



Preschool Information

2009-10

We wish to extend a warm welcome to you and your family. We want to make this program a positive experience for you as well as your child. It is our hope and prayer that God will bless your child's time here at Messiah's Preschool.

We view our program as a Christian outreach to families with young children. Our intent is to support, encourage and provide opportunities that enhance the educational and developmental processes already present in your home. Messiah's Preschool Program provides an environment where young children can explore and learn about Jesus, themselves, others, and the world around them in an atmosphere of Christian love and acceptance.

Your help and cooperation are necessary for your child to benefit most from our program. Please feel free to talk with us any time you feel it is necessary. At Messiah's Preschool we have an open door policy, so you are welcome to visit our preschool and to get to know our staff.

Serving the Messiah Preschool,
Kelly Huning
Valerie Schwentker
Carol Iskra
Mary Schlie
Connie Gray
Dawn Hennessy

Preschool Staff Introductions

Kelly Huning- Preschool 4

I grew up in Florissant, MO where I attended Salem Lutheran School. After graduating from Lutheran High School North, I received an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Early Childhood Education and began teaching at The Child Development Center located on the campus of St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley. I worked with children from birth – aged 4 and supervised college students enrolled in the Early Childhood Program. In addition to these duties I taught classes for the Continuing Educations Program, one of my favorites being “Be a Better Baby-sitter”.

After my son Zachary was born, I began working part time as a Parent Educator for the Parents As Teachers Program. Although this was very rewarding for me, I realized something was missing and found the answer when an opportunity to teach at Messiah Lutheran Preschool became available to me. I was able to work with young children and teach them about the love of Jesus. In addition to teaching preschool, I also volunteer at VBS and other church programs including mission trips.

I married my high school sweetheart, Matt. We have 3 children, 2 who attend Lutheran High and 1 who attends Messiah. Zachary is entering college in the fall, Ali is a Junior at Lutheran High, and Madison is in 8th grade at Messiah. Our favorite family activity is camping! I also enjoy walking, reading, cooking, and spending time with family and friends.

I look forward to another great year in preschool and thank God for allowing me to be part of such a great ministry here at Messiah.

Valerie Schwentker- Preschool 4

I have lived in St. Charles all of my life. I graduated from Francis Howell High School and attended Southeast Missouri State. I have also taken classes at St. Louis Community College at Florissant Valley and St. Charles Community College. I have been in the Early Childhood field for over 20 years as a teacher, van driver, cook and as a Daycare Director for 2 Daycare Centers. I have taught both the 3 & 4 year old preschool classes at Messiah Lutheran School. I am starting my tenth year at Messiah and I am as excited to teach this year as I was the day I started teaching. I have been a member at Messiah since the church began. Education has always been a major priority at Messiah and I feel blessed to be a part of the plan that became reality. It is a joy to be a part of a staff that is so committed to the Lord and to the children.

Jerry and I have been married over 30 years. Our family consists of our son, Jeremy and a spoiled rotten Iris Setter, named Samson. I enjoy scrap booking, reading; watching sports of all kinds, cooking and time spent with my family and friends. I love all types of music and going to concerts and plays.

I feel blessed to be a part of the ministry at Messiah Lutheran School. I wish everyone could experience Jesus through the eyes of a child, I am thankful I get the experience everyday.

Carol Iskra- Preschool 3 & 4

I graduated from Riverview Gardens and attended Florissant Valley Community College. I have lived in St. Peters for 10 years.

I worked at Zion Lutheran as a teaching assistant for 4 years. I moved on to Messiah for the next 3 years as a teaching assistant.

I have been married to Joe for 20 years. Joe is a Senior Programmer / Analyst at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center. We have 3 children; Megan is 18 and twins Matthew and Joey are 15.

I am very excited for my 7th year at Messiah. I will teach 3 year old and 4 year old preschool. I love the children at Messiah and am very happy to be a part of this ministry.

Mary Schlie- Preschool 3 & 4

I am so excited to be able to serve God by teaching at Messiah! This is a great school and I am thankful to be a part of a dedicated team of teachers and staff.

I grew up in St. Louis where I attended Christ Community Lutheran School and Lutheran High School South. It was in the eighth grade when I knew that I wanted to become a teacher. It is a great profession to be able to work with children and share Jesus' love with them.

I attended Concordia College in River Forest, Illinois and have a bachelor's degree in elementary education. I have taught for eleven years and have enjoyed working with a variety of ages. Children are such a miracle from God and it is so much fun to watch them grow and develop into the special people that He created them to be.

I met my husband, Chuck, in college. He is one of the pastor's at Messiah. We love our church and are thrilled that Messiah's church and school ministry is a united one, centered in living to know and share the love of Jesus Christ.

Chuck and I have been blessed with five children: Janie (9th grade), Shelby (7th grade), Kate (4th grade), Grace (2nd grade), and Will (4 year Preschool.)

I am grateful for this opportunity to work with the preschoolers and their parents and I know it will be a truly wonderful year!

Connie Gray- Preschool 3

I am just thrilled to get back into teaching and especially at Messiah Lutheran School. I was born in Staunton, IL and moved to Bellefontaine Neighbors, MO shortly thereafter. I attended Grace Chapel Lutheran School and graduated from Lutheran High School North. I simply loved my teachers at Grace and felt they were excellent role models. I knew I too wanted to be a Christian role model for children and so I went on to Concordia College in River Forest, IL to pursue a degree in Elementary Education. In 1989 I received my teaching degree from R.F., met my future husband John in the school cafeteria, and accepted my first teaching call to Bishop, TX.

I taught a combination first and second grade and was Youth Minister at St. Paul Lutheran School. I then accepted a call to Zion Lutheran School in Harvester, MO as second grade teacher and cheerleading coach. I was thrilled to get back to St. Louis to be close to my family and fiancée. I taught there for five years until Jared was born. I then decided to work part time as a Parent Educator for the Parents as Teachers program in the St. Charles School District. Once our second child Julia arrived 19 months after Jared, I knew being a full-time mom was my next calling. Three and a half years later God gave us Jaclyn and our family was complete.

Watching Messiah grow and seeing its ministries touch so many families in the way my family has been touched the past 13 years, excites me. I look forward to meeting the pre-school families of the children I will be teaching.

General Information

Messiah's Preschool is sponsored by Messiah Lutheran Church as a service to the community. If you do not have a church home, we would like to invite you to join us. Our worship services are Saturday at 5:00 pm and Sundays at 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:00 am. Sunday school and Bible classes meet from 9:30 – 10:30 am.

Staff

The strength of any school is in its staff. Our teachers are chosen on the basis of education, experience, and possession of the qualities needed to work effectively with young children.

We maintain a ratio of eight to one for 3's and nine to one for 4's. Each child is assigned to a particular small group teacher who plans and monitors each child's progress. The staff works together to create an environment to help each child achieve his or her fullest potential.

Admission Policy

Children entering the preschool program must be 3 before August 1 for the 3 year old class, or 4 before August 1, for the 4 year old class. **ALL children must be toilet trained before entering either preschool class (children should not wear pull – ups or diapers to school)**

If your child has a toileting accident, parents may be notified. In certain circumstances, parents may be required to pick their child up. All children are required to have up-to-date immunizations.

Arrival and Departure

Please use Lions Lane at the back lower lever for pick-up and drop-off. Further details will follow. The doors to preschool open at 8:15 am and 12:10 pm.

Class Parties

A party fee of \$3 per party is part of the tuition payment. Parents should use \$3.00 per student as a guideline when planning parties. All parents will have the opportunity to serve at parties. **No siblings should attend.** Students in the 4 year old class will pay an extra \$5 for T-shirts. This money will be collected at the beginning of the year and must be paid by check, no cash

Hours of operation

4 year old class (4 sessions)

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday

12:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday

3 year old class

8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Tuesday & Thursday

Lion's Den

11:30 am-3:15 pm Tuesday and Thursday

Clothing

When helping your child choose clothing for the day, make sure they are comfortable and free of complicated buttons, snaps, and zippers. While painting or doing other art projects, we make every effort to protect the children's clothing with smocks, but we encourage very washable clothing. Shoes should allow freedom and safety for indoor and outdoor play, as well as provide protection for your child's feet. Tennis shoes are

best. Per our elementary handbook, earrings for boys are not acceptable. Earrings for girls should be limited to earlobes. Only one support bracelet may be worn.

Please supply an extra set of clothes for your child in the case of an accident. If your child uses something from their extra set of extra clothes, please be sure to replace it before their next day of attendance.

Communications with Families

Messiah's Preschool values open communication with each parent. Monthly calendars and weekly news and notes keep families informed about class activities and events. A conference is scheduled during the year for parents as noted on the School Calendar. *There will be no school for the children on conference days.* If a conference is desired at any other time, please notify the teacher and a special appointment will be arranged. Parents are encouraged to discuss any concerns with teachers by phone, in writing, or in person. Please inform a teacher of any changes in the home that may affect your child.

Parents are always welcome at school, either to help out or just to visit. We consider the school to be in a cooperative partnership with the family in fostering a child's social, emotional, and intellectual development.

Discipline

The philosophy of Messiah Lutheran Preschool promotes cooperation and peace. Classrooms are designed to offer a rich, open environment with ample physical space and a large number of educational supplies. By providing these two elements, the cause of many conflicts between children is eliminated. Our overall goal is to help children solve their own conflicts peacefully. The staff works toward giving children the skills they need to gain autonomy in this area. Knowing that not all conflicts can be avoided, the staff uses the following course of action when a conflict arises:

- Talk to all of the children involved and find out everyone's view of the situation.
- Help give the children the verbiage they need to express themselves.
- Ask the children what other actions they could have taken.
- Act as a mediator.
- Remove the child from the situation, if needed.



Entrance to Kindergarten

Messiah Lutheran School will follow the state guidelines for kindergarten admittance which states a child must turn 5 before August 1.

Field Trips

Field trips provide experiences for children that cannot be provided in a classroom setting. Parents will be notified prior to the trip, and will receive a permission slip, which needs to be returned before the child is allowed to go on the field trip. Field trips are not possible without parent drivers. Parents who drive for trips need a valid driver's license and proof of insurance.

Please provide a copy to the school office. A completed background check is required for all volunteers. The form as well as the processing will be provided by Messiah. Please refer to the field trip section of the main handbook for additional information and policies at Messiah.

Because you need to give your time and attention to children in your care, siblings will NOT be allowed on field trips or class parties. Parents/Chaperones should not purchase personal items while on field trips.

Health

Your child's health and that of all the other children are a matter of major importance to us. Do not bring your child to the preschool if he/she has had a rash, matted eyes, fever, diarrhea, or vomiting within 24 hours prior to the class session. Keep your child at home at least 24 hours after their fever has broken.

Please call the school at 329.1096 if your child is ill. Likewise, please report any communicable disease to us *immediately* so that we can notify parents of other children in the center.

A child who appears to be, or complains of being ill, will be checked by the teacher. If the child has a fever, or other apparent illness, he/she will be sent home. The parent or designated person will be called and asked to pick up the child immediately. Please have your cell phone turned on if you will be away from home so you can be reached in an emergency.

Injuries

Minor injuries will be cared for by the teachers. Ice packs, soap and water, and band-aids will be the extent of the first aid given. Any minor injuries occurring will be shared when your child is picked up.

All parents are required to complete an emergency card. In cases of accident or injury, every effort will be made to reach the parent. In the event the parent(s), or parent designated individuals cannot be reached, **emergency** medical treatment will be sought at the discretion of the teachers.

Insurance

Messiah Lutheran Preschool does provide accident insurance for your child while he/she is attending our program. Any medical claims must first be filed with your own family's health or Accident Insurance Company.

Snacks

Parents will be providing snack for the school year. You will be assigned a snack schedule which will be provided at the Parent Meeting.

Missouri health regulations for preschool now require us to insist upon *purchased sealed snacks*, (except on birthdays and holidays). The snacks must be in their original sealed packages when brought to school. Please choose snacks that are nutritious in nature, not high in sugar content. **NO NUTS, GRAPES, OR HARD CANDY.** School will provide water to drink.

Supplies

Please label all of your child's belongings, especially book bags and jackets. Each child attending preschool should bring a normal size book bag/backpack that will allow an

8 1/2" x 11" piece of paper to fit comfortably. This will be helpful for sending home projects, papers, and notes. It will keep things from getting misplaced between preschool and home. **PLEASE CHECK IT EACH DAY YOUR CHILD ATTENDS CLASS.**

Toys and sharing

Please DO NOT allow your child to bring toys from home, except for "show and share" days. Toys brought from home may cause sharing problems with other children or may become broken. The preschool will not be responsible for these toys. Even on "show and share" days, bring items that are not costly and are manageable for the child. Security items, which help to reassure a child, are welcome until the bell rings.

Tuition

Tuition information is found in the general school handbook. The preschool follows the same tuition policy as the K-8 program.

Weather Related Closings

School Closings will be announced on local TV stations 2(FOX, 5(NBC), and 4(CBS). Our school name will be **MESSIAH – WELDON SPRING.** The Francis Howell School District decision will be taken into consideration, but we will not necessarily follow their choice. Rarely will Messiah close school during the day when inclement weather occurs after the opening of school. If we have a snow schedule, there will be no preschool. **If closed for AM preschool, we will also be closed for PM preschool. Please see the school handbook for details about the School Reach Automated Phone System.**

To our Parents

- We want you to know and understand our program, as well as feel free to discuss it with us.
- We want you to see your child at work and play.
- We want you to realize the importance of play and the importance of what your child is learning.
- We want you to see that as parents and staff, we can join together and help your child develop to his/her fullest potential.
- We want you to see your child grow spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically, creatively, and intellectually through a wide variety of developmental experiences that are age appropriate.
- Finally, we encourage your suggestions about our program in order to provide the best possible services to our families.