



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 at 781 848 0842. If a student must leave early, please send a written note at least a day in advance.

Attendance - A successful school experience is the responsibility of the student, the parents, 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 a.m. School begins at 7:50. Students who arrive after 7:50 a.m. will be considered tardy. Afternoon dismissal is at 1:55 p.m. Drop off and pick up is at Washington Street door near the flag pole. Students who are not picked up 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. If you would like to send in goodies for your child's birthday, please notify us in advance. We are a peanut-free class, but popsicles, veggies and dip, popcorn, and/or stickers are some other great alternatives. Please keep in mind that we have 24 friends in our class!

Book Orders - On occasion we will send home a Scholastic Book Club catalog for you to look over and order books from. These clubs offer wonderful books at reduced prices. If you choose to order, please make checks payable to Scholastic books. Please mark the envelope with the child's name and KW (signifying kindergarten Walrath).

Conferences - Parent/teacher conferences are held at the end of each grading period. During the parent/teacher conference we will discuss your child's accomplishments, strengths, and overall progress. Please feel free to schedule additional conferences at any time during the school 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



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expected to act within our standards 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 anytime me via e-mail: swalrath@sfab.org

Field Trips - We will plan a field trip that will be both fun and educational. The Braintree school buses will be used 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 every Monday. The children must wear sneakers in order to participate.

Hands-on-Learning - I feel that the best way to help children learn 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 - The children will be given a weekly homework packet each Monday. The homework should be returned completed by Friday. Each homework packet will be a review of the lessons learned in class.



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Independent Reading - Because the children learn to read by exploring books, 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 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 journals 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 all pieces of clothing that comes to school. This will help us keep sweatshirts organized and avoid any misplacement of clothing. 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 week (weather permitting). The children will have the opportunity to explore new books and to borrow books. If your child has a library card they will be permitted to take books home. You may send in a library card for your child if you would like. If the book is taken out with my library card, the books will remain in my classroom.

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 the students. The hot lunch program provides a health, well-balanced meal including milk for \$2.50. If your child brings a lunch from home and would like to purchase milk, the cost is \$.50. For more information about the school lunch program, please see the school website.



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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. Please see the kindergarten curriculum for more information.

Newsletter - Our monthly newsletter will keep you informed about what is happening in our classroom. Please check my classroom website at the beginning of every month to read about of learning themes for the month, the skills we are learning, poems, songs and any special activities. My classroom website: <http://www.sfab.org/mrswalrathsclassroom.htm>.

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 phonetics awareness and phonics is to provide the children with the tools they need to read with fluency. Please see the kindergarten curriculum for more information.

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 in the classroom. All volunteers must fill out a CORI form in advance. Please contact us least a week ahead of time to inform us of your availability.

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 (781-848-0842 ext.50), write me a note, or email me at swalrath@sfab.org.

Reading Buddies - The kindergarteners will have reading buddies from the fifth grade class that will come every other week to read to the kindergarteners. In addition, the buddies will help the kindergarteners at school liturgies and other school events.

Report Cards - 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.

Rest Time - The students will have a period of rest after lunch everyday. This is a time to rest their bodies and minds. Soft music and books will be provided. If you would like you may send a small blanket for your child to rest on in the classroom. The blankets will be



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send home weekly to be washed. Please remember to send them back each week so that your child will have something soft and personal to rest on.

Science - Our science curriculum is based 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. Please see the kindergarten curriculum for more information.

SmartBoard - Our kindergarten classroom will have a SmartBoard! A SmartBoard is interactive technological teaching tool. It is a large, touch-controlled screen that works with a projector and a computer and is mounted on 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 a.m. each day just before recess. The children should bring in a healthy snack and a drink daily for snack. Please keep in mind our classroom is peanut-free. Please provide a spoon for pudding, fruit cups and yogurt.

Special Classes - As a part of our kindergarten curriculum, the children will have seven special classes each week. These special classes include gym, art, music, library, computer class, Italian and Spanish.

"Star Student" - As a way to build self-esteem, practice speaking in complete sentences, and build questioning skills our classroom has a "star student" of the day. At the beginning of school, each student will bring in a picture of themselves with their family. This picture will be used during their first interview with the class. The class will have a chance to ask the "Star Student" student questions, and the "Star Student" will have a chance to answer. In addition, the "Star Student" of the day will get to sit in the special chair, be the line leader, and teacher's helper for the day. Each student will have a chance to be the "Star Student" of the day several times during the school year.

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. Therefore, we ask that you do not



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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send in any toys from home with your child. However, periodically children may bring books from home that are clearly labeled with their personal information.

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

Visitors/Volunteers - St. Francis has a policy that all guests must sign into the office upon arrival. Volunteers are welcome. If you would like to volunteer for different classroom or school events, please fill out a CORI form at the secretary's office. All volunteers must complete a CORI form.

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 part of our kindergarten science and social studies curriculum, we use the *Weekly Reader Magazine* on a weekly basis to teach the children. The cost for this additional supplement to our curriculum is about \$5.00 for the entire school year. You will be asked to send in your payment at the beginning of the school year.

Writing - We use the John Collin's Writing Program. Our goal in Kindergarten is to begin to write some sounds the children hear in words with the pictures they draw (label) For example: 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.