



**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School**  
**2019-2020**  
**Back-to-School Night Packet**  
**1st Grade**

Included in the Back-to-School Night Packet

- Cover Letter
- Charism, Vision, and Mission
- Online Contact Information
- Grading Policy
- Curriculum Outline
- First Grade Information

Hard copies of the following are provided to parents at Back to School Night

- Family Life Letter and Permission Slip
- Back-to-School Night Acknowledgement Form
- First Grade Schedule
- Standards for All School Workers Regarding Interaction With Youth
- FACTS Family Credentials and Login Information

September 20, 2019

Dear First Grade Parents,

Mrs. Turner, Ms. Campbell, Mrs. Rodini, Mrs. Miske and I welcome you to St. Junipero Serra Catholic School and we thank you for joining us at Back to School Night. The purpose of this evening is two-fold. First we will provide a curricular overview for your child's academic year including the syllabus, the daily schedule, highlights of the school year and a chance to meet your child's teacher. Secondly, this evening is provided for you to be able to ask questions, volunteer for service opportunities and meet fellow grade level parents. Attendance and participation at Back-to-School Night signifies your partnership with the school in meeting the unique learning needs of your child. Thank you for your commitment and your time!

We are so blessed to have four incredibly talented, experienced and enthusiastic teachers who will provide a wonderful, positive and creative learning environment for your child. Along with our specialty teachers, they will be working as a team to help your child develop skills in all areas of development, religious, academic, emotional, social, and physical. Above all they will be fostering a love for God and love for learning.

We look forward to a great year. Please feel free to contact me throughout the year with any questions, concerns or comments at [creiss@serrraschool.org](mailto:creiss@serrraschool.org). I pray that you and your family enjoy a blessed year here at St. Junipero Serra Catholic School.

Mrs. Carol Reiss  
Principal, Preschool - Grade 4

## **St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Charism, Vision and Mission**

*"Unless our Catholic philosophy and way of life are taught religiously, our civilization will be founded on sand." -- Father Junipero Serra*

### **CHARISM**

Inspiring a deep faith, innovative mind, and caring heart through Christ... Siempre Adelante

### **VISION**

St. Junipero Serra Catholic School is valued as a leading Diocesan Catholic Parish Elementary School located in South Orange County, California. Motivated by the teachings of Blessed Junipero Serra, and the persevering spirit of our founding families, we nurture our students to live and model their Catholic faith as servant leaders of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit Serra students are encouraged to use their God-given gifts and talents to serve the challenges of this ever-changing world.

### **MISSION**

Rooted in the Catholic faith, evangelical vision, and spirit, the community of St. Junipero Serra Catholic School welcomes families from the parishes of Holy Trinity, San Francisco Solano, Santiago de Compostela, and St. Kilian, and surrounding communities. Inspired by the gospel values and in a Christ-centered environment, we provide a nourishing community for students to develop their seeds of faith and gifts to live as true disciples and servants of Christ. Our academic programs promote student success through a challenging and diverse curriculum meeting the varied learning needs and unique potential of the whole child.

### **SCHOOL-WIDE STUDENT LEARNING EXPECTATIONS**

- A Catholic, Christ-Centered Life That Serves God and Others
- An Engaged and Active Life-Long Learner
- A Respect and Reverence for Human Dignity and Diversity
- A Passion to Share and Lead with One's God-Given Gifts

## **Online Contact Information**

### **Administration:**

Mrs. Angeline Trudell, Lead Principal/Administrator – [atrudell@serraschool.org](mailto:atrudell@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Carol Reiss, Principal, Preschool - Grade 4 – [creiss@serraschool.org](mailto:creiss@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Ellen Burrola, Assistant Principal, Preschool-Grade 8 - [eburrola@serraschool.org](mailto:eburrola@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Julie Radzai, Principal, Grades 5-8 - [jradzi@serraschool.org](mailto:jradzi@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Toni Botterill, Assistant to Principal, Preschool-Grade 4 - [tbotterill@serraschool.org](mailto:tbotterill@serraschool.org)

### **Homerom Teachers:**

Mrs. Susan Turner- [sturner@serraschool.org](mailto:sturner@serraschool.org)  
Ms. Allee Campbell- [acampbell@serraschool.org](mailto:acampbell@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Robin Rodini- [rrodini@serraschool.org](mailto:rrodini@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Valerie Miske- [vmiske@serraschool.org](mailto:vmiske@serraschool.org)

### **Specialty Teachers:**

Miss Jade Sammy, Music - [jsammy@serraschool.org](mailto:jsammy@serraschool.org)  
Mr. Cris Gomez, Spanish - [cgomez@serraschool.org](mailto:cgomez@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Patricia Blain - Small Group ELA/Math, [pblain@serraschool.org](mailto:pblain@serraschool.org)  
Miss Jenny Lewis, Physical Education - [jlewis@serraschool.org](mailto:jlewis@serraschool.org)  
Ms. Sheila Rao, Art - [srao@serraschool.org](mailto:srao@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Sylvia Peterson - Advanced Plus ELA/Math – [speterson@serraschool.org](mailto:speterson@serraschool.org)  
Mrs. Dawn Ziemer, Creativity Lab - [dziemer@serraschool.org](mailto:dziemer@serraschool.org)

The first grade teachers use e-mail as their main source of communication. For your convenience, the email addresses have been provided to you. Please allow a 24 hour response time. If your question or concern requires a phone call, please call (949)888-1990 and speak to the Receptionist. She will route your call based on the level of importance. Please know that the teachers' primary responsibilities are the safety, supervision, and education of your child during the school day. Checking emails and phone messages may not happen during the school day.

## **St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Grading Policy**

Subject Area Grading Scale:

O = Outstanding, 90% and above

S = Successful, 70% - 89.99%

E = Emerging, Needs growth in this area, below 69.99%

First Grade students will be continually assessed using both formative and summative instruments such as rubrics, classroom activities, individual and group presentations, projects, quizzes, and tests.

Activities that support learning such as group work, class work, and homework will comprise a smaller portion of the student's total grade.

Final grades will be determined by the following:

80% Authentic Assessment

- Formative and Summative assessments that may include tests, presentations, essays, and more.

20% Approaches to Learning

- Activities that support learning such as class work, participation, quizzes, homework, and collaborative projects.

### **Formative assessment**

The goal of formative assessment is to monitor student learning and to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by teachers to improve their teaching, and by students to improve their learning.

More specifically, formative assessments:

- help students identify their strengths and weaknesses as well as target areas that need work.
- help faculty recognize where students are struggling and address problems immediately.

### **Summative assessment**

The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against standards and/or benchmarks.

Examples of summative assessments include:

- Tests
- Quizzes

Information from summative assessments can be used formatively when students or teachers use it to guide their efforts and activities in subsequent courses.

## **First Grade Curriculum**

### **Religion:**

The first grade goals are to develop the students' understanding of God as Father, Jesus as Son, and the Holy Spirit as helper. Other goals include studying the Church as a community, exploring Bible stories in order to enhance our knowledge of Jesus and developing a personal relationship with Him as our Good Shepherd and Savior. We will introduce and review the following prayers: Sign of the Cross, The Lord's Prayer, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Guardian Angel, Fatima Prayer, Grace Before Meals, and pray the Rosary weekly. Subject matter will consist of living our faith through prayer, singing, scripture and the Sunday gospel. Each liturgical season will focus on our virtues for the year. The first grade students will participate in service projects, a teaching Mass and a Lenten retreat day.

**Text: *We Believe- Grade One***

Publisher: Sadlier, Copyright 2001

ISBN: 978-0-8215-6301-4

***Family Life- Grade One***

Publisher: Benziger, Copyright 2001

ISBN: 978-0-7829-1501-3

Web access: <https://www.sadlierconnect.com>

***Catholic Children's Bible Stories***

**Family Life Program**

During the third trimester the first grade students will begin studying the family life component of our religion curriculum. We believe that parents are the primary educators of their children and that the Church and school community serve as partners with the family in that regard. It is the responsibility of the school to educate the students in Catholic morality and in the teachings of the Church. We are truly blessed to have your child as a member of the St. Serra community.

*Benziger Family Life* is the series that has been adopted school-wide after a thorough review by the school's Trinity Team. This program reflects and reinforces a major priority in the Church today: the preservation of the fundamental importance and sacredness of the family. Through this program, your child will have an opportunity to develop and practice the healthy attitudes, moral values, and virtues of Christian family life.

A copy of the *Benziger Family Life Parent Connection* is available at Back to School Night tonight. Please take time to review this resource and keep it as a reference for use during the school year. The content page outlines each of the topics that we will cover during our study of this program. The subject themes will include:

- God's Gift of Family
- God's Gift of Self
- God's Gift of Life
- God's Gift of Love
- God's Gift of Community

Should you have any questions, please direct them to your child's homeroom teacher. Thank you in advance for your participation and support of this very important program. Please sign and return the provided Family Life Acknowledgement Form indicating whether your child may participate in this program.

## **Language Arts:**

### **Text: *Reading Wonders***

Publisher: McGraw-Hill, Copyright 2013

### **Workbook: *A Reason for Handwriting***

Publisher: Concerned Communications

Our McGraw-Hill Reading and Language Arts series provides us with a variety of stories in five anthology books, five reading/writing workshop books and leveled mini-books. Children will acquire strategies for accessing information and for exploring concepts from many areas. During our reading group and center time, students will learn how to communicate effectively using both oral and written language and how to work both independently and collaboratively with the use of technology and their iPads.

### **Foundational Skills**

Students should come prepared by recognizing letters and their sounds. Initially we use only the short vowel sounds for a, e, i, o, and u. From this point our curriculum includes the long vowel sounds, hearing beginning, medial and final letter sounds, vowel pairs, blends, digraphs and contractions. Students will be assessed on how well they apply phonics and word analysis skills in decoding words. Students will learn high frequency words and develop fluency and comprehension. Students will be assessed on how well they read text materials with appropriate fluency.

### **Reading Comprehension**

Students will learn to determine word meaning using context clues as they read. They will read and comprehend a variety of grade level fictional and nonfictional texts. Text selection is always done with a Catholic lens of discernment and reflects our morals and values.

### **Language/Writing**

Each trimester, students will be assessed on their language (listening and speaking), and writing skills. These skills include acquiring and using academic and subject specific vocabulary effectively. Students will follow instructions and participate in group discussions, using correct grammar, and speaking clearly and in complete sentences. Students will be taught academic and subject area vocabulary and use it effectively in communicating with others. Students will be taught to print correctly and legibly and use these skills in their daily work. Composition skills will focus on correct sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, sequencing ideas as well as using a variety of writing styles. Students will be assessed on how well they produce clear and coherent writing on individual topics. Students will use technology as well as pencils for writing and collaborating on projects.

Our weekly spelling words will be incorporated from all aspects of the curriculum including phonics and reading. The students will be tested on these leveled words as well as dictation

sentences each Friday. Students will be assessed on how well they spell words using appropriate skills.

### **Library:**

Each class will visit the school library twice a month. We would appreciate parent volunteers to help students find books and read stories. Please watch the Parent Sunday email for opportunities to volunteer.

### **Math:**

#### **Text: *Go Math***

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin, Copyright

ISBN: 978-0-544-21290-9

Web access - Think Central: <https://www-k6.thinkcentral.com>

#### **Spatial-Temporal (ST) Math**

Created by MIND Research Institute, ST Math is game-based instructional software for K-12 and is designed to boost math comprehension and proficiency through visual learning. Integrating with classroom instruction and identified by the CEO-led Change the Equation as one of just four STEM programs ready to scale nationally, ST Math incorporates the latest research in learning and the brain and promotes mastery-based learning and mathematical understanding. The ST Math software games use interactive, graphically-rich animations that visually represent mathematical concepts to improve conceptual understanding and problem-solving skills.

#### **Simple Solutions: Level 1, Common Core Mathematics**

Publisher: Bright Ideas Press, LLC Copyright 2015

Real-world applications will allow students to use math in their daily lives and give students the foundation for the math needed in the future. Applications in every lesson will inform students why it is important to learn mathematics. The goals for first grade math include mastering addition and subtraction facts to eighteen, two-digit addition and subtraction, place value, time, geometry, measurement and graphing. Daily Simple Solutions practice will strengthen problem solving strategies and accuracy in computation. Timed math tests will be used weekly to increase their speed and accuracy as they progress to addition and subtraction of numbers through eighteen.

### **History/Social Studies:**

California standard units will be covered including geography, current events through Scholastic News, environmental concerns, and seasonal and national holidays of different cultures. Houghton Mifflin Social Studies Big Books are used to review and improve map skills and the use of reference materials. They will identify American symbols, leaders and community helpers. Students will demonstrate understanding the contents and concepts taught. They will apply content

to activities and projects as they learn to be responsible citizens of the United States. First graders will enjoy a field trip to Centennial Heritage Museum to experience historical living.

***Text: History-Social Studies-Teacher Big Books***

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin, Copyright 2007

**Science:**

**Online Text: Discovery Education Science Techbook**

The hands-on elements in first grade utilize the instructional strategies and technology of the Discovery Education Techbook. It is a complete digital science resource designed to engage students in real-world, inquiry based science. It uses a variety of digital resources: video, audio, text, and interactive experiences to provide science content while meeting the needs of students with different learning styles.

The first grade curriculum features three major units of study:

- Physical science
- Life science
- Earth science

Students learn in accordance with the Next Generation Science Standards.

First grade students will also use the laboratory kits provided by our Beckman @Science grant. Students will demonstrate understanding of content and concepts taught. They will apply science curricular content to experiments and STEAM projects. Students will enjoy an interactive field study at Trabuco Canyon Elementary School.

**Seesaw**

An on-line student portfolio used by students to show accomplishments towards curriculum standards and Student Learning Expectations.

**Freckle**

An adaptive on-line program in which students work on mastery of standards in all subject areas.

**Specialty Classes**

In addition to the subjects listed above, first grade students are provided with art, music, Spanish, Creativity Lab, and physical education classes, each with a specific teacher who specializes in the subject area.

**Music: Miss Jade Sammy**

First grade music continues to build on the music basics students learned in kindergarten. Students learn songs for Mass, Christmas Concert, the Patriotic Play, and other school activities. Students will participate in games, hands-on instrument activities, and much more music fun! Students will

be assessed by how well they understand and apply music concepts, and participate during instruction.

**Art: Ms. Rao**

**All first grade students are required to have an Art Sketchbook (8.5 x 11 spiral bound)** which is available for purchase at various stores. The St. Junipero Serra Catholic Art Program offers students the opportunity to understand, interpret, and appreciate the visual arts by exploring their creative potential through hands-on art projects. Emphasis is on creative exploration and manipulation of various art mediums. Students will expand their knowledge by developing and building upon their art vocabulary while learning and applying the art elements successfully; to create their own masterpieces. Students will discover that the creative process is a life-long way to express their personal world, ideas, and emotions. Technology is integrated into the art curriculum to view and critique famous masterpieces.

**Spanish: Mr. Cris Gomez**

First grade students have daily Spanish class for one week each month, for about a half-hour or more per day. A number of fun resources that help introduce the language and culture are used, including storybooks, songs and videos, online content, and active conversation games. Most of the activities in Spanish class focus on oral participation. Students practice and repeat expressions and vocabulary after the teacher, try expressions on their own during peer activities, and participate in singing songs and playing games while learning about Hispanic culture.

Students will be graded on their participation in class, and will be assessed on their proficiency in the use of the language skills they have learned. Formal and informal assessments are done during warm ups, classwork/peer work, and oral, written or online quizzes. Students are expected to follow the same rules that apply normally in their classrooms. Parents will be notified by written notice, or e-mail if a student is being disruptive or not participating.

**Creativity Lab: Mrs. Dawn Ziemer**

In the Creativity Lab students will discover a “playground for learning”. The Creativity Lab is a 21st century learning lab for students of all interests, ages, and abilities. Creativity Labs put technology and learning resources in the hands of students, engaging learners in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM) while building critical 21st century skills. Young learners will engage in hands-on projects and experiences ranging from computer graphics & digital media arts to circuitry & robotics. Students will be learning and exploring With Zometools, Botley the Coding Robot, Knex, Ozobots, Snap Circuits, Osmo, Makey Makey, and so much more.

## **Physical Education: Miss Jenny Lewis**

### *Program Goals:*

The St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Physical Education Program focuses on two main areas of student development and learning.

1. As part of the School Wide Learning Expectations at St. Junipero Serra Catholic School the students participate in a physical education program that creates “a reverence for one’s own physical being” and “a positive and realistic self-image”.
2. The students will develop the values of sportsmanship and fair play, and be able to transfer those learned skills into their everyday life.

### *Description:*

Students will have PE class twice a week for a total of eight classes per month. Sports will be introduced and played at all levels of skill including, football, basketball, soccer, and various other games as well as working on the student’s fine and gross motor skills Health and Nutrition will be discussed and included.

### *Uniform Policy:*

1. The PE Uniform can be worn all day if the student has PE class on that particular day (Formal Dress Day Policy Below).
2. Shorts must be worn to waist level (especially the boys) and the shorts may not be rolled up at the waist or worn too high (especially the girls), all uniform policies and decisions are made at the discretion and judgment of the Physical Education Department and Principal. During the winter months students may wear the designated school sweats or solid-color white, navy, or black leggings under their PE shorts.
3. Closed toe athletic shoes that are fit for running, secured on the foot, are required for all PE classes.
4. The school policy, in regard to PE uniform requirements on Formal Dress Uniform Days is that the students are to wear their Formal Uniform with athletic shoes until after the designated event for the day.
5. Socks may be plain white, navy or black and can only have a small, single color logo on them.

For further details see the St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Parent/Student Handbook

### *Grading Policy:*

The majority of the grade in PE is not determined by the God given talents that each individual student has, but rather upon many factors within the student’s control. The five behavioral factors that, if followed, can produce a grade of high merit are:

1. *Student positive attitude and respect for others.*
2. *Promptness and being on time to class.*
3. *Following uniform guidelines.*
4. *Participation.*
5. *Effort shown in the assigned task.*

The daily grade given to each student will be based upon these factors and deductions will be made for those students who do not meet these requirements. The overall grade is determined upon 18-20 grades each trimester that are weighted equally that will encompass and be based on the following marks:

**\*\*\*Rubrics Standards Based Grading:**

4 = Consistently meets standards/expectations

3 = Frequently meets standards/expectations

2 = Occasionally meets standards/expectations

1 = Rarely meets standards/expectations

***Injuries and Sickness:***

- As a part of any physical program in school or outside of school, injuries or illnesses that do occur need to be reported to the teacher.
- During class students must notify the teacher immediately of any injury that occurs during class, even if they are still able to participate.
- Any condition that requires the student to miss two consecutive days or more of PE will require a medical note from the doctor. The note should specify the injury and specific limitations as well as the specific date your child may resume regular activity in PE class..
- All notes for injuries or other information must be delivered, or sent via e-mail to the PE teacher, Miss Lewis, at [jlewis@serraschool.org](mailto:jlewis@serraschool.org) by 7:30 a.m. on the day of the PE class.
- If there is a discipline problem, the student will be given a verbal warning; if the problem persists it will be communicated by the PE teacher via e-mail, phone call or a note in FACTS to the parent.

***Class Rules:***

Students will follow the St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Code of Conduct, Section 8000 of the Parent Handbook at all times while in physical education class.

- Students will be on time and ready on your number when the teacher is ready to take roll
- Students will be quiet and respectful during prayer in class.
- Students will not talk while the teacher is talking, or any other teacher or adult visitor
- Students will show proper sportsmanship and respect for all members of the class

**Optional Specialty Class: Essential Learning Systems**

*Essential Learning Systems (ELS)* is a program offered at Serra for children who may learn differently. These students might lack confidence in their academic skills, have difficulty understanding and/or remembering information, take a long time to complete schoolwork or homework, have limited independent learning skills, and/or benefit from additional academic support. ELS is a computerized, multi-sensory, interactive program that improves focus, strengthens information processing skills, and enhances performance in the areas of reading, writing, spelling, vocabulary, and comprehension. Because it is an information processing program, ELS is designed to get at the cause of the learning and attentional difficulties, rather than just treating the symptoms. Students improve through a series of exercises that help integrate visual, auditory, and motor-kinesthetic modes of processing (known as multi-sensory integration training). Instruction is individualized, so each child is able to work at his/her own pace and build on his/her success. Students participate in 45-minute sessions four days per week (Monday through Thursday)

for a minimum of one academic year. Outcome data show considerable growth in key academic and processing skills (e.g., visual and auditory memory, visual and auditory processing, overall processing speed, reading decoding, reading comprehension, and listening comprehension) following ELS. Two after-school sessions are available, filled on a first-come, first-served basis (with priority given to Middle School students). Essential Learning Systems (ELS) is a fee based program and is held in the Primary Education Building, 2nd Floor, Room 230.

*If you are interested in this program, please contact Mrs. Cindee Berg at [cberg@serraschool.org](mailto:cberg@serraschool.org)*

## **First Grade Information**

### **Conduct Cards:**

We encourage the children to put forth their best effort in everything they do. Since lifelong success depends in part on self-discipline, we have developed a discipline program which provides the students with guidance in making good choices. We believe that your child deserves the most positive Catholic educational climate possible for his/her growth in fulfilling the Student Learning Expectations.

#### **Responsible Behavior Goals**

1. Models Christ-like behavior
2. Understands Jesus
3. Displays cooperative attitude and participates appropriately
4. Engages collaboratively and effectively in interpersonal group, or teacher led discussions
4. Follows classroom, school, and playground rules and procedures
5. Listens to and demonstrates respect for authority figures
6. Shows acceptance of others
7. Accepts personal responsibility and correction
8. With direction, controls emotions and self-corrects behavior

#### **Personal Success Skills Goals**

1. Communicates effectively using appropriate vocabulary, volume, and patterns
2. Demonstrating basic reasoning skills when solving problems
3. Articulates steps taken to reach solutions
4. With direction, perseveres to completion of tasks, finding solutions to problems
5. Carefully completes tasks while following directions and demonstrating neatness and accuracy
6. Maintains needed supplies and uses them appropriately
7. With guidance, stays on task and uses time effectively
8. Demonstrates basic understanding of technology and uses it effectively

Our classroom rules are:

1. I will keep my hands, my feet, and all objects to myself.
2. I will raise my hand before I speak or stand.
3. I will keep the classroom neat and clean,
4. I will be kind to my classmates.
5. I will listen and follow directions.

Parents will be notified if behavior becomes a problem. Weekly conduct cards and/or Class DoJo will be used to communicate responsible behavior to parents and will be reflected in FACTS.

### **Illness**

If your child has had a fever or the stomach flu, they must not come to school until they are symptom free for 24 hours. The classroom teacher must be informed along with the Health Room of strep throat, pink eye, lice or any other contagious disease as soon as possible. Please review the Health Room policy carefully.

### **Absences Due to Medical/Dental Appointments**

While we recognize the importance of routine medical check-ups, along with the difficulty of available after school appointment times, absences will affect your child's academic performance. It is important that you post your child's schedule in your home and refer to it when you make these appointments.

### **Homework Policy and Assessment Make-Ups**

Homework has a definite place in the educational process. It is an extension of the learning experience children have during the day. Homework is designed to aid the student in classroom and school goals. It also prepares them for upcoming lessons, teaches responsibility and helps develop positive study habits. Please encourage neat and complete homework. In first grade, daily reading is essential for optimum growth. Either the student reads from an outside reading source or is read to by an experienced reader.

Addition and subtraction facts should be practiced daily at home on the iPad or by using flashcards. Timed tests will be sent home to practice for weekly time tests in class.

1. Make sure homework has the proper heading (first and last names written inside the lines).
2. Please correct letter formation, size of letters, and spacing.
3. Practice reading High Frequency/Sight words, Spelling words and Math facts daily. These words will be assessed regularly.
4. Make sure iPad homework is completed and submitted each week.
5. Please encourage students to punctuate and phonetically sound out words when they create their own sentences.
6. Please make sure iPads return to school daily and are fully charged.
7. Homework will be sent home on Monday in a weekly packet and is due back on Friday. The homework cover page will be viewable online. The link to the homework cover page will be in the

Sunday Parent email. \*Assignments will only be attached to the weekly packet and will not be available online.

It is important that you work with your child, encouraging them and checking their work. When the homework is not turned in on time, the assignment will be expected on the following day. Turning homework in on time promotes responsibility and good study skills. Please encourage neat and complete homework. When your child is absent, assignments can be obtained the day your child returns to school and returned to the teacher. **Homework is not given in advance. Please see Section #510 in the Parent-Student Handbook.**

### **Daily Folder**

All corrected classwork and tests will be sent home weekly in a folder. Please review the work with your child, and return the following school day. **Keep all papers/work at home.** You do not need to return your child's work the next day, only the folder. This information will assist parents in monitoring their child's progress.

### **Homework Club**

This fee-based program has been developed for students who are challenged to complete homework in a timely manner, need additional assistance with assignments, forget to do the assigned homework, turn in homework after the due date, or turn in the assignments without completing the work. Homework Club will provide a small group environment (maximum class size of ten students), enabling students to focus and work on their homework. Students will receive attention and motivation in a warm and encouraging atmosphere. If you believe your child would benefit from attending Homework Club, please contact Mrs. Ellen Burrola, Assistant Principal, Preschool-Grade 4, at [eburrola@serraschool.org](mailto:eburrola@serraschool.org). If you register your child for homework club, please be sure to send in a healthy snack for after school. The pick-up after homework club is at 3:15 pm, and is in front of the PEB. If your child is not picked up by 3:20 they will be signed into Extended Care by the homework club teacher. A fee for Extended Care will apply.

### **Arrival/Dismissal**

When your child arrives at school, he/she will go straight to the classroom. After 7:45 a.m., students must go to the School Office with an adult to receive a late slip.

Parents are encouraged to carpool and use the traffic pattern. Please do not park in the Memorial Care parking lot or the neighborhood off of Galisteo Street across from the Primary Education Building. Students are expected to walk independently to their class lunch table or classroom. Staff is available and will escort younger students to the lunch tables or classrooms.

### **TK-2 Dismissal**

All TK – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade students are dismissed at 2:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with the exception of the first and second Friday of every month (minimum days) when the students will be dismissed at 11:30 a.m. **Students are to be picked up promptly. If your child's first or second grade sibling or carpool is participating in an after school program such as**

**Homework Club, Chess, etc., the First or Second Grade student still needs to be picked up at 2:00 PM. They do not qualify for the Later Gator program.**

### **Lator Gator Program**

If first or second grade students are in a carpool with students who are in Grades Three through Eight, they will be supervised until the second dismissal by the Instructional Assistants. This program is called Lator Gators. If your younger child is in the Lator Gator Program, please direct the oldest sibling or carpool child to pick up the first grade student from the Lator Gator table in the PEB lunch area when their name is called and walk them to the stairway area. **If your child's older sibling or older carpool member is absent, chooses to play a sport, or participate in an afterschool activity such as Homework Club, dance, music, etc. the first grade student must be picked up at the 2:00 pm dismissal.**

**All TK- Gr. 2 students who participate in the after school busing program will participate in the Lator Gator Program.**

### **2:40 PM Dismissal, Change in Schedule, and Extended Care**

“Lator Gator” children not picked by 3:05 p.m. will be enrolled in the Extended Care Program and the family will be charged for the time spent in the Extended Care Program.

If your child has a change in schedule, please inform the classroom teacher in writing or by email as soon as possible. We want to make sure that we know where your child needs to be for his/her safety. The Extended Care hours are from 6:30 to 7:15 a.m. and 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.

### **Peanut Free in PreSchool through Third Grade**

Preschool to Fourth Grade is peanut free. Please do not send any food items containing peanuts. If any snacks or lunches contain peanuts, we will be sending it back home with a reminder for you. If the child needs lunch to replace the peanut item, a Sapphire Lunch will be provided and the family will be charged.

### **Snack Time**

We will be having a morning snack break. On Monday through Friday, please have your child bring a small individual healthy snack to be eaten at recess. The children need a mid-morning boost.

**Please do not send in glass containers. Please send your child's snack in a labeled bag/baggie, including In 'N Out days. The snack bar will no longer accept cash. Every student will have an online Sapphire account.**

### **Lunch**

Lunch boxes or brown bags must be labeled. Hot lunches will be offered and can be purchased through Sapphire Lunch. Please watch the *St. Serra Sunday News* for more information on the Sapphire Lunch Program and the In 'N Out Lunch provided on most Thursdays. ***Please Note:*** Since there will not be a formal lunch period on minimum days, parents are **strongly** encouraged to pack a healthy and filling snack for their child.

### **Emergency Contacts**

If your child is going home with someone other than usual, please write a note indicating that your child has your permission to go home with that specific adult. We cannot release the child to another adult that is not on your emergency form on file in the school office. Due to traffic, please do not arrive for the afternoon carpool until 1:45 p.m. **Please – no cell phone use during dismissal traffic times.**

### **Conferences**

We are available to conference with parents concerning their child. Parents are welcome to contact the teacher by sending an email, leaving a voice message, or writing a note to request an appointment. Our priority is your child's safety. We cannot allow "drop by" conferences, nor can we talk with you during supervision of dismissal traffic, recess, or first thing in the morning. Please do not call during class hours. We will respond to phone or email messages within 24 hours, excluding weekends. This year formal parent-teacher conferences will be held in October.

### **Dress Code**

Please review the St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Dress Code policy carefully which can be found in the Parent Handbook on the school website. If your child has not met the requirements for the uniform dress code, a reminder will be sent home. All sweatshirts need to be clearly labeled. P.E. uniforms are only to be worn on P.E. days. You will be informed of days when formal uniform is required in the Room Parent Sunday email reminder and in the weekly *SerraDipity* electronic newsletter. Teachers are not responsible for lost items such as sweatshirts, lunch boxes, and backpacks. Lost and found items are placed on a rack in the hallway near the Extended Care room in the MEC building, Room C1-103.

### **Personal Belongings**

Due to space limitations, students may **not** bring wheeled backpacks to class. Trading cards, small toys, excessive jewelry, and non-school related accessories should not be brought to school. Students may never use cell phones during the school day. If a child needs to call a parent after school, he/she must ask the teacher or supervisor for permission and the teacher must supervise the call.

### **Important Note about Parent Volunteers**

All volunteers must be eligible for supervision of students by completing the fingerprinting requirements of the Diocese of Orange and must have successfully completed the Safe Environment training. Please contact Pram Pinto at [ppinto@serraschool.org](mailto:ppinto@serraschool.org) if you need to determine your eligibility.

### **Birthdays**

Students may wear free dress to school on their birthday unless it's a formal uniform day. If that occurs, we'll choose an alternate day for non-uniform dress. Students may also bring in healthy treats to share with classmates at recess. Please keep in mind that several children have peanut

allergies so you must not send in snacks that have peanuts or nut-related products in them.  
**REMEMBER WE ARE PEANUT FREE!**

If your child has severe allergies, please arrange to keep extra snacks at school for special occasions at school.

You may also choose to purchase a book for our school library in honor of your child's birthday. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on a child's half-birthday. If a birthday falls on a weekend or holiday, a child's special day may be arranged with the teacher.

**Birthday Party Invitations**

If every child in the classroom is invited to a party, invitations can be passed out in the classroom. If your guest list is limited, please handle invitations by mail only!

*Best wishes to you and your child for a successful year; together we are partners in their success.*



**Saint Junipero Serra Catholic School  
Back to School Night – First Grade  
Parent/Student Acknowledgement Form**

**Please return the completed form to your child’s homeroom teacher by Friday, September 20, 2019.**

We have read the First Grade Back-to-School Night packet in its entirety and we are affixing our signatures to verify that we (parent(s) and student understand its content and will comply with the aforementioned guidelines to the best of our ability.

Teacher Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Homeroom: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (printed) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature / Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature /Date

E-mail Contact Information \_\_\_\_\_

Best Number to Reach Parents during the School Day:

\_\_\_\_\_



**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School  
Back to School Night – First Grade  
Family Life Program Participation Acknowledgement**

**Please return the completed form to your child’s homeroom teacher by Friday, September 20, 2019.**

Student’s Name and Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_

*Please indicate your choice below by marking with an “X”.*

\_\_\_\_\_ I do grant permission for my child to be included in the family life program in their religion class.

\_\_\_\_\_ I do **not** grant permission for my child to be included in the family life program in their religion class.

Parent Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print)

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

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