is important for us to connect on a personal level because we will be working closely together this year. I hope many of you will volunteer to assist and share in the learning process in our classroom. I know that I am ready to help your child learn, and reach personal goals. If at any time you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at home or at school. My cell is 518-569-9740. I can also be reached by email at slacombe@cosgriff.org

Sincerely,

Teaching Style

During the school year you will notice that my teaching style involves a *"hands-on-approach"* to learning. Which simply means; I want to provide my students with lessons that engage them in the learning process. I believe students in kindergarten should learn through exploration, through trial and error, discussion, creative expression, music and with lots of support and repetition from adults. I plan to teach using whole group and small group instruction. Groups will sometime be interchanged depending on students' needs and the skills we are covering. I enjoy using learning centers so that students are not always sitting at their tables and have opportunities to move around the classroom. Centers also teach responsibility for completing a task independently or with a peer. When walking into our classroom you will see activity, smiling faces, and feel a positive, nurturing environment.

The term "literacy" will be used frequently in kindergarten. Literacy involves learning to read and write. One of my main objectives for the year is to help your child develop the necessary skills to become a reader and writer and to enjoy doing both. If your child comes home and is excited to share a story we wrote in class or to share his/her high frequency words with you then we are on the right road to success. Our school developed "Power Hour" to enhance and meet the needs of all readers. Your child will have myself and Mrs. Jenkins as their primary reading teachers. We will rotate rooms so that all kindergarten students have both learning experiences.

Besides literacy, we will focus much of our time on learning and making sense of mathematical concepts. Our school uses the Singapore math program and other strategies for teaching math. Students in kindergarten will keep a math journal that lays a foundation for model drawing in the higher grades.

Spiritually, kindergarten is also an important year for your child. You've already started to teach about God in your homes. In school, your child will join the J.E. Cosgriff Memorial Catholic School family and will continue to learn more about God's love through the use of Bible stories, holiday celebrations, prayers, and our relationships with each other. I have included Religion standards in this packet for your careful review.

There will be homework in kindergarten that is meant to reinforce what we are doing in school. Most homework packets will be handed out on Mondays and need to be returned on Fridays. This Gives you ample opportunities to work around your family's schedule. Reading book baggies will also be sent home from the reading room to help develop literacy. A word bank will go home as we move forward with reading. Other seasonal projects will also go home from time to time. Please check your child's folder nightly for corrected daily work, notes from me, and any homework. Folders need to be returned to school every day.

My Discipline Policy

At the beginning of the school year, we will use our smooth stones to lead us into a discussion on how to have a smooth year in kindergarten. We will discuss some simple rules to follow and post them in our room. We will refer to these rules as jobs. In life and even in school, we all have jobs to do. We will make reference to these jobs when discipline issues arise. This is part of Choice Theory. The premise behind Choice Theory is we recognize that all of us have certain needs and our actions are based on those needs. Everyone has a need to belong, to feel loved, and to have power, fun and freedom. Problems can occur when those needs are not being met.

As a great visual tool, we will also use a traffic light's colors to indicate what kind of day a child is having. When having a great day a child's name will be near the green light, if you have had a warning in regards to making a poor choice, your name will move to the yellow light. If the behavior continues then you will need to move your name to the red light. A red light means a time-out and a note home. If a time-out is used it is always followed up with a discussion between the student and myself. I want to be sure that he/she understands what they could do differently next time.

I believe that communication between a parent and teacher is important when helping a child through periods of conflict or behavior problems. At times, some reinforcement may be needed at home but for the most part problems can usually be resolved in the classroom. Some situations may require advice/assistance from our Principal, Mrs. Hunt. Parents will always be notified when their child hasn't had a good day or has made a bad choice.

Please check your child's folder nightly for any notes from me regarding the day's events, discipline issues, and homework assignments. I will also check your child's folder every morning for correspondence from home.

Here are some of the areas we will study this year in kindergarten.

Reading:

phonemic awareness, listen, and respond to literature, consonant sounds, short and long vowel sounds, blending and segmenting, sight word recognition, blends and diagraphs, reading independently with fluency

Social Studies:

our community, map skills, land forms, citizenship, patriotic symbols and traditions, jobs, community helpers, holidays, polar regions

Science:

weather, energy, force and motion, needs of animals and plants, polar animals, life cycles, moon and stars, erosion, earth and human activity

Math:

understanding numeracy, counting objects, number recognition, writing numbers to 100, skip counting, (2's, 5's, 10's), shapes, dimensional and flat, patterns, developing math vocabulary, number bonds (addition, subtraction), calendar (months and days of the week)

Religion:

Developing our Catholic identity, participating in Mass, holidays and Christian traditions, Saints, Our Father, Hail Mary, Angel of God, Meal Blessing, Sign of The Cross, service projects

Writing:

correct letter formation, neatness, spacing, writing labels, and drawings, writing a complete sentence, use of punctuation, writing 2 to 3 sentences about on a topic, journal responses, writing a simple class letter or thank you note,

Oral Language Development:

Share information at show-n-tell, give an oral report to peers, perform on stage, respond during school mass, read aloud to peers, poetry sharing

Classroom Routines

Mrs. Lacombe's Kindergarten

Snack

Your child needs to bring his or her own snack on a daily basis for morning snack. Water bottles are encouraged since our room gets very warm. Other drinks are not permitted. Please keep in mind that snacks should be ***healthy and we are a peanut-free school***. Afternoon snack is provided by a child in our room on a weekly rotation. I will send home a calendar indicating who will provide afternoon snack for an entire week. All snacks should be simple and easy to serve. If it is easier, you can send the weekly snacks at the beginning of your week.

****I am providing snack for this first week of school.**

Label Items

Be sure to label all items that your child brings to school (book bags, sweaters, hats, books...). Many of the students have similar things. If you put your child's name on items it may save us from searching the lost and found pile.

Show-n-Teach

We will have ***show-n-teach*** once a week in school. I feel the purpose of show-n-teach is to promote language skills, share information, and build self-esteem. It makes a child feel good to show everyone something they found, or made, or something special they got for a birthday. Your child may not want to participate at first, it will be optional.

****Show-n-Teach will be on Monday afternoons.**

School Masses

Our school will attend weekly masses and parents are invited and encouraged to attend. However, it is important to note that kindergarten students are expected to sit as a class.

****Students should be in *dress uniforms with good shoes for all***

school masses.

Emergency Bags

Every student in our school is required to have an emergency kit that includes the following items in a Ziploc bag:

2 granola bars (snack)

Bottle of water

Flashlight is optional

Family picture is optional

Telephone contact numbers (include 1 number in state and 1 contact for out of state if possible)

****Please send this in as soon as possible.**

Nightly Folders

Please check your child's folder nightly for notes, homework, and completed work. Folders need to be returned the following day. In doing so, we are able to communicate more effectively and it will help us stay organized.

Homework

Students in kindergarten work very hard throughout the day. We have so much to cover that reinforcement at home will be needed. I believe that all my students need to read at night or be read to. Sharing a story and discussing it with your child, looking for new words or familiar words is so important to success in the early years. As we progress, your child will get weekly homework.

Volunteers

We will need volunteers in our classroom at center time and I look forward to having you in my room. Our room parents will be organizing this for me

along with other events that will take place during the year. Please know that when you are working in the classroom you need to balance being a mom to your child and someone who has to work with everyone. Being dependable is also important to the project we have planned.

*****All parents who are volunteers need to complete the safe environment check. Please refer to the Cosgriff website for details.***

Communication

I will do my best to send home a weekly letter on Mondays to keep you up to date on what is happening in our room. Be sure to check that nightly folder. If you have a concern or just need to share some information with me, please feel free to send a note via the nightly folder, email me at school, or call me before school or in the evening on my cell (518-569-9740). If you need to reach me during the school day you can call the office. I do not always check my phone during the day.

Birthdays

If your child is celebrating a birthday we would like to make it a special day in school. Feel free to send in cupcakes or other simple snack to share with the whole class. Please do not send in birthday invitations to school for me to hand out unless everyone is included. I want to avoid any hurt feelings when someone is left out. I will be happy to provide you with a list of addresses.

Best Part of Kindergarten

I think the best part of kindergarten is the enthusiasm this age group has for learning and the anticipation and excitement parents feel when they see their child go off to school. It is really a privilege to be a teacher. I know that

I am not perfect and God has given each one of us different talents. Keeping that in mind, I will work hard to help your child have a great year in kindergarten. Catholic Schools educate the whole child, academically, spiritually, and physically.

A Typical Day in Kindergarten

8:15 school starts, we walk in together

Unpack backpacks/check-in/start journal writing/take care of morning business

8:30 to 9:00 Power Hour/small group instruction

9:00 to 10:00 Whole group reading & writing instruction

10:00 to 10:15 outdoor recess

10:00 to 10:30 snack and start calendar activities

10:40 to 11:00 practice writing

11:00 to 11:40 math

11:40 to 12:20 lunch and outdoor recess

12:20 to 12:30 story

12:30 to 1:00 Religion

1:00 to 1:30 Social Studies/Science

1:30 to 1:50 snack and recess

2:00 to 2:30 special class

2:30 to 3:00 center time

****Every Friday we have school Mass at 8:30.**