

Preschool, 18 Months - 4 Years

# INFORMATION BOOK



SAINT  
THOMAS'  
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL



# Our Program Prepares Students

## **Mission**

Saint Thomas' Episcopal School forms honorable men and women through a classical education grounded in a Christ-centered worldview.

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## **Core Value**

Honor, Christian Faith, Love, Discipline, Excellence, Respect



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# Introduction

Saint Thomas' Episcopal Preschool provides a high-quality early childhood experience for your child in a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment where children develop and grow using a developmentally-appropriate curriculum. We prepare your child for the more formal learning environment they will encounter in kindergarten. Our Preschool Program prepares students for the classical model of education, by encouraging memorization through song and poetry, hands-on exploration, and exposure to rich literature that emphasizes God's story.

Founded in 1955, a parish school of Saint Thomas' Episcopal Church, Saint Thomas' Episcopal School is a private, Christian, classical school serving students PreK - Grade 12.

Our Preschool Program is specifically designed to serve students from 18 months through age 4 and is based on appropriate early childhood practices and principles. Saint Thomas' Episcopal School is committed to the development and enrichment of the complete child, and our teachers guide children to promote their emotional, social, physical, intellectual, and spiritual strengths.







### **Enriched Curriculum**

Our curriculum, classrooms, and outdoor activities are carefully designed to support our goals to:

- Promote positive and collaborative learning and problem solving skills
- Produce social skills and emotional awareness to build independence and relationships
- Enhance both fine and gross motor skills to facilitate prewriting
- Grow in God's love with an understanding of Christianity
- Establish a sense of community and a proper understanding of stewarding God's creation

### **Extensive Development Programs**

Teaching practices are appropriate to each child's age and developmental status. Our teachers use effective developmentally appropriate teaching strategies. The Preschool teachers encourage persistence by modeling attitudes and approaches to problems instead of simply providing the answers. Modeling provokes children's thinking and enables them to ask questions. Each teacher's main objective is to foster a love of learning in children. Overall, we encourage creative expression as a process, rather than a product.

Our assessments of children are directly aligned to our curriculum. This assessment process allows for the teacher to know the areas that a child's development needs strengthening. It also allows for each child to be taught at his or her own level and provides a clear tool to discuss goals with parents. Teachers give specific feedback, create or add challenges, and in some cases, reduce challenges to guide them in the right direction.

# The Learning Environment

# Our Program

## PreK-2

**18-35 Months (by September 1 of starting year)**

Starting at 18 months, we teach:

### **Emotionally**

Teachers facilitate growth into emotional maturity and help your child understand the feelings of oneself and of others, as well as appropriate ways to express feelings through words. We encourage ways to develop independence through learning how to care for oneself.

### **Socially**

A play-based environment allows many opportunities for children to learn to take turns, to get along with others, to respect the rights of others, to wait patiently, and to begin to understand the feelings of others. During this process, the children will learn to move from parallel play to cooperative play and build relationships with their classmates.

### **Physically**

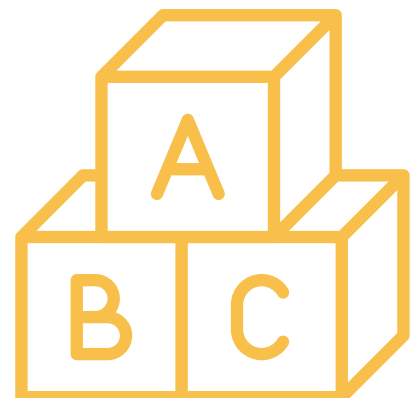
Teachers plan activities to promote physical development and autonomy. Your child will work with manipulatives - puzzles, blocks, and dramatic play. Outdoor activities provide for gross motor development.

### **Intellectually**

Weekly themes provide a basis of discovery in developing problem-solving skills and critical thinking abilities. Literature is an essential part of our program, as well as our print-rich environment. Teachers provide constant opportunities for the children to use both expressive and receptive language. Children will learn colors, shapes, and counting to 10.

### **Spiritually**

Teachers assign a weekly Bible lesson. Songs and Bible stories are designed to excite children to celebrate God's love and to let them know that Jesus is a friend to them. Our teachers will model and guide children to learn to express thankfulness to God through prayer.





# PreK-3

## 36-47 Months (by September 1 of starting year)

PreK-3 will help students:

### Emotionally

Children adapt to a positive learning environment and are encouraged to use complete sentences when communicating. It also builds their autonomy to an emotional security of identifying feeling with words to express them.

### Socially

The teachers model kindness, caring, cooperation, and manners, and they encourage productive conversations between students. Cooperative play becomes more predominant, and it's encouraged during center time and monitored to enhance social skills.

### Physically

Carefully planned activities will promote the enhancement of fine motor skills. Outdoor play, music, and movement will promote balance and coordination.

### Intellectually

To foster a love of reading and build a strong vocabulary, your child will learn words to nursery rhymes, songs, finger plays, poems, and stories. Your child will recognize letters, both upper and lowercase, with a developing knowledge that each letter makes a certain sound. Letter of the week themes will concentrate on hard consonants and short vowels. Your child will also learn math skills through counting, sorting, classifying, sequencing, and measuring. Various routines during circle time and planned center activities will give your child the ability to recognize numbers up to 20.

### Spiritually

The children begin attending a weekly chapel service. Weekly Bible themes are introduced at chapel, and activities and songs are planned for the week to reinforce Bible lessons.





## PreK-4

### 4 Year-Olds (by September 1 of starting year)

In PreK-4 the program shifts to a more academic focus:

#### Emotionally

Teachers encourage the child to become self-regulating and to maintain emotional balance. We focus on listening skills and the ability to follow three-step directions, without repeat. We help create a positive self-image for the child by assisting the child in enjoying one's own company.

#### Socially

We begin a "bucket-filling program" to assist the child in learning compassion for the feelings of oneself and the feelings of others. Teachers serve as a role model for positive social interactions.

#### Physically

With a variety of activities planned to enhance the children's fine motor skills, each child learns proper pencil grip by the end of the year and has the confidence to write his or her name the kindergarten way. Outdoor activities, music, and movement enhance gross motor skills.

## Our preschool program prepares students for the **classical model of education.**

#### Intellectually

Teachers carefully plan exciting activities to engage students in learning the phonemes of each letter and simple diagraphs. This phonemic knowledge will provide a pre-reading skill necessary to fully begin reading. Math skills build readiness with a solid recognition of numbers up to 30. Your child will gain an understanding of the concept that both print and numbers have a left to right order. Your child will participate in patterning and understand sets of numbers in simple addition and subtraction concepts. Teachers plan fun science activities to build curiosity and engage students in critical thinking skills.

#### Spiritually

Our four-year-olds become the leaders of chapel and acolyte at our weekly service. They continue to grow in their relationship with God and the church as a welcoming community.



# Getting Ready

## Hours of Operation

Our school year is September through May and our standard days of operation are Monday through Friday, excluding school holidays.

	Start	End
Regular Day	9:00 a.m.	3:00 p.m.
Before Care	7:30 a.m.	9:00 a.m.
After Care	3:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.

## Drop-off and Pick-up

All Preschool students are dropped off and picked up in the designated Preschool carpool lane on Indigo Street. Faculty and staff are on-hand each day to ensure a smooth and safe experience for parents and students.

## Dress Code

In the 2022 - 2023 school years, Preschool students will return to wearing the Saint Thomas' Episcopal approved uniform.

View our Uniforms Regulations document for the uniform guidelines for the school year. The uniform policy will also be in the Student-Parent Handbook available at the start of the school year.

Mills Uniform Company is the uniform provider for STE. Please visit [millsweat.com](http://millsweat.com) for ordering information and store locations.

## Lunch and Snacks

Parents are responsible for providing daily lunch and snacks for their students. Healthy food and drink options that is easy for students to pick up, chew, and drink themselves are recommended.

## Health and Safety

The health and safety of our students is paramount. We follow all health and safety guidelines recommended by state and local authorities. Watch for regular health and safety updates on our website.

## Parent Involvement

Parents are encouraged to stay connected and get involved by serving as a volunteer in one or more areas of the school. Numerous volunteer opportunities are available from Homeroom Parent, to Saint Thomas' Fund Class Rep, and helping with Fall Fair and Gala.

## Potty Training

Beginning in PreK-3 all students are required to be potty trained on the first day of school.

## Saint Thomas' Fund

Each fall, the entire Saint Thomas' School community comes together to support STE in a big way through our 5-week annual giving campaign, the Saint Thomas Fund. Preschool parent support directly benefits our Preschool.

## Tuition and Financial Assistance

The annual tuition rate is set each year in the spring for the following school year. Student enrollment and supply fees are an additional rate. Before and After Care are available. See our current tuition and fee schedule for more details.

Financial assistance is available to families who qualify. Contact our Head of Preschool for details.



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