



Saint Francis of Assisi Mission Statement: We are a Catholic community of faith striving to follow Jesus, pledging each day to do our best by imitating Saint Francis of Assisi as "instruments of peace." Our goal is to maintain a safe and healthy environment and to be academically prepared for this technological age.

The ABC'S of Kindergarten



Absence If your child is ill, please call the school and inform us of your child's absence and the reason for it (781 848 0842). If a student must to leave early, go to the office to sign him out and the secretary will call him to the office. Never send another person to pick up your child without informing me or the secretary.

Attendance A successful school experience is the responsibility of child, the parent, and the school. Your child's progress, both academically and socially, is influenced to a great extent by daily participation. Regular attendance without tardiness is a key.

Arrival/Dismissal Students should arrive between 7:40 and 7:50 AM. School begins at 7:50 and afternoon dismissal is at 1:50 PM. Students who arrive after 7:50 a.m. will be considered tardy. Drop off and pick up is at Washington St. door near the flag pole. Students who are not picked up



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by 2:10 will be taken to the Extended Day Program downstairs. There will be a charge for any student who has not been picked up on time.

Birthdays Birthdays are a special occasions for young children. Please notify us in advance if you would like to send in goodies for your child's birthday. We are a Peanut free class. Popsicles, popcorn, and stickers are great alternatives. We have 24 friends in our classroom.

Book Order On occasion, I will send home a Scholastic Book Club catalog for you to look over. These clubs offer wonderful books at reduced prices- what a great way to build your home library! If you choose to order, please make checks payable to Scholastic books. Please mark the envelope with the child's name and KB.

Buddies The kindergarteners will each have a buddy from the seventh grade class. On occasion, we will gather with our seventh grade buddies for special seasonal projects and activities. In addition, our buddies will help the kindergarteners at school liturgies and other school events.

Conferences Parent/teacher conferences are held at the end of each grading period. You will receive your child's report card and we will discuss your child's accomplishments, strengths, and overall progress. Please feel free to schedule additional conferences at any time the year if the need arises.

Discipline Our classroom is small community where teamwork and good relationship are expected. We will spend time learning class procedures and practice them. Each student is expected to act within our standards



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of behavior. To establish good order and help the children with self-control, they will be guided to respect themselves and their companions through positive reinforcement and responsible actions.

Guidelines Treat others as you like to be treated. Be a good listener; do not interrupt others when they are talking. Follow directions the first time they are given. Walk quietly in the classroom and the halls. Share with classmates. Treat others with respect. No fighting, teasing, tattling or saying "bad" words. Use an inside voice while working in the classroom.

Consequences First time - Verbal reminder/warning.

Second time - Child meets with teacher to discuss their behavior.

Third time - Child loses 5 minutes of playtime and contact is made with parents by note or phone.

Fourth time - Child loses 10 minutes of playtime and contact is made with parents.

Fifth time - Child is sent to meet with Principal and teacher together.

E-mail You can contact me via e-mail: kburke@sfab.org

Field Trips We will plan a field trip that will be both fun and educational. Parent drivers are generally not permitted, so buses will have to be used



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for transportation. We will often need parent volunteers on the trips and chaperones will be chosen on a first come first served basis. Please return the permission slip as soon as possible. A CORI check must be complete for all volunteers 18 years and older.

Gym WE will have 30 minutes of gym class on Monday. The children must wear sneakers in order to participate.

Hands-on learning I feel that the best way to help children is to make learning fun. Important concepts can be learned by doing meaningful hands-on activities. There are times when seatwork is required and necessary, but the most part, our classroom will be an active learning environment.

Homework Homework will begin the second week of school. The children will be given assignments on Monday and I will accept the work back by Friday. Their work will be review of the lessons learned in class.

Independent Reading Because the children learn to read by reading, they need plenty of opportunities to read independently. By giving the children time to read both at school and at home, we can work together to provide a literature rich environment and a life long love of reading. Each week the students will bring home a book we have learned to read in class from our reading program. Please keep all the take-home books in a box in your



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child's room and encourage continued practice reading each of the books. By the end of the school year, your child will have a collection of 35 books they can read and keep!

Journals In our journal, we will combine emerging writing skills with drawing skills. As the children are exposed to a variety of phonics and reading experiences, journal entries will move from the drawing and "Inventive" spelling towards more conventional writing.

Kindness Students in our classroom are encouraged and expected to treat all members of our class as well as others with kindness and respect. Bothering others, bullying and interrupting learning will not be permitted.

Label Please put your child's name on EVERYTHING that comes to school. This will help us find lost things and return them quickly. In addition, please send an extra set of clothing, including socks and underwear that has been labeled with your child's name in case of any accidents.

Library We will walk to the Thayer Public Library every other week on Fridays. The children will have the opportunity to explore and check out books. If your child has a library card they will be permitted to take books home. If the book is taken out with my card, the books will remain in the classroom.



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Lunch The kindergarteners will have lunch at 11:15 everyday, followed by recess until noon. Please provide a healthy lunch and drink for your child everyday in addition to their morning snack. We do have a hot lunch program provided everyday for students. The hot lunch program provides a health, well-balanced meal including milk for \$2.50. If your child brings lunch from home and would like to purchase milk, the cost is \$.50. For more information about the school lunch program, please visit the school website.

Math The kindergarten mathematics curriculum provides students with Mathematical experiences that help them develop number sense and a positive attitude towards math that will continue through their school year. We employ a hands-on, problem solving approach.

Newsletter Our newsletter will keep you informed about what is happening in our classroom-the themes we are learning, poems, songs and special activities. It will be posted at the beginning of each month. Our classroom website is <http://www.sfab.org/mrsburkesclassroom>

Open Court Reading Our reading and phonics program systematically teach letter knowledge and phonemic awareness in kindergarten. We will build fluency which is the key to comprehension through the use of decodable books. The goal of all instruction in phonemic awareness and



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phonics is to provide the children with the tools they need to read with fluency.

Parent Involvement Your support of our school activities makes your child feel important and sends the message that you value school! We are always happy to have your help for special activities in the classroom. All volunteers must fill out a CORI form in advance. I will try to let you know at least a week ahead of time if we need help.

Questions Since so many of you are new to St. Francis of Assisi School, this year I'm sure that you have many unanswered questions. Please feel free to contact me at the school, write me a note or email me.

Report Card Report cards will be issued three times a year. These reports reflect the progress your child has made toward various kindergarten objectives and uses a grading system that reflects the developmental nature of kindergarten learning.

Science The focus of the Kindergarten science curriculum is on developing an awareness of the world in which we live. Our studies will include the study of animals and plants, the five senses, general health and four seasons, to name a few. These areas will be explored utilizing a literacy based, hands-on approach.

SmartBoard Our kindergarten classroom will have a SmartBoard! A SmartBoard is an interactive technological teaching tool. It is a large,



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touch-controlled screen that works with a projector and a computer and is mounted to the wall. We are very excited about this new technological advancement to our classroom and the education of our students.

Snack We eat snack around 9:45 AM each day just before recess. The children may bring in a healthy snack that may be eaten quickly and a drink. Please keep in mind our classroom is peanut-free. Please provide a spoon for pudding, fruit cups and yogurt.

Toys Bringing toys to school is discouraged because they distract the children from learning. If a toy is lost or broken, feelings will be hurt. Children may bring books that are clearly labeled.

Unique Kindergarteners learn that they are special and unique gifts from God.

Visitors St. Francis has a policy that all guests must to sign into the office.

Website The school website is very informative and should be checked often to stay up-to-date about all school related events. In addition, my classroom website is updated often with important information about our classroom, including our monthly newsletter.

Weekly Reader As a part of our kindergarten science and social studies curriculum, we implement the *Weekly Reader Magazine* on a weekly basis to teach the children. This is a magazine that discusses seasonal and



S A I N T F R A N C I S O F A S S I S I S C H O O L

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current events at the level that the children can comprehend. The cost of the yearly subscription will be announced at a later date.

Writing We use the John Collins Writing Program. Our goal in Kindergarten is to begin to write some sounds the children hear in words with the pictures they draw (label) ex. drawing of a leaf the child writes the letters "lf" for the word leaf.

Zzzz's Make sure that your child gets plenty of rest. Setting and keeping a bedtime is a wonderful gift you can give to your child. It will help them to be alert and ready to learn each day.

