

# *Welcome to Our Early Childhood Program*



# Early Childhood Curriculum Overview

At Saddle River Day School, our Early Childhood Program is dedicated to the growth of our youngest learners. Our curriculum is carefully designed to encourage intellectual curiosity while maintaining a balance between academic challenges, creative exploration, and play. We foster social, emotional, and intellectual development within a supportive and nurturing environment, allowing each child to reach their full potential and develop a lifelong love of learning.



# Welcome to Pre-K3: What to Expect

- Learning through play
- Creating a safe and caring environment where children can learn to regulate their emotions
- Helping children develop social skills through modeling and scaffolding interactions
- Developing a love of literature and reading with high quality children's books and engaging stories and songs
- Building on children's innate interest in numbers and patterns with developmentally appropriate numeracy activities
- Strengthening fine motor skills by providing access to a wide range of sensory materials and tools
- Respecting the unique qualities of each child and meeting them where they are

# Welcome to Pre-K4: What to Expect

- Literacy Foundations: Phonemic awareness, letter recognition, storytelling, poetry journals, and a love for books
- Handwriting Practice: Building fine motor strength and proper letter formation
- Early Math Skills: Number sense, counting, sorting, patterns, problem solving, and shapes through hands-on, differentiated activities
- Social-Emotional Growth: Daily opportunities to build friendships, increase independence, practice kindness and develop empathy
- Project-Based Learning: Thematic units that encourage curiosity, collaboration, and real-world connections

# SRDS Pre-K3 Dress Code

Pre-K3 students are not required to wear a uniform but should try to adhere to the SRDS dress code on Mondays.

**Mondays:** Students should wear uniform colors.

- Boys: Navy or khaki pants with a white or light blue shirt.
- Girls: Navy or khaki pants, skirt or jumper with a white or light blue shirt.
- **Tuesdays – Thursdays:** Students may wear outfits of choice. Please keep in mind that activities throughout the day may involve paint, outdoor play, and other hands-on experiences, so comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing is best.

**Fridays:** Rebel Gear Day! Students should wear SRDS Rebel Gear or Rebel Colors (red, blue, black).

## **A Few Friendly Reminders:**

- Clothing should be easy for little hands to manage during bathroom routines.
- If possible, please try to avoid belts, as they can be tricky for little fingers.
- Sneakers are encouraged, but any safe, closed-toe shoes are fine.
- Shorts may be worn when the temperature is above 70 degrees before October 1st and after May 1st
- On snowy days, if your child wears boots, please send an extra pair of shoes for them to change into.

Thank you for helping your little one dress for a fun and active day at school!

# SRDS Pre-K4 Dress Code

Pre-K4 students will be required to wear school uniforms **Monday - Thursday**.

**On Fridays:** Rebel Gear Day! Students should wear SRDS Rebel Gear or Rebel Colors (red, blue, black).

Please click below to view the full list of uniform options, along with additional information and guidelines.

[LS Uniforms Pre-K4 - 4th grade](#)

## A Few Friendly Reminders:

- Clothing should be easy for little hands to manage during bathroom routines.
- If possible, please try to avoid belts, as they can be tricky for little fingers.
- Sneakers are encouraged, but any safe, closed-toe shoes are fine.
- Shorts may be worn when the temperature is above 70 degrees before October 1st and after May 1st
- On snowy days, if your child wears boots, please send an extra pair of shoes for them to change into.

# School Supplies

## Order online **today!**

### Dear parents,

We are happy to announce that we have chosen to sell prepackaged school supplies for the next school year through School Tool Box.

Want to avoid the back-to-school rush?

- Put your zip code in the box at [SchoolToolBox.com](https://schooltoolbox.com)
- Find the school, then choose your child's new grade

Each supply box matches your teacher's approved list. You can add extras or remove what you don't need. After you pay online, supplies are shipped directly to your home address.

**It doesn't get easier than that!**



Your order supports



**One Box, One Meal**

### School Name:

Saddle River Day School  
Saddle River, NJ 07458

### Ordering Available:

May 23rd, 2024

**Allow 10 days for processing.**

Notes



Scan here to view your school's boxes and place your order today!



**School Supplies-** Order the school supplies directly from [schooltoolbox.com](https://schooltoolbox.com) and bring them to school during student orientation day. These supplies do not need to be individually labeled.

**In addition to the supplies from [schooltoolbox.com](https://schooltoolbox.com), please purchase:**

**Yoga Mat-** 5 Below has great mats. Label with your child's name.

**Rest Time Mat-** Please purchase an All in One Mat that has an attached pillow and blanket. Label with your child's name.

**Set of Headphones-** Label with your child's name.

**Raincoat-** please bring a labeled raincoat to leave at school. These are pictures of what your child will need. Any color, print or pattern is fine for the Yoga mat, Rest Time Mat and headphones.



**Forms-** Complete the enclosed forms and return them during student orientation. Make sure nurse Hanna has your health forms as well.

**Change of Clothes-** Things can get messy in Pre-K. Please send one complete change of clothes (shirt, pants, socks, and underwear) in a Ziploc labeled with your child's name. Bring these to student orientation day.

**One Box of tissues**

[School Toolbox](https://schooltoolbox.com)

# Snack and Lunch

|                                                                                |                                                                                         |                                                                                      |                                                                                    |                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 29                                                                             | 30                                                                                      | 01                                                                                   | 02                                                                                 | 03                                                                                |
|                                                                                |                                                                                         | Teriyaki Chicken or Tofu<br>Pot Stickers<br>Steamed Brown Rice<br>Mixed Vegetables   | <b>Cinco de Mayo</b><br>Tacos<br>Fajitas<br>Mexican Rice/Beans                     | Tuscan Chicken<br>Tuscan Tofu<br>Penne w/ Roasted Garlic<br>Steamed Cauliflower   |
| 06                                                                             | 07                                                                                      | 08                                                                                   | 09                                                                                 | 10                                                                                |
| Baked Ziti<br>Pesto Baked Fish<br>Yellow Rice<br>Roast Peppers                 | Fish Sticks<br>Tofu Sticks<br>Tater Tots<br>Steamed Carrots                             | Meatball Heroes<br>Beyond Hero<br>Curly Fries<br>Fried Cabbage                       | Cheese Burgers/Beyond<br>Burger<br>Steamed Corn<br>Baked Beans<br>Roasted Broccoli | Beef or Beyond Stew<br>Grilled Tofu<br>Mashed Potatoes<br>Roasted Mixed Vegetable |
| 13                                                                             | 14                                                                                      | 15                                                                                   | 16                                                                                 | 17                                                                                |
| Roast Beef w/ Gravy<br>Roast Beyond<br>Herb Mashed Potatoes<br>Steamed Carrots | Waffles & French Toast<br>Scrambled Eggs<br>Hash Browns<br>Bacon & Sausage/Tofu Sausage | Chicken Florentine<br>Tofu Florentine<br>Egg Noodles with Butter<br>Steamed Broccoli | BBQ Beef<br>BBQ Beyond<br>Baked Black Beans<br>Pasta Salad                         | Chicken Tenders<br>Tofu Tenders<br>Rice & Peas<br>Grilled Asparagus               |
| 20                                                                             | 21                                                                                      | 22                                                                                   | 23                                                                                 | 24                                                                                |
| Chicken Marsala<br>Tofu Marsala<br>Fettuccine<br>Steamed String Beans          | Fajita Bar<br>Tofu Bar<br>Refried Beans<br>Spanish Rice                                 | Hoisin Turkey Breast<br>Hoisin Tofu<br>Vegetable Lo Mein<br>Roasted Broccoli         | Cheese Ravioli<br>Seafood Newburgh<br>Yellow Rice<br>Roasted Vegetables            | BBQ Wings or BBQ Tofu<br>Chili Fries<br>Macaroni Salad<br>Power Greens Cole Slaw  |
| 27                                                                             | 28                                                                                      | 29                                                                                   | 30                                                                                 | 31                                                                                |
| NO SCHOOL                                                                      | Grilled Franks<br>Grilled Tofu Dogs<br>Grilled Fish<br>Fried Onion Rings                | Philly Cheese Steak<br>Beyond Cheese Steak<br>French Fries<br>Roasted Carrots        | Tropical Roast Pork<br>Tropical Tofu<br>Pasta Desai<br>Roast Broccoli              | Sloppy Joe's<br>Sloppy Beyond<br>Sweet Potato Fries<br>Steamed Spinach            |
| Chicken Nuggets also offered<br>on Mondays                                     | Mac and Cheese also offered<br>on Tuesdays                                              | Spaghetti & Meatballs also<br>offered on Wednesdays                                  | Chicken Fingers also offered<br>on Thursdays                                       | Mini Pizza also offered on<br>Fridays                                             |

Lunch Form

# Arrival and Dismissal

- Arrive between 7:50am and 8:05am
- Pick up at 2:50pm (if whole day)
- Drop off and pick up for Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 are at classroom door
- If your child will be riding a bus/van please let the classroom teacher know

# Coaching Academy, ASSC, and Music Institute

- Registration opens early June!
- Always on campus right after school
- Classes for all ages!
- 1-1 Tutoring & 2-1 Tutoring
- Music Lessons with accomplished professionals
- Music lessons 3:00-6:00 pm
- After School Sports Club (ASSC)
- There is something for everyone!



# Getting Ready For The First Day

- Try to set a class playdate up before school starts
- Practice independence when using the bathroom and washing hands
- Talk about all the fun things your child might do at school
- During the summer go to library storytimes, local playgrounds, family events in town - any opportunity to have your child interact with other children their age
- Remind them school is fun and you are excited to hear about all the wonderful things they learn!

# Looking Forward to...

- Music Together Event - June 4th
- Frozen, Jr. - Lower School Musical - June 5th & June 6th
- August 31st - Orientation
- Class parents will reach out for over the summer meetups
- Having you all as a part of our SRDS family!

# New Family Page

## Information for New Families



### Welcome to Saddle River Day School!

Congratulations and welcome! On behalf of the entire school community, I want to assure you that we will work hard to prepare your child for success at SRDS and beyond.

Our goal is to make your transition to SRDS as seamless as possible. Please feel free to contact the Office of Admissions if we can be of assistance. Thanks, and welcome again to the Rebel Family!

2025-2026 Significant Dates

<https://www.saddleriverday.org/newfamilypage>

- Under the 'Admissions' Tab
- Forms for Business Office and School Nurse
- Information regarding uniform, textbooks, supply lists, course listings and summer reading
- Important dates and calendar

Updated throughout the summer

## Lower School Assignments & Forms

To be updated in June

- ▼ PreK3 Summer Assignments and Forms
- ▼ PreK4 Summer Assignments and Forms
- ▼ K Summer Assignments and Forms
- ▼ 1st Grade Summer Assignments and Forms
- ▼ 2nd Grade Summer Assignments and Forms
- ▼ 3rd Grade Summer Assignments and Forms
- ▼ 4th Grade Summer Assignments and Forms

## Textbook Info and Supply Lists

To be updated in June

Book Lists and BYOD

[2024-2025 Curriculum Guide](#)

2025-2026 Lower School Book List

2025-2026 Middle & Upper School Book List

K-6th Grade Textbook Ordering Form and List

PreK3 - 6th Grade Supply List Online Order Form

[Bring Your Own Device \(BYOD\) Grades 6-12](#)

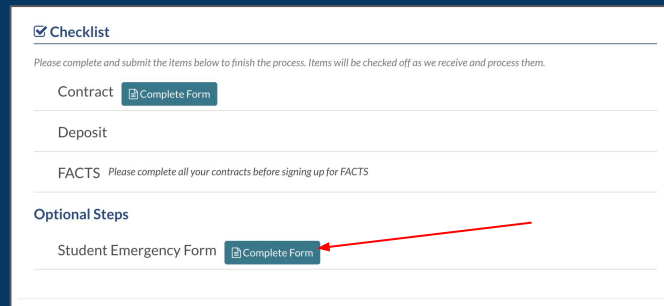
# School Nurse and Medical Forms

Forms to Complete and Submit Prior to the 1st day of School:

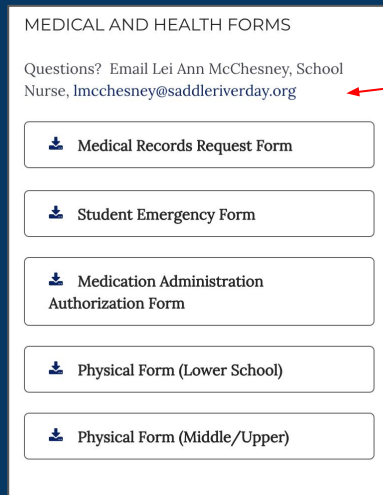
- Medical Records Form (All)
- Student Emergency Form (All)
- Physical
- Immunization records
- Individual health care plans

Health Services information and forms for download:  
<https://www.saddleriverday.org/our-community/health-services>

Contact: Lei Ann McChesney, RN, CSN-NJ  
(201) 327 - 4050 ext. 1111  
[lmcchesney@saddleriverday.org](mailto:lmcchesney@saddleriverday.org)



A screenshot of a checklist titled "Checklist" with a checked box icon. Below the title is a note: "Please complete and submit the items below to finish the process. Items will be checked off as we receive and process them." The checklist items are: "Contract" with a "Complete Form" button, "Deposit", and "FACTS" with a note "Please complete all your contracts before signing up for FACTS". Under the heading "Optional Steps", there is "Student Emergency Form" with a "Complete Form" button. A red arrow points to this button.



A screenshot of a page titled "MEDICAL AND HEALTH FORMS". It includes contact information: "Questions? Email Lei Ann McChesney, School Nurse, [lmcchesney@saddleriverday.org](mailto:lmcchesney@saddleriverday.org)". Below this is a list of five buttons, each with a download icon and text: "Medical Records Request Form", "Student Emergency Form", "Medication Administration Authorization Form", "Physical Form (Lower School)", and "Physical Form (Middle/Upper)". A red arrow points to the email address.

# Business Office - FACTS

SRDS Tuition billing system; accounts must be in Finals site from an audit perspective. **When you submit a contract into Finals site, you will be directed to Billing, where you will pay your deposit. Your payment plan will be set up according to your contract choice.**

Options for paying:

1. **Payment plans:**
  - a. **annual plan** due July 1
  - b. **semi annual** plan due July 1 and Dec 1
  - c. **10 month** payment plan July 1 through April 1; since April 1st is the last payment, the number of payment months are reduced if you enroll after July 1 (e.g., if you enroll in August, your payment plan could be 8 or 9 months)
2. You can set up automatic payments from your checking or savings account with a flat \$2.50 charge for each payment, or you can pay by credit card with a 3.05% fee.
3. Also, payments by check (written to Saddle River Day School) can be sent to my attention (Gina Brinkman) at SRDS.
4. The deposit and full amount for tuition insurance are due with your contract signing; the full amount for bus transportation will be due with the first payment, and all other charges (Tuition, Meals and Technology) are spread throughout the number of payments you choose on your contract.

**Finals site enrollment link** [https://saddleriverday.fsenrollment.com/users/sign\\_in](https://saddleriverday.fsenrollment.com/users/sign_in)

**Finals site Family help Portal** <https://www.finalsite.com/schooladmin-parent-portal-help>

**SRDS Business Office Contact:** Gina Brinkman, Accountant, Office 551-579-6703 or email [gbrinkman@saddleriverday.org](mailto:gbrinkman@saddleriverday.org)

# Community Engagement and Parents Guild

- Parents Guild meets once month
- Many different ways to get involved and be part of our community
- Committees, events and more!



# Helpful Contacts

*Dana M. Stern*- Head of Lower School  
[dstern@saddleriverday.org](mailto:dstern@saddleriverday.org)

*Michelle Lanks*- Early Childhood Coordinator  
[mlanks@saddleriverday.org](mailto:mlanks@saddleriverday.org)

*Christine Lebovits*- Assistant Director Lower  
School Admissions,  
Director of Community Engagement  
[clebovits@saddleriverday.org](mailto:clebovits@saddleriverday.org)

*Kris Sweeny*- Assistant Director of  
Admissions  
[ksweeny@saddleriverday.org](mailto:ksweeny@saddleriverday.org)

*Geoff Bowman*-  
Director of Admissions  
[gbowman@saddleriverday.org](mailto:gbowman@saddleriverday.org)

*Ruth O'Hara*-  
Administrative Assistant (LS)  
[rohara@saddleriverday.org](mailto:rohara@saddleriverday.org)

*Gina Brinkman*-  
FACTS/Transportation  
[gbrinkman@saddleriverday.org](mailto:gbrinkman@saddleriverday.org)

*Lei Ann McChesney*- School Nurse  
[lmcchesney@saddleriverday.org](mailto:lmcchesney@saddleriverday.org)

# A Wonderful Year Ahead!

Looking forward to a year filled with little moments, big smiles, new friendships, exciting discoveries, and memories that will last a lifetime.

