



Welcome to PK K!



Dear Family,

Welcome to Pre Kindergarten and Kindergarten at the Academy of St Joseph! My name is Krystal Marinello and I will be your child's teacher for the 2025-2026 school year. I am so excited to partner with you as we foster your child's love of learning. This will be a year full of growth, responsibility, independence, and fun!

This year your child will strengthen their social-emotional skills by making friends and expressing their feelings. PK K students will read new books as a class and independently. PK K students will become authors incorporating drawing, handwriting and phonics skills into writing workshop. To wrap up our academic journey, students will become mathematicians as they learn problem solving, counting, addition, subtraction, and critical thinking skills.

Each day in PK K focuses on learning experiences that encourage confidence, independence, and collaboration skills. Students will engage in learning through whole class, small group, and independent activities. PK K students are immersed in each learning experience through hands-on and project based learning opportunities. Students will build both fine and gross motor skills through movement-based activities and the use of a variety of manipulatives as they explore each content area.

As a part of our PK K Class Family, it is essential to maintain consistent communication. Please be sure to regularly check your emails for updates regarding your child and the learning happening in our classroom!

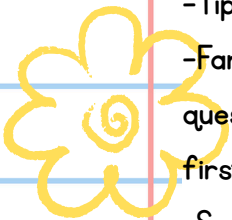
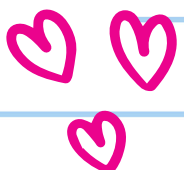
Below this letter please find the following important documents:

- Tips to prepare for PK K!
- Family questionnaire, help me learn more about your child and their family by responding to these questions. These help me get to know your child before greeting them in the classroom on the first day of school!
- Summer reading suggestions!

I am thrilled to partner with your family this academic year. Until then, I am wishing you a wonderful summer filled with time spent with loved ones.

Best,

Miss Marinello



Tips to Prepare your Child for PK K!



In order to prepare your child for a successful transition from summer to a new school year please consider each of these ideas into your day to day routines.

- **Create comfort in separation.**

Leaving your child in school each morning can be challenging especially after a long summer break. Practice healthy separation from your child throughout the summer by planning playdates with family and friends. Help your child understand that a hug, kiss, and a “goodbye” mean you are leaving (for now).

- **Encourage independence in your child.**

PK & K students complete many tasks at school independently! Help your child build their independence by returning toys to the appropriate place, cleaning up spills, dressing independently, and even opening and closing lunchboxes and backpacks.

- **Provide your child with opportunities to strengthen their fine-motor skills.**

In order to begin writing, cutting, gluing and learning with manipulatives in the classroom, students need strong fine motor skills. Help your child strengthen their fingers by playing with play-doh, using child safe scissors, tracing, opening bags or containers, zipping clothing, etc.

- **Incorporate reading in your daily routines.**

Holding a book the correct way, flipping pages one at a time, and telling a story based on illustrations are all fundamental emergent literacy skills that your child needs in order to be a successful reader!

- **Let your child overcome challenging situations.**

YES this means allowing your child to struggle so they can overcome challenges. When encountering a tricky task such as putting on shoes or opening a container, show your child how and then let them try. They can do it!

- **Practice social skills through play!**

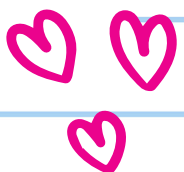
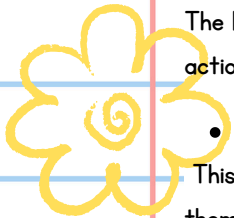
Throughout each school day your child will engage in conversations with peers, share toys, and encounter disagreements. The best way to practice these skills is through modeling and play! It is important for your child to see these behaviors in action so they can practice them.

- **Practice using the restroom independently.**

This includes, removing and putting on clothing correctly, wiping themselves, indicating when they need the restroom, and washing hands with soap and water.

- **Play often and have fun!**

There is power in play! In early elementary, play is a powerful part of the learning process. Play with your child! Put away the electronic devices and pull out the toys. Snuggle with stuffed animals, build pillow forts, dig in the dirt, and spend quality time talking to and laughing with your child!



Family Questionnaire



Please take the time to answer each question thoughtfully. These responses help me to prepare our learning environment to best support your child.

Please return completed forms to kmartinello@aosj.us at your earliest convenience

Child's Full Name:

Nickname/s:

Birthday:

Name(s) and age(s) of siblings:

Name(s) and relations of family members your child lives with:

How would you describe your child's personality? What activities bring them joy? What activities can be frustrating?

What are your child's strengths?

What area(s) would you like to see your child improve?

Family Questionnaire



What motivates your child?

How does your child overcome a challenging situation?

Does your child participate in extracurricular activities? If so,
which activities?

What are your child's interests? What do they enjoy doing in their
free time?

Is there anything else you would like to share with me about your
child?

Suggested Reading

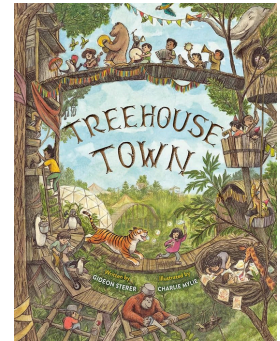


Reading out loud to your child is an amazing way to expand emergent literacy skills essential for your child's growth as a reader! Consider spending 15 minutes each day reading to your child. Feel free to try some of my favorites listed below or enjoy family favorites you already have at home! Reading the same story multiple times is a great way to allow your child to recall events that occur in the story and even allows them to repeat words or phrases they remember while reading.

Treehouse Town by Gideon Sterer and Charlie Mylie

Hidden high above the ground, we welcome you to Treehouse Town!

Wander through the Birch Bazaar, hitch a ride on the Tulip Train, explore the library in the hemlocks, or play birdball high in the sky. There's something for everyone in Treehouse Town, a world built by children that's as endless as their imaginations. With playful verse by Gideon Sterer and intricately detailed illustrations by Charlie Mylie that offer something new to spot with every read, Treehouse Town celebrates teamwork, inclusion, and limitless possibility.

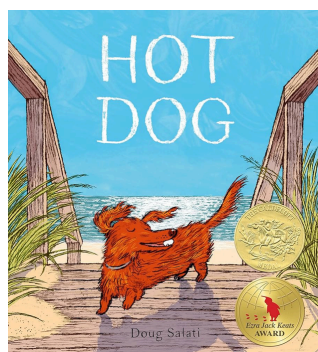


Nellie's Big Splash by Cori Doerrfeld

When Nellie the sea turtle hatched, she was on a beach surrounded by lots of her brothers and sisters. Soon all the other turtles joyfully ran into the ocean and swam away, but Nellie? She was too scared. The ocean was loud, it was deep, and it was unknown. She stayed on the safe, dry sand instead. Nellie realizes that if she looked past the scary crashing waves, there's actually a whole world out there, just waiting for her to jump in.

Home is In Between by Mitali Perkins

Shanti misses the warm monsoon rains of her home in India. Now Shanti's family has moved to a new home, America. Still, her family's apartment feels like a village: Mama cooking luchi, stories told in Bangla, and Baba's big laugh. But outside, everything is different - trick-or-treating, ballet class, and English books. She is Indian. She is also American. How should she define home?



Hot Dog by Doug Salati

This hot dog has had enough of summer in the city! Enough of sizzling sidewalks, enough of wailing sirens, enough of people's feet right in his face. He hails a taxi, hops on a train, and ferries out to the beach. Here, a pup can run! This pup shows us how to find calm and carry it back with us so we can appreciate the small joys in a day.

Questions to Ask While Reading



A great way to engage your child during a read aloud experience is by asking questions before, during, and after reading a story together. Open-ended questions allow children to make predictions about what they are reading and think about their own experiences, making connections to the characters or events in a story.

Before Reading:

Make predictions!

Encourage your child to think about the title and illustrations on the front cover.

Ask: What will this book be about?

What is something you think may happen?

During Reading:

Ask “wh” questions!

Before or after reading each page ask questions to check your child's understanding of the story.

Ask: What is happening in this picture?

Who is in this story?

Where does the story take place?

What do you think will happen next? Why?

After Reading:

Recap what you have read and make connections!

Allow your child to show their understanding of a story by recalling what has been read and making personal connections to the characters in the book.

Ask: Can you retell what we read?

What do you think the lesson of the story is? What does the author want to teach us?

What was a problem in the story? How did the character solve that problem?



Kindergarten Summer Scrapbook



Encourage your child to continue practicing proper letter formation and phonetic spelling all summer long by creating their own summer scrapbook!

Create a journal using a notebook, construction paper, or plain paper stapled or tied together. On each page encourage your child to draw and write about something they experienced that day.

Phonetic Spelling

Phonetic spelling is when early writers spell words based on the letter sounds they hear instead of focusing on the "right" way to spell a word.

Examples of the phonetic spelling of the words "pink" and "pig" are shown below:

Copying words and early phonetic spelling	Draws pictures, copies words and adds in phonetic spelling (using letters-mostly just consonants- to represent each sound they hear)	 pnk pg
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Letter Formation

This year students will use Foundations as their handwriting and phonics curriculum. An example of each uppercase and lowercase letter can be found below:



Sentence Starters

Consider using these sentence starters to get your child started. You can write the sentence starter for your child and have them attempt to finish the rest. Don't forget to include a detailed drawing that matches your sentence!

My favorite part of today was...

In the morning I...

I like to... because...

Today I went to...

Tomorrow I hope I...

I am excited for...