



# St. Joseph Catholic School

## Red Raven Preschool

*Growing Together in Faith and Academics*

420 N. 6th Street, Beatrice, Nebraska 68310  
Phone: 402-223-5033 • [www.stjosephbeatrice.org](http://www.stjosephbeatrice.org)

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### **Mission Statement**

As followers of Christ at St. Joseph Red Raven Preschool, we will encourage, strengthen, and share the faith, and facilitate life-long learning for all of God's children.

### **Guidelines**

All basic policies in the St. Joseph Catholic School Parent/Student Handbook apply to preschool. As an extension of our school we feel it is important to provide you with this Handbook with the addition of these pages that pertain specifically to our preschool program.

### **Admission**

In congruence with the State of Nebraska's Kindergarten age requirements, students must be 3 or 4 years old by July 31<sup>st</sup>. All children must be completely potty-trained before they enter preschool.

### **Enrollment Process**

Beginning January 16<sup>th</sup> through March 15<sup>th</sup>, applications will be accepted at the St. Joseph Catholic School office. On March 17<sup>th</sup>, a letter will be sent out to parents regarding their student's placement. Once your letter is received, a \$25 non-refundable registration fee (for new students) and non-refundable deposit of one month's tuition will complete your registration process. Not all applications are guaranteed acceptance.

### **Preschool Hours**

Raven 3's – Tuesday and Thursday mornings: 8:00am – 11:00am

Raven 4's – Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings: 8:00am – 11:00am

Raven 4's (Kindergarten Prep) – Monday through Friday: 12:15pm – 3:15pm

- Early out dismissal schedule will be as follows: Morning 8:00am ~ 11:00am and Afternoon 12:15 – 2:00pm
- Children should be dropped off no more than 10 minutes before their class session and must be picked up within 10 minutes of the end of their session. **If parents cannot meet these time requirements, arrangements should be made with Red Raven Daycare or another daycare provider.**

## **Tuition**

Raven 3's - \$75/month or \$675/9 months

Raven 4's - \$90/month or \$810/9 months

Raven 4's (Kindergarten Prep) - \$125/month or \$1,125/9 months

## **Special Needs**

If a child has an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Educational Plan (IEP), accommodations will be followed. At any time during the year, if agreed between parent and teacher, a child can be evaluated for services.

## **Calendar of Operation**

A school calendar will be provided to every parent at Registration Night in August. Preschool will follow vacation and in-service dates of St. Joseph Catholic School. Tentative calendars for the following year are available in the spring.

## **Illness**

Children who are ill and showing signs of sore throat, fever, or upset stomach should be kept at home. Parents must notify the school office between 7:45-8:00 am when their children will be absent from school. Also, students must be **fever-free for 24 hours** before they return to school after an illness. **Upon returning to school, the child must present a signed note to his/her teacher, stating the reason and date of absence.**

## **Medications**

Students who need prescription and/or non-prescription (Tylenol, cough drops, etc.) medications will be responsible for providing their own medications. All medicine is to be kept and administered in the school office. Medication must be in the **original container** or it will not be administered. Parents need to provide written notification of the medication to be administered by filling out a medication permission form at the beginning of the year.

## **Snacks**

Each child will be responsible for one week of snacks during their class time. It will be assigned on a rotating basis. Sugary snacks are strongly discouraged; instead choose healthy snacks. Please include a drink with snack. Drinks should be individual drink boxes. Please do not send a gallon size juice with cups, as too many accidents happen.

## **Parent Conferences**

It is important to evaluate academic strengths and weaknesses for your preschool child. We will have two conferences per year, in October and March. However, if there is any reason for concern, conferences can be scheduled at any time. Please look for the conference times in our school calendar.

## **Release of Child**

Your child's safety is very important to St. Joseph Red Raven Preschool. Your child will be released only to parents/guardians, or anyone listed on the emergency form given out at the beginning of the year. If someone who is not on the authorized list will be picking up your child, please call the school at 402-223-5033.

## **Communication**

Our preschool program utilizes a communication platform called SeeSaw. This app allows parents to get a first-hand look into their student's daily work, projects, or important reminders via photos and videos sent to your phone! Daily folders will also be sent home with activities accomplished from the day and notes from the office. For those who like traditional communication, classroom newsletters will be sent out monthly to update parents on what their child is learning.

## **School Time Activities**

We divide into age groups and work on the following skills during school:

1. Fine motor skills
2. Gross motor skills—both structured and free play
3. Language art skills
4. Beginning math skills
5. Science
6. Social Studies
7. Phonics and reading readiness
8. Listening Skills
9. Social skills—getting along with others
10. Writing
11. Sensory play
12. Art and Music
13. Manners/personal care
14. Story time
15. Religion
  - All classes will be staffed with teacher and an Assistant and/or Foster Grandparent
  - Child should wear clothing for preschool activities, such as outdoor play, sitting on the floor and painting.

## **A Look into our Day**

Children's creativity is impressive to witness. Creating an environment that is safe for your preschool child is very important. Throughout his/her preschool experience, your child will be introduced to different centers as a part of their day. Throughout these centers, there is a variety of working stations established in our preschool room. Each one is designed to foster growth in specific developmentally appropriate practices.

During our daily schedule, children are engaged in reading stations with a variety of books. Most of these books will be themed based books but also emergent reader books based on ready abilities! Writing is an important part of our day. While we play with our fingers during fine motor time, we encourage children to use a wide range of tools to develop a strong sense of accomplishments in their writing abilities. I firmly believe each child is encouraged to write through invented spelling. Invented spelling is a technique in which the child and teacher sound out the word they are trying to spell. Whatever sound they hear and think it is, they will write it down! Also in this station, they are able to create projects with a variety of construction paper, stickers, scissors and glue. What they make is very important to them and they are very passionate about their work. Pretend, game and construction stations allow children to explore and manipulate through play based activities. We sing, dance, cook, experiment and have FUN in preschool. Our preschoolers are constantly moving and learning at all times!