

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Q: What is the ratio of students to teachers?

A: Ratios are based on the square footage of the classroom.

- 2 year old classes: 10 students to 2 teachers
- 3 year old classes: 13-14 students to 2 teachers
- 4 year old (VPK classes): 14-16 students to 2 teachers

Q: What are the enrollment requirements?

A: Our age requirements for students entering our school are as follows:

- 2 year old class - must be 2 years old on or before September 1st
- 3 year old class - must be 3 years old on or before September 1st
- 4 year old class - must be 4 years old on or before September 1st
- All children in preschool ages 3 and 4 must be **potty trained** to enter school. This entails the children wearing underwear and having the ability to wipe themselves. Children in the 2 year old classes may wear diapers or pull-ups when potty training.

Q: What do I need to bring to registration?

A: Please bring the following:

- Proof of child's birthdate
- Check or Cash for any fees due
- VPK Certificate of Eligibility (see VPK requirements & documentation link to obtain more information)

Q: What are the hours of the school day?

A: The classroom hours are as follows:

- VPK: 8:30 am - 12:30 pm
- 2's & 3's classes: 9:00 am- 12:00 pm

Q: What will my child need to bring to school each day?

A: Your child will bring a child's sized thermos/water bottle daily. A morning snack is provided. If your child has any special dietary needs or food allergies, the school will work with you to meet your child's requirements. Students in our VPK (4 year old) classes eat lunch at school. They will need to bring a lunch from home. You will be provided with a small St. James Preschool tote bag that you may choose to bring to carry any items/artwork that may be in your child's cubby. **Due to limited space, backpacks are not allowed.**

Q: What safety measures are in place?

A: Once students arrive in the morning, all outside doors are locked. Teachers and staff use a key fob when entering the building. Classroom doors also remain closed and locked during the day. We have an Emergency Preparedness Plan that outlines procedures for fire, severe weather, cautious lockdown and full lockdown. Walkie talkies are used to communicate during these times. For additional safety procedures related to COVID-19, please click on our "Covid Policies and Procedures" document.

Q: How do you incorporate Christian education into the school day?

A: St. James United Methodist Preschool is multi-denominational, welcoming children of all faiths. We teach moral and spiritual values as we share Bible stories of Jesus and his love for all people. Our mission is to nurture children's spiritual growth with activities appropriate to their stage of faith. Our goal is to work together to provide a loving, Christian environment as we ensure that our program meets the needs of your child.

- **Our 2 year old classes** read daily devotions, sing songs and share bible stories.
- **Our 3 year old classes** begin having a weekly chapel lesson focusing on Christian Values as well as incorporating daily devotions, songs and bible stories.
- **Our 4 year old classes** have a weekly chapel lesson revisiting Christian Values and diving a little deeper into bible stories. The classes will also continue to incorporate daily devotions and songs.

Q: How will the teachers meet the needs of my child?

A: The teachers will conduct informal assessments at the beginning of the year to get to know each child on an individual level. In addition to the whole group goals that we teach and work on daily, there will be individual goals for each child to ensure we are meeting each child's specific needs and development. Follow up assessments will be given throughout the year to monitor progress.

Q: What kind of communication will I receive?

A: Monthly, you will receive a classroom newsletter as well as a schoolwide preschool newsletter. For more detailed information, each week your child's classroom teachers will provide you with a "peek at the week." This will include activities, lessons and concepts that your child will be working on during that week. This provides you with wonderful information to have conversations about with your child. The teachers as well as the Director and Assistant Director will always be available for any extra conversations that need to be had or any questions you might have.

Q: How do you deal with misbehavior?

A: Discipline means guiding and directing children toward acceptable behavior. Our staff provides an environment that encourages self discipline using positive methods. We also encourage each child to understand and express their feelings in acceptable ways. Inappropriate behavior in a child is often due to a misunderstanding of expectations or lack of communication skills in handling a stressful situation.

Our staff will demonstrate their competence in guiding children's behavior by:

- Discussing and exploring problems with the children
- Using logical consequences to help children learn responsibility for their actions
- Redirect children to acceptable activities
- Prepare children for changes
- Plan child-initiated activities
- Use simple positive reminders to restate rules
- Model acceptable ways to express negative behaviors

