POTTY TRAINING POLICY FOR PRE-K STUDENTS

Purpose

This policy aims to clarify the expectations and responsibilities of both parents/guardians and the school regarding potty training. Mother Seton School (MSS) is committed to providing all students with a safe, healthy, and productive learning environment. To ensure the well-being of all students, **it is essential that children are fully potty-trained before entering the Pre-K program.** We will work with families to the greatest extent possible to ensure all students are able to benefit from our program in a safe and healthy manner.

Potty Training Requirement

Children enrolled in preschool must be toilet-trained before attending preschool. Children must be wearing underwear. A child having accidents daily would not be considered toilet-trained. Please note that wearing pull-ups is **NOT** considered toilet-trained.

Why is Potty Training Important for Preschool?

- **Hygiene and Health Standards:** Strict standards govern the changing and disposal of wet or soiled diapers/pull-ups. Mother Seton School is not a licensed daycare facility, and our classrooms are not equipped to handle these tasks.
- **Learning Time:** When an adult is occupied with changing a child's soiled clothing, it detracts from valuable learning time for all students and limits the adult's ability to supervise and interact with the rest of the class directly.

Criteria for Toilet Training

A toilet-trained child should be able to:

- Communicate the need to use the restroom to a teacher.
- Recognize personal bodily cues and initiate the process of using the bathroom.
- Independently pull down and pull up clothing.
- Wipe themselves after using the toilet (with minimal assistance for 3-year-olds).
- Get on and off the toilet independently.
- Wash and dry hands.
- Delay using the restroom if necessary (e.g., waiting for someone to finish or during a class activity).
- Wake up during nap time if they need to use the bathroom.

Responsibilities

- **Parents and Guardians:** Parents and guardians are responsible for ensuring that their child meets all program requirements, including potty training, before enrollment.

Teachers and Staff: Teachers will proactively remind children to use the restroom throughout the day, especially before lunch, recess, nap time, specials, or any time leaving the classroom. While teachers will assist as needed, children should be capable of completing toileting tasks independently.

Teachers and staff are not responsible for initiating or continuing potty training for any child. Any child requiring frequent or regular assistance with toileting will not be considered potty trained.

Potty Training Aids

- Pull-ups, diapers, and rubber pants are indicators that a child is not fully potty trained and should not be worn to school.
- Any child found wearing these items must be picked up immediately by a parent or guardian.

Toilet Accidents

We understand that even toilet-trained children may occasionally have accidents, particularly during periods of adjustment to a new environment. However, these accidents should be infrequent. In such cases, teachers will assist children in changing their clothes, encouraging independence whenever possible.

If toilet accidents continue to occur after September 30th of any school year, the following steps may be taken:

1. **First Accident:** The child will be changed into a fresh set of clothes provided by the parent/guardian, and the parent/guardian will be notified.
2. **Second Accident:** The parent/guardian will be called to pick up the child from school.
3. **Third Accident:** The parent/guardian will be called to pick up the child from school and must meet with the principal before the child can return to school.
4. **Fourth Accident:** Parents/guardians may be asked to withdraw their child from the program. Tuition responsibilities will remain as outlined in the Tuition and Fees Policy on page 5 of the Handbook (2026-2027).

In the event a student is having difficulty, we will do our best to assist families so the child may continue to attend the Pre-K program.

By adhering to this policy, we can maintain a safe, hygienic, and productive learning environment for all students.