



Countdown

to **Kindergarten**

Parent Guide



Guide Contents

- About St. Paul Lutheran School
- Letter from Mrs. Speers
- Letter from Pastor Mark Ball
- Kindergarten Readiness Checklist
- Kindergarten Readiness Activities
- Guide to Curriculum and Thematic Units
- How to Enroll and Important Information



The Vinch Family on Growing-up at St. Paul Lutheran School

We decided to send our children to St. Paul because of the quality, rigorous academic program, which is uniquely enhanced with high expectations for positive character development rooted in Christian values.

Our kids have grown in smaller classes with teachers who are dedicated to developing the unique and individual success of each and every student. At St. Paul, our children are taught to respect and value the individual differences of their peers, to serve as mentors for younger students and to learn from the examples set by older students. We have also seen first-hand the benefits of having teachers who are there because they care, evidenced by regular emails, calls and updates on academic progress, which facilitates an open educational partnerships between school and home.

We love that our children can also participate in athletics that enable all kids to experience the benefits of a competitive team-oriented environment. Sports are led by coaches who focus on positive character development by teaching kids to work together as a cohesive and interdependent team, while developing their own talents and skills.

St. Paul has proven to be a place where our kids have grown academically, socially and spiritually in a way that we would not have found anywhere else!

About Us

Why St. Paul Lutheran School?

St. Paul provides challenging programs that develop each student's mind while nurturing their spirit. Our goal is to make a Christian education accessible to every family who desires one for their child.

More reasons to love St. Paul:

- Christian curriculum
- A small school community
- Full & half day kindergarten
- Before & after school care
- Competitive athletics
- Music program with private lesson offerings
- Tuition available at less than \$300 per month
- Busing available for students residing in the Churchville Chili, City of Rochester, Brockport, Gates-Chili, Greece, Hilton, and Spencerport school districts



What is at our core?

New families frequently ask what is St. Paul's position on Common Core. To put it simply, we do NOT follow Common Core. Our curriculum is Christ-centered and our teachers are empowered to build their own individual programs. We do still offer the New York State assessments in grades 3-8. However, we see these tests as just one possible measurement of student learning.

We do see some of the benefits of the Common Core shift, but Jesus is at our core, making St. Paul quite uncommon.

Meet Mrs. Speers

Dear Parents,

I am passionate about teaching kindergarten at a school like St. Paul, where the focus is on a Christ-centered curriculum that nurtures a child's mind and spirit. Over the years, I have found great joy in teaching here and I continue to be blessed by the Lord especially in the opportunity to serve in this role. In my classroom I am also blessed to be joined by Mrs. Debbie Garbowski who has been a classroom aide for five years.

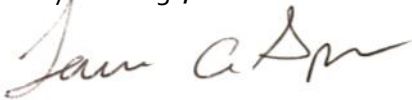
Kindergarten is a place where children engage in learning in so many different ways. My goal is to create an environment where children feel loved and safe to take part in new learning opportunities. I believe children learn best with an integrated curriculum balanced by teacher-directed and student-directed activities. This is why through play, projects, stories, and songs kindergarten at St. Paul provides a rich foundation upon which your child can build a lifetime of experiences and memories.

Along with the several years spent at St. Paul as a preschool 3's teacher, I am a graduate of SUNY Fredonia with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and a master's degree in literacy. I also have a passion for working with children and young adults with disabilities at the Rotary Sunshine Camp where I serve as a camp director.

When I am not at school or at camp, I am home with my son who has begun his educational journey at St. Paul this year in our Early Start classroom. I am thrilled that he will have all of the wonderful experiences St. Paul has to offer.

My door is always open and I would love to talk with you about kindergarten at St. Paul Lutheran School. I look forward to meeting you and your family.

Many blessings,



Mrs. Laura Speers
(585)392-4000 x202
lspeers@stpaulhilton.org



Meet Pastor Ball

Dear Parents,

Disciples come in all shapes and sizes. I am a proud St. Paul graduate, a St. Paul dad and now have the privilege to serve in a leadership capacity. When I started as the school administrator at St. Paul, I thought our goal was to prepare the disciples of tomorrow. However, our students quickly taught me that they aren't waiting for tomorrow, and continue to amaze me with their determination to share the love of Jesus Christ.

Be ready to see your child grow in their faith and understanding of how to apply the principles they learn in the classroom to their life. St. Paul students learn so much more than what you can find in lesson plans, they learn God's word. Our students are provided opportunities inside and outside of the classroom to practice their faith through service to others, prayer, and following the example set before them from our committed teachers and administrative staff.

For 60 years St. Paul has been providing a Christian education to children from preschool through eighth grade. This school is the foremost ministry of the St. Paul Lutheran Church congregation that was first formed in Hilton, N.Y. in 1898. Our community would love nothing more than to serve your family by nurturing your little disciples.

I invite you to schedule a tour at your earliest convenience by calling me or if you would just like to talk more about the opportunities available for your family at St. Paul.

Blessings,



Rev. Mark Ball
(585) 392-4000 x201
pastorball@stpaulhilton.org



Kindergarten

How do I know if my child is ready for kindergarten?

When to enroll your child into kindergarten is a big decision, and you are not alone if you are asking yourself this question. Use this checklist as a basic guide to record your child's progress in each competency area.

Remember to focus on your child's willingness to learn and encourage them to use their imagination. Each of these skills will at some level require assistance from a peer or adult.

Communication Skills

Can communicate needs, wants, and thoughts verbally

Can listen to a story

Reading & Writing

Knows the letters of the alphabet

Can identify and write his /her name

Learning & Cognition

Can count to 20 or higher

Can follow two to three verbal directions

Can group like objects and form patterns with shapes, letters, numbers, or colors

Exhibits enthusiasm when trying new activities

Social

Can take turns and share

Can sit still and pay attention

Physical

Is able to use pencils, crayons, markers, and scissors

Able to perform gross motor skills such as hopping, running, bouncing a ball, etc.

Readiness

How can I help prepare my child for kindergarten?

The best way to prepare your child for their first day of kindergarten is by incorporating learning opportunities into everyday activities they are already doing. In other words keep it simple, engaging, and fun! You are probably already doing more than you realize. Try these suggested activities or if you would like more ideas visit Mrs. Speers' recommended websites.

Letters & Numbers

- Make letters and shapes with Play-Doh ,wax sticks, dry erase board, or other types of craft materials
- Have your child use their finger and write letters in paint, sand, or shaving cream
- Make up your own alphabet or number game. For example, point to an everyday object in your home and have your child guess what letter it starts with

Fine Motor Skills

- Use Play-Doh to help your child develop fine motor skills in their hands. Use cookie cutters to cut out shapes and identify colors as they play. Encourage them to use their imagination and explore mixing colors
- Make a game out of using tweezers to pick up small items
- Play with building blocks or Legos

Reading & Telling Stories

- Reading books and telling stories with your child on a daily basis is one of the best ways to develop their attention span and listening skills. Ask them questions about what you are reading or have them make up a story while you point to the pictures
- Write stories with your child or visit the library for story time

Recommended Websites

<http://www.learninggamesforkids.com/> <http://pbskids.org/>

<http://www.funbrain.com/>

<http://www.abclearningtime.com/>

<http://www.starfall.com/>

Learning at

What will my child learn at St. Paul?

Kindergarten teacher Mrs. Speers continues to design a curriculum plan that integrates a range of topics and subjects with thematic units. The benefits to this style of learning is that students can directly apply subjects such as math, science, social studies, writing, and reading directly to their experience in life. With this curriculum design your child will get to experience different ways of learning that are attentive to each child's unique talents and needs.

September

- School Days
- The Alphabet
- Colors of the Rainbow
- Down on the Farm

October

- A is for Apple
- Along Came a Spider
- Going Batty
- Pumpkin Patch

November

- It's Autumn
- Fall Leaves
- We are Thankful
- The Gingerbread Man

December

- Author Study: Jan Brett
- M is for Manger
- Merry Christmas

January

- Let It Snow
- The Arctic Winter
- Hibernation

February

- Groundhog Day
- 100 Days of School
- Valentine's Day
- Dental Health

March

- Elmer the Elephant
- Creepy Crawly Bugs
- Ladybug, Ladybug
- Buzzing Bees

April

- Ants
- Butterflies
- Come into the Garden
- Easter

May

- Flower Gardens
- Author Study: Lois Ehlert
- Under the Sea

June

- The Zoo
- It's Summer Time

St. Paul

Kindergarten Curriculum Overview

Religion

- What it means to be a Christian
- How to live by God's will
- God chose me to be His child
- God takes care of me
- Jesus loves me and died for me
- The Bible is God's Word
- The Bible tells me how to live as God's child
- Jesus will take all believers and me to heaven someday
- Everyone is sinful and God wants me to ask for forgiveness
- We can worship God at any time and at any place

Language Arts

- Knowledge of the Alphabet
- Phonemic Awareness
- Sight Vocabulary
- Leveled Reading Books
- Shared Reading
- Accelerated Reader
- Instruction of upper and lower case letter formation
- Sentence writing
- Journal writing
- Story writing

Storytelling

- Parents are welcome to come in to read a story based on the letter/thematic unit of the week

Science

- Water play
- Properties
- Weather
- Four seasons
- Polar animals
- Hibernations
- Five senses
- Plant growth
- Animal habitats

Math

- Exploration of manipulatives
- Position and classification
- Sorting
- Data and graphs
- Patterns
- Numbers to 100
- Money
- Measurement
- Time
- Addition and subtraction
- Geometry and fractions

Social Studies

- Friends and family
- Where we live
- Working together
- I am a citizen
- People work
- Things change

Show & Share

- Every Wednesday, students bring in an object that begins with the letter of the week

How to Enroll

Our goal at St. Paul Lutheran School is to make a Christian education accessible to every family who truly desires one for their child(ren).

We recognize that deciding to pay for your child's education has its challenges. To assist our families we offer needs based financial assistance and discounts for families with multiple children. You will find our tuition rates for every grade level on our website and we would be pleased to discuss financial options and packages with you in person.



Step 1

For all new families, enrollment begins with a call to Pastor Mark Ball at 585.392.4000 x201 to schedule a school tour or via email at pastorball@stpaulhilton.org.

Step 2

Then on February 1, an email invite is sent out with a link to complete the online enrollment form through our Tuition Management, Admissions & Enrollment Services (TADS) platform that is hosted on our website at www.stpaulhilton.org.

Step 3

Once your online application has been processed you will receive an email with a link to the application for financial assistance and busing forms if needed.

Step 4

Start the countdown to Kindergarten!

Open House



Join us at our next open house event or visit day!

Kindergarten Open House

Monday, January 9, 2017

6:00 –7:00 p.m.

Kindergarten Visit Day

Wednesday, February 8, 2017

More important information

- For students residing in the Churchville Chili, City of Rochester, Brockport, Gates-Chili, Greece, Hilton, and Spencerport school districts to be guaranteed consideration for busing all applications are to be completed by **April 1, 2017**. District busing forms are made available to parents after online enrollment is completed
- \$100 of registration fee (per family) is applied directly to tuition if student is enrolled and deposited by **April 1, 2017**
- Multi-child discounts are granted to families with more than one child enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade
- Tuition rates are available on our website www.stpaulhilton.org





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