

2022-2023 PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM HANDBOOK



**The Unified Schools of
St. Mary Magdalen &
St. John the Evangelist**

St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Elementary School Campus
School of Little Scholars
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OVERVIEW OF THE SCHOOL OF LITTLE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

I will advance as I learn new skills and prepare for kindergarten.

Pre-Kindergarten is a critical time for children as they begin the adventure of a lifetime of learning. Every day your child is learning and doing more, which is why the School of Little Scholars Pre-Kindergarten program is designed to challenge your child more.

Our goal in Pre-Kindergarten is to teach the whole child by providing a nurturing, secure environment in which learning can take place. In the Pre-Kindergarten program, we seek to educate the mind, the heart, and the will. We recognize that each child is made in the image and likeness of God; so our teachers focus on giving personal attention to each child by using developmentally appropriate methods, and implementing high academic standards. We promote independence in an organized atmosphere, as it is increasingly important for children to be their own thinkers. We also teach children to work well within a group through listening, sharing and cooperation. These early learning years are important; a time when good habits are developed and character formation begins.

Early character formation occurs through young students forming habits such as self-control, generosity, and respect for others. Our Pre-Kindergarten programs provide structure, academic foundation, study of the Catholic faith, and leadership opportunities. Children learn to lead by example, and will experience many opportunities to build self-confidence. Strength lies in virtue as well as in academic performance. At the School of Little Scholars of the Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen and St. John the Evangelist, our students are taught the value of faith, virtue and service to others, as a compliment to a strong academic curriculum.

OUR PROMISE

We Promise:

- To honor your role as a parent/guardian and to partner with you in the care and development of your child.
- You will feel completely confident and reassured when you leave your child with us.
- You will know that we value your child as a unique individual to be nurtured, protected, and respected at all times.
- You will know that committed, dedicated educators are caring for your child.
- You will watch your child develop a love of learning and a rich imagination.
- You will see your child develop strong bonds with our teachers and other children.
- You will share in the joy of your child's experiences in our center through regular communication.
- You will be treated as an important member of our family.
- You can expect us to listen carefully and respond quickly to any questions or concerns.
- You will know that it is our privilege to serve your family.

PHILOSOPHY

As Catholic early educators, we minister to the whole child - MIND, HEART, and SOUL. In a trusting Catholic environment, we enable the child to grow spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually. Awakening the child's innate desire to learn, we foster creativity and excitement about learning by facilitating a stimulating atmosphere. Understanding student uniqueness in personality and differences in learning styles creates opportunities to discover, explore, question, and succeed, thus providing the proper atmosphere which enables the child freedom of choice. Above all, our setting nurtures the child's spiritual relationship with God and self, and develops a caring attitude for others.

GOALS OF OUR PROGRAM

- To FACILITATE opportunities in spiritual, physical, social, cognitive, and language development.
- To CREATE an atmosphere where children appreciate a quiet time preparing them to begin a friendship with God.
- To INITIATE in the early learner, the sacredness of life.
- To NURTURE a warm, caring environment that develops self-esteem and a positive attitude toward all God's creation.
- To CREATE an environment that fosters independence, problem solving, and exploration
- To make each child's first school experience a happy one.

VALUES OF OUR PROGRAM

We use everyday experiences to:

- Help strengthen the child's sense of prayer through reverence of God's creation
- Provide multi-sensory experiences for the child to discover the mysteries of nature
- Build a sense of trust with the young child by fostering a warm and sincere environment within the classroom
- Develop play and work situations where the young child is kind to his/her peers and respects personal property and community property
- Cultivate opportunities to develop the Gospel value of justice by caring for each other
- Inculcate within the young child a sense of integrity
- Foster occasions for the child to solve problems without direct adult intervention
- Encourage an atmosphere of loving concern to enhance independence and cooperation

COMING TO THE CLASSROOM

Doors open at 8:30, and your child will be marked tardy after 8:45. All Pre-K students should be accompanied to the classroom door by an **adult**. Do not tell your child that you will wait for them out in the hall. This will only make them anxious to get out of the classroom to see you in the hall. Please do not let crying deter you from leaving your child. Chances are it will stop as soon as you leave the area.

COMMUNICATION

Communication is an important part of our philosophy. Calendars, monthly newsletters, and occasional information are sent home with the children in their folders. You should check the school website regularly. The website is smmsjschools.org. If you need to speak with the teacher about an issue, please either email the teacher or send in a note with your child.

PARKING

Arrival and pick-up for Pre-K 4 will be at the back of the building. Parents/Guardians should utilize the parking lot in the back of the building and use the rear entrance when dropping off and picking up their children. Please do not use the front entrance to the building. Older school siblings may enter from the back.

Arrival and pick-up for Pre-K 3 will be at the courtyard door. Parents/Guardians should utilize the parking lot in front of the courtyard when dropping off and picking up. Parents/guardians may wait in the courtyard area. Older siblings may enter with their Pre-K sibling.

PRE-K HOURS

Full-Day Session 8:30 am - 2:20 pm

Half-day Session 8:30am – 11:35am

DELAYED OPENINGS AND CANCELLATIONS

If there is a 90-minute delay, there will be no morning Pre-K session.

We follow the Watertown School system. **When there is a 90 minute delay, there is no morning Pre-K.** No After-School care for an early school closing due to weather or other unplanned closure. Please check local TV stations and their websites if there is bad weather.

OUTDOOR PLAY

We like to go outside daily, and we continue to do so for as long as possible. Keep three things in mind when dressing your child:

1. We bring out appropriate outdoor toys to play with, so dress your child in clothes that can be worn outside for play.
2. Rubber soled shoes or sneakers are best.

BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are special! While we don't celebrate with cookies, cupcakes or any food, we do have our own way of celebrating your child's special day. The birthday child is given a crown to wear and they are the helper of the day. We sing Happy Birthday and will incorporate a special activity into our schedule. You may also donate a book to either our classroom library or donate a craft for the class to do on that day. Your child will also have a show-and-tell on their birthday. They can bring in one item from home to talk about and show the class. If you are sending in birthday invitations for a party, we cannot send them home unless the whole class is invited.

SNACKS

The children will be having a morning snack. Please pack a healthy snack such as pretzels, graham crackers, Goldfish, animal crackers, Cheez-its, or fruit. If your child is staying for lunch, please make sure your child knows that one snack is for the morning and one is for lunch.

LUNCH

Please supply a small hand towel to cover the table he/she is sitting at. They catch unwanted spills, prevent germs and most importantly give your child a designated space that is their own. The towel will go home daily in the lunch box. Milk will be available for all-day children.

REST TIMES

Mats can be purchased at the Walmart stores. All students need a vinyl mat for resting-no cloth sleeping bags. A small blanket and pillow may be sent to school for the week. (The children have to carry them by themselves). They will be sent home every Friday to be washed. Please note that only vinyl mats are used for rest time. These are cleaned regularly. Your child may also bring in a quiet toy for rest time. Please be sure that this is a quiet toy and not a light up toy or a toy that plays music. Children will not be allowed to wear any type of pull-up for their nap.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Pre-K progress reports will be sent home in January and in June. Conferences will be after the school's first trimester in late fall. Please refrain from discussing your child with the teachers in his/her presence. We will gladly make time to speak with you alone if you would like to make an appointment anytime before the scheduled conferences.

ACADEMIC POLICIES / CURRICULUM

The Pre-school curriculum offers many subjects and activities. The subjects are religion, math, science, language, arts, music, and physical development.

Religion: The Pre-school religion program is designed for the young child to experience a personal relationship with God. This is taught to the child through music, prayers, stories, and dramatic play.

Math: As children play, they encounter mathematics as an integral part of their world. The child learns math through music and movement, story, and art. Concepts taught are shapes and sizes, sorting, classifying, time, measurements, and number recognition.

Science: Science is all around us. Children learn science through their experiences with nature, seasons, magnetism, animals, senses, parts of the body, and types of environments.

Language: Young children learn language skills more readily and with a more positive attitude when they can see, hear, and feel what they are told. Appropriate developmental language activities are presented in audio and visual perception and comprehension. The teacher respects what the child has to say, listens to the child, and allows the child to question and experiment. Providing these types of personal experiences gives the child a head start to reading, writing, and reasoning as a logical step to their development.

Art : Art and craft work requires specific items, a stimulating environment in which to create, and guidelines for safety and classroom management. Some activities we teach are painting with brushes, Q-tips, shaving cream, and fruits and vegetables. Modeling with clay and Play-Doh are also used. We design with glitter, glue, crayons, markers, sequins, and foam to just mention a few of the items.

Music: Music is very important in the learning process. It stimulates the individual. Music is learned through movement, singing, and dancing. Instruments, props, ribbons sticks, or bean bags are used to enhance a lesson.

Physical Development: Movement education is important in developing children's physical potential, self-esteem, their ability to follow directions, and their thinking skills.

There are two types of motor development:

Large motor involves the whole body. Large motor development helps children have the ability to carry out daily tasks efficiently. Some larger motor activities are jumping, running, walking, and balancing. These tasks are done throughout the year in a fun way.

Small motor development is important to help children develop individual finger strength, finger coordination and to begin their symmetrical training in the use of both hands. Eye-hand coordination is developed through the use of fine motor activities. Some activities to strengthen small motor development are string beads, tracing, stencils, cutting, writing, and finger-plays. Simple tasks such as closing a Zip-lock bag and opening a straw are also examples of small motor development.

Pre-school students from the Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen and St. John the Evangelist who will be attending kindergarten here will need to know how to write their names and recognize most of their letters and numbers. Students will be well-prepared if they have these skills.

DISCIPLINE

We believe that children want guidance in how to behave. We always try to model appropriate behavior and to let the children know what is expected of them. We use colored cards to monitor classroom behavior. These cards are red, yellow and green. All children will begin each day on the color green. If a child has to be reminded about their behavior too many times, they will be asked to move their card to yellow. If the behavior still persists, they will be asked to change their card to red, and a note will be sent home explaining the problem. All children will begin on green again the next day.

TRANSPORTATION

If your child is going home with anyone other than you, a note **MUST** be given to the teacher that day. This is for your child's safety. Please let your child know that someone different will be picking them up since this will help ease any fears when you are not there at dismissal time. I.D. will be asked of anyone who picks up the child other than the parent/guardian.

BATHROOM

Students need to be potty trained by the start of the school year. We do not have the facility to change the children's soiled clothes. As a way to keep your child protected, we are not allowed to change them. We will assist as much as we can; however, we know that accidents do happen, and in case one does, we will bring them to the nurse's bathroom so they can change themselves.

COATS AND SWEATERS

Show your child the chain or tab on the collar to use to keep the garment on the hook at school. It takes some practice, but any three or four year-old can eventually do it by themselves. Also, ALL garments should be labeled with your child's name on them. This includes shoes and boots. Teach your child to shove hats, mittens, and scarves into the sleeve of their coats in order to keep all of their belongings together.

BACKPACKS/FOLDERS/LABELS

Pre-K students need to have a backpack and a pocket folder. Make sure that it isn't too small to fit papers in it, and have it large enough to accommodate a 9 1/2 X 12 inch folder for all important school communications. ***It is very important for parents/guardians to check their child's folder at the end of each day they have attended class.*** Help your child practice putting on the backpack (and taking it off). Your child should also know how to zip it up. **Please label all folders, backpacks & all items sent to school.** Our goal is to make your child as independent as possible. Please help us accomplish this goal!

UNIFORM GUIDELINES

One of the most important core values of the Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen and St. John the Evangelist is our sense of community. This is immediately evident through our uniform dress code that reflects the school's identity and joins all of our students together. In order to enable the Pre-K 3 and 4 students to be identified as an important part of our school community, it has been decided that a Pre-K dress code will be established. All children should have a complete change of clothing in their backpacks.

PreK-3 and PreK-4 Girls' and Boys' Uniforms

NOTE: Pre-K clothing does not need to be purchased from Lands' End or be branded with our school logo although you may do so if you wish. The school code at Lands' End is 900105479 if you would like to purchase items through Lands' End.

Summer (1st day—Oct. 31st & May 1st—last day)

Solid navy, dark green or light blue shirt (any style) with navy or dark green elastic waist shorts or pants. Socks and sneakers. Velcro closure for shoes is preferred, no lights on shoes.

Winter (Nov. 1st—Apr 30th)

Solid navy, dark green or light blue shirt/sweatshirt/sweater (any style) with navy or dark green elastic waist pants. Socks and sneakers. Velcro closure for shoes is preferred, no lights on shoes.

Students are always welcome to wear the winter uniform on colder days.

DAILY SCHEDULE

PRE-K 4 DAILY SCHEDULE	PRE-K 3 DAILY SCHEDULE
Arrival (Coloring, Name printing)	Arrival
Prayer, Religion, Attendance, Pledge of Allegiance	Prayer, Religion, Attendance, Pledge of Allegiance
Bathroom (Wash Hands)	Bathroom (Wash Hands)
Circle Time - Calendar, Weather, Morning Message	Circle Time - Morning Message, Weather
Snack	Snack
Language Development / Large Group Instruction	Religion
Centers (Art, Small Group Instruction, Writing, Sensory, Math, Blocks, Dramatic Play, Computers)	Art
Clean-up	Clean-Up
Large Motor / Outdoor	Individual & Small Group Instruction
<i>Dismissal for Half-Day Pre-K</i>	Bathroom/Recess
Story Time & Finger Plays	Circle/Prayer
Lunch	Large Motor / Outdoor
Clean-up/Bathroom	<i>Half Day Dismissal Pre-K</i>
Rest Break	Lunch
Wake-up, Story/Table Toys	Clean-up/Bathroom
Prepare for Dismissal	Rest Time
Prayer	Wake-up, Story/Table Activities
Dismissal for Full-Day Pre-K	Prepare for Dismissal
	Prayer
	Dismissal for Full-Day Pre-K

STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHS/PUBLIC RELATIONS

Throughout the year, the Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen and St. John the Evangelist School programs, achievements and special events are given attention through any number of publications/literature such as the Development Newsletter, local area newspapers and the school website. Information disseminated through this publicity gives us the opportunity to highlight the Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen and St. John the Evangelist School community and the community at-large the attributes of the school's program. The distribution of these pieces varies according to the type of publication and the target audiences. The literature can be mailed to our current parents/guardians, alumni parents/guardians and alumni. Information can be seen by the general public on our website or in the local newspapers.

Throughout the school year, photos of the students are taken to be included as part of the above public relations material. Your child's photo may appear in any of the above areas during his/her attendance at the Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen and St. John the Evangelist.

If you would prefer that your child's photo not be included in any printed or computer material, please note this on the sign-off sheet included with this handbook.

TUITION

The tuition is set yearly by the school's finance committee and approved by the School Board. Payment plans are available in annual, semi-annual, or monthly payments. Please send your monthly tuition in on time. Payments can be arranged through the FACTS program (automatic withdrawals) or through the school office. A \$25.00 late fee will be added to late payments and bounced checks.

TO COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION PROCESS YOU WILL NEED:

1. Birth certificate (long form)
2. Baptismal certificate (if applicable)
3. Registration Fee

FUNDRAISING

All Pre-K families are required to participate in fundraising and Home & School dues.

HEALTH

Nursing services are available during school hours for illness/injuries that occur on school grounds. The school nurse functions under the auspices of the Watertown School District and follows the standing orders of the town's medical advisor. Students who feel ill or are injured in school should report to the nurse after obtaining permission from their teacher. Emergency contact information should be kept updated by the parent/guardian. Notify the school promptly of any changes in phone/address.

Absences

Report the reason for absence via call to the nurse's office by 8:45am on the day of the absence. 860-945-0621. Please do not send an email or text.

Health and Emergency Policies

Nursing services are available during school hours for illness/injuries that occur on school grounds. The school nurse functions under the auspices of the Watertown School District and follows the standing orders of the town's medical advisor. Students who feel ill or are injured in school should report to the nurse after obtaining permission from their teacher.

- Emergency contact information must be kept updated by parents/guardians. Notify the school promptly of any changes in phone/address.
- Report the reason for absences via call to the nurse's office. Voice mail is available 24 hours, 7 days a week.

COVID-19

The Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen & St. John the Evangelist follow the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control, the Connecticut State Department of Education, the US Department of Education, The Center for Catholic Education and Formation and the local health authorities for operational considerations related to Covid-19.

Families will receive information from the school about operational protocols at the beginning of the school year. If the school is required to change their protocols, families will receive written notice.

Current guidance and information can be found at these links:

<https://portal.ct.gov/SDE/COVID19/COVID-19-Resources-for-Families-and-Educators>
<https://www.ed.gov/Coronavirus>

Accidents/Illness

If there is any question of your child not feeling well in the morning, please keep him/her at home. If a child has an elevated temperature, he or she should remain home until the temperature has returned to normal and is maintained at normal for 24 hours without the use of fever reducers such as Tylenol, Ibuprofen or others. Children who are sent home by the nurse for illness and/or elevated temperature should remain at home an additional 24 hours to complete their recovery. Parents/guardians must sign their child out from the Health Office when picking up their child due to accident or illness.

The school nurse will administer first aid if a child becomes ill or injured. No medications will be given without a physician's order. The parent/guardian will be contacted by the school nurse or office when necessary. If your child tells you that he or she received an injury at school and that it was not reported to the nurse, please inform the nurse as soon as possible.

Students in casts, or who require crutches or wheelchairs, must have a physician's written authorization to attend school and to participate in the full program, including recess and gym. Parents/guardians requesting an indoor recess or any excuse from P.E. classes for their child must have a physician's note.

All injuries and surgery should be reported to the school nurse. After an injury or surgery, a child will be able to resume physical education classes ONLY after a WRITTEN RELEASE from his/her doctor has been received by the school. Any child with any durable medical equipment orthopedic appliances (splints, braces, and crutches) requires a physician's note. A parent's/guardian's note will not be sufficient.

A parent's/guardian's note is acceptable for one P.E. class/physical activity exemption due to a medical reason. A physician's note is required for missing any subsequent physical activity. A doctor's note is required for the student's return to P.E.

Emergency Forms

Students will be given emergency forms at the beginning of each school year. It is important that these forms be completely filled out and returned promptly. Two adult emergency contacts should be listed other than the parents/guardians. These contacts should be easily accessible in the parents/guardians absence. The parent/guardian is responsible for informing the school if there are any changes to emergency contact information.

Emergency Notification and Transportation

If a severe accident or acute illness occurs, a parent/guardian or person listed on the student's emergency card will be notified. The pick-up person must provide a valid photo I.D.

Health Records

A cumulative and current Health Record for each student will be maintained in a secure location in the Nurse's Office. Access to these records is limited to the school nurse. The nurse will relay pertinent information to appropriate school personnel.

Insurance

HUSKY Health Insurance Policy – The State of Connecticut sponsors a health insurance program for children that covers basic health and welfare needs. The cost of this program is determined on a sliding scale tied to income guidelines. If your child is not covered by any type of health insurance coverage, you might be interested in looking into the details of the HUSKY Program. Please see the school nurse for further information or call 1-800 CT Husky.

<https://portal.ct.gov/husky>

Medical Appointments

Student medical appointments should be made outside of school hours whenever possible, so as to avoid taking a child out of school. Health forms are available on Forms and Publications on the Connecticut State Department of Education website: www.sde.ct.gov.

Physical Assessments/Immunizations

Physical assessments shall be completed for those students entering preschool, kindergarten, Grade 7, and for school sports. The required physical assessments and immunizations shall be recorded on the State of Connecticut form and filed with the nurse. Failure to meet the requirements will cause the student to be excluded from school. Sports physicals are required annually before try-outs. Please note, sports physicals do not take the place of state mandated physicals.

Prior to enrollment, new students to the Watertown School District must present the written results of a physical examination that is less than one-year old on the day of entrance. Immunizations must be completed to meet the State of Connecticut requirements for school enrollment.

Health Screenings

The school nurse conducts screenings of vision, hearing and posture according to the following schedule. Referral letters will be sent to parents/guardians of students who fail the screening according to state guidelines.

Annual Vision screenings: Grades K, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Audiometric screenings: Grades 1, 2, 3, and 5.

Postural screenings: Females Grades 5, 7

Color Vision screenings: Grade K and if not done previously upon entering Watertown Schools

Recess and Physical Education

Children are expected to come to school properly clothed for weather conditions. Hat, coat, gloves, snow pants, boots are required in cold weather.

For an excused absence from physical education due to injury or illness for more than one class, a doctor's excuse in writing is necessary. If the doctor's written excuse states "until further notice," a second written note is required to return to physical education. The doctor's note should state the nature and duration of restriction.

Policy on Medications In School

The Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen & St. John the Evangelist follow the Watertown School District policy for medications in school. The Watertown School District's policy complies with the State of Connecticut's health regulations.

1. Medications may only be administered in school with the written order of a qualified practitioner, and written authorization of the parent/guardian.
2. Written orders are needed for all medications, including Tylenol or Advil, and all other over-the-counter medications. A form can be obtained from the nurse if medication is required during school hours.
3. Students may only self-medicate with certain emergency medications only with a doctor's order.

4. Medications must be brought to the school nurse by a parent/guardian or other responsible adult and must be in the original container. Students are not permitted to transport medication unless they have an order to self-administer the medication. At the end of the school year, medications must be picked up by a parent/guardian or a responsible adult at the close of the academic day/school dismissal. Any remaining medication will be disposed of within two days.
5. New medication orders must be written for every school year and must be on file with the school nurse.
6. The use of cough drops/sore throat lozenges is allowed with a note from the parent/guardian and cough drops will be kept in the nurse's office.

Important Notes from the Nurse

Please follow the guidelines listed below to determine when children should return to school or attend school.

STAY HOME

1. Fever 100 degrees or over – A student must be fever free for 24 hours without the use of Acetaminophen or Ibuprofen before returning to school, and 48 hours if diagnosed with flu.
2. Vomiting and/or Diarrhea – no further incidence for 24 hours.
3. Strep Throat – 24 hours after the first dose of an antibiotic, fever free for 24 hours and feeling well enough to participate in school.
4. Conjunctivitis – Once any indicated therapy has been implemented, a student may return to school

RETURN TO SCHOOL

1. Students who have been ill must have a note from a physician to return to school if they have been absent more than 1 school day.

Allergies

It is important to notify the school nurse and staff if your child has an allergy such as bee stings, insect bites, foods, medication, or environmental substances. If emergency medication (ordered by a physician) is necessary, the nurse will store it.

We ask that all parents/guardians be sensitive to common childhood allergies. Many children have food sensitivities or allergies. The kitchen at the St. John the Evangelist campus is nut free because food is prepared and cooked in that kitchen.

At the beginning of the school year, the school nurse will advise families whose child may be in a classroom where there is an allergy sensitivity. It is imperative that families follow the directive from the school nurse and not bring products with nuts or specified allergens into school for classroom snack.

Be advised that under no circumstances is a student allowed to eat on a school bus unless a medical condition substantiated with a physician's order warrants such activity.

Note: Due to latex allergies in school buildings, latex balloons, gloves, and other products are prohibited.

Communicable Diseases

If you suspect that your child has a communicable disease, please do not bring him/her to school to see the school nurse. Please schedule an appointment with your physician. All student communicable diseases should be reported to the nurse.

Quarantine Periods (Minimum Control)

Chicken Pox	When the rash has begun to scab over. *Reminder to parents/guardians to avoid ASA products. Notify parents/guardians who are immuno-suppressed of an exposure so that appropriate action may be taken.
Conjunctivitis	Can remain in school once any indicated therapy has been implemented. No swimming.
Coxsackie	All suspected cases to M.D. for diagnosis.
Diarrhea/Vomiting	24 hours after symptoms are resolved.
Fever	24 hours after return of normal temperature as recorded without use of fever reducing medicine.
Flu	48 hours after the return of normal temperature as recorded without use of medicine.
German Measles	One week after the rash appears.
Hepatitis	With written permission of M.D.
Impetigo	24 hours of treatment before returning to school. May be left uncovered. No swimming.
Measles	4 days after the appearance of rash.
Mumps	May return to school 48 hours after swelling of glands has subsided or nine days after symptoms begin – whichever came first
Pediculosis Capitis (Lice)	Pediculicide per recommendation of the school medical advisor. 24 hours at home to remove nits. Parent/guardian must accompany child to school with treatment documentation and remain while child is checked by the school nurse
Pertussis	With written permission of a M.D. and no less than 5 days after the start of antibiotic.
Pinworms	Home until treated.
Ringworm	May return 24 hours after treatment begins. May remain uncovered if under treatment.
Rubella	One week after the rash appears.
Scabies	Must contact M.D. for treatment and remain home 24 hours under RX.
Scarlet Fever	May return to school 24 hours after antibiotics started.
Shingles	No quarantine if the affected area is covered by clothing. If unable to cover (face, neck, possibly arms/legs), the person is excluded until lesions crusted over. Immunocompromised persons should also be excluded (regardless of site) until lesions have crusted over.
Strep Throat	May return to school 24 hours after start of antibiotic
Tuberculosis	May return with note from M.D.

Immunization

Connecticut law mandates that all students be protected by adequate immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, poliomyelitis, measles, mumps, rubella, haemophilus influenzae type B, and any other vaccine required by the schedule for active immunization adopted pursuant to state law (e.g., varicella).

Connecticut law eliminated the religious exemption for childhood immunizations as of April 28, 2021, and grandfathers in individuals enrolled in grades kindergarten or higher who submitted a religious exemption prior to April 28, 2021. The law continues to grandfather these students if they transfer to another public or private school in the state (i.e., a primary or secondary school).

Students who have not been adequately immunized will not be admitted to school except in cases where the parent/guardian has provided a certificate from a physician stating that such immunization is medically contraindicated or the parent/guardian presents a statement that such immunization would be contrary to the religious beliefs of the child.

Classroom Celebrations:

Children's Birthdays

Children's birthdays are celebrated in school; however, classroom parties in grades PK through 8 are not allowed. Also, due to the growing number of serious allergies please do not send snacks or treats for the class unless approved in advance by the teacher and the school nurse. NOTE: Unless the entire class is invited, birthday party invitations will not be distributed through the school because it can hurt the feelings of those not included and lead to classroom difficulties. Please do not ask the teachers to distribute invitations unless all students are invited. Student's names, addresses, and telephone numbers can be accessed through Educonnect if a family elects to make their information public to the school community.

Special Events

During the school year the classroom may hold celebrations during holiday time. They may include an appropriate craft project, game, or snack. Snacks or treats for the class must be approved in advance by the teacher and the school nurse.

Amendments to this handbook may be made at any time by the principal or pastor. Notice of amendments will be sent to parents/guardians via mail and/or email.

Website and Other Publications

Photo/Image Permission Guidelines

The Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen and St. John the Evangelist hosts a Website at: smmsjschools.org. Occasionally we wish to post a picture of a particular school activity such as a science project, a play, artwork, sporting event, or other activity. This may involve posting a picture showing a student, a group of students, or a sample of a student's work. We may also use these photos in brochures, posters, and various other means of publication.

If students' pictures or works are used:

- Only first names shall be used if referencing student pictures or scanned classroom work.
- Personal information will not be published.
- Documents will not include information that indicates the physical location of any student at a given time other than attendance at a particular school or participation in an activity.

Before posting pictures of students or samples of student work, we require that the parent(s)/guardian(s) sign the permission form below. We will keep this signed form on file for this school year.

Student Image Permission Form

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen & St. John the Evangelist hosts a Website at smmsjschools.org as well as a school Facebook, Instagram and other Social Media pages, and a school video YouTube page. Occasionally we wish to post a picture of a particular school activity or student accomplishment such as a science project, a play, artwork, sporting event, a distance learning class, or other activity. This may involve posting a picture showing a student, a group or class of students, or a sample of a student's work. We may also use these photos in brochures, posters, and in various other school publications. Videos produced by the school and/or its students and featuring the benefits and activities of the Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen & St. John the Evangelist, including those filmed during a distance learning class session, may also be posted, including related audio, on our website, YouTube and Facebook/Social Media pages.

If students' images or works are used in any of these print or electronic contexts:

- Only first names shall be used if referencing student pictures or scanned classroom work.
- Personal information will not be published.
- Documents will not include information that indicates the physical location of any student at a given time other than attendance at a particular school or participation in an activity.

(NOTE: Should a photo of the student be included in a media release (print, online, TV, radio), first and last name of the student will need to be included. Your permission would cover this usage as well.)

Before posting pictures of students, samples of student work, or videos, including related audio, featuring students/classes, we require that the parent(s)/guardian(s) sign the permission form included here.

*Please be aware that images of students may also be shared with the Archdiocese of Hartford Center for Catholic Education and Formation (CCEF) for use in their electronic and print media. Your permission would cover this usage as well. We will keep this signed form on file for this school year.

Student Name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature(s): _____

Please circle your choice

I DO

I DO NOT

grant The Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen & St. John the Evangelist permission to use photo or video images, including related audio, of my son/daughter or a sample of his/her work such as a poem, story, artwork, etc. on the Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen & St. John the Evangelist website, Facebook/Social Media pages, YouTube page, or in other print or electronic media, including use by the Center for Catholic Education and Formation (CCEF).

YES

NO

The Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen & St. John the Evangelist has permission to post pictures or videos, including related audio, of my son/daughter in its media and in the CCEF media.

YES

NO

The Unified Schools of St. Mary Magdalen & St. John the Evangelist has permission to post samples of my son/daughter's school work in its media, and in the CCEF media.

Date: _____

NOTE: This agreement will be in effect as of the beginning of the month selected and may be revoked at any time by contacting your son's or daughter's school principal.

PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE PAGE

(To be returned 1 week after receipt)

I/We have read the 2022-2023 Pre-K Handbook and agree to follow the school policies and procedures as stated.

Family Name (Print): _____

Child's Name(s): _____

Parent/Guardian Signature(s): _____

Date: _____

***Amendments to this handbook may be made at any time by the principal or pastor.
Notice of amendments will be sent to parents/guardians via mail and/or email.***