



St. Peter's Lutheran School

719 Fifth Street

Columbus, Indiana 47201

(812) 372-5266

www.stpeterscolumbus.org

KINDERGARTEN HANDBOOK

2017-2018 School Year

TO BE ROOTED IN CHRIST, CULTIVATE
LOVING RELATIONSHIPS, & REFLECT JESUS IN
ALL THAT WE DO

MISSION STATEMENT

Our purpose as the Body of Christ at St. Peter's is to:

- ✝ Be Rooted in Christ
- ✝ Cultivate Loving Relationships
- ✝ Reflect Jesus in All We Do

For the transformation of lives and the growth of God's Kingdom

***People Matter - Diversity.
Teamwork - Excellence***



The purpose of St. Peter's Lutheran School is to equip children to be responsible, productive adults in the 21st Century, who above all else, love Jesus.

Recognizing that the family has the primary influence on a child's total education, our school ministry is established to assist the parents in fulfilling their important role in education. Through qualified, dedicated Christian teachers St. Peter's offers a well-rounded education with instruction in all subjects in accordance with the tenets of Biblical truths.

KINDERGARTEN HANDBOOK INFORMATION

This handbook is intended to answer any questions you may have pertaining to our Kindergarten program at St. Peter's Lutheran school. It contains information about early childhood education and about some of the things your child will experience this year. Please take a few moments and read the handbook to be familiar with our policies and guidelines. This will assist in establishing routine in the Kindergarten program. Thank you!

At St. Peter's Lutheran school we teach the whole child—not just his or her mind and body, but especially the spirit, encouraging the vital relationship with Jesus Christ, our Savior. Each day the children participate in a religion lesson. These include: Bible stories, character building lessons, and observance of all Christian holiday events throughout the year. These events help the child realize his or her special place as God's child—at home, in school, in the church, and in the community. The children will also be responsible to learn a short memory verse each week.

On Wednesday mornings at 8:05am the children attend the school chapel services in the sanctuary. These services last about 30-40 minutes. Parents are always welcome to join us as we worship. Our kindergarten class will lead chapel one time during the school year. We also sing in church several times throughout the year.

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

In addition to religion, our curriculum includes the foundations for academic subjects. We follow Indiana State Standards for the basic subject areas. Some specific goals for the subjects follow.

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Develop oral language skills
- Letter recognition
- Associate letters with sounds
- Enhance listening skills
- Develop a joy for stories and poems/make up stories
- Exposure to the mechanics of reading and writing
- Writing letters according to D'Nealian technique
- Establish visual concepts
- Work with the meaning of opposites and rhyming words
- Listening for and identifying beginning and ending sounds
- Identify vowels
- Identify beginning, middle, and end of a story
- Distinguish between author and illustrator
- Speak in complete sentences
- Broaden vocabulary base
- Read and write basic sight words
- Understand the basic publishing process
- Develop beginning reading and writing skills
- Complete homework associated with letters and sight words



MATH

- Calendar
- Sorting and classifying
- Positions and location
- Patterns
- Counting objects
- Number names
- Counting sequences
- Comparing Numbers
- Identifying and describing shapes
- Comparing and creating shapes
- Fractions
- Measurement
- Understanding addition
- Understanding subtraction
- Place value
- Money
- Time
- Graphing

SCIENCE

- Help children become aware of God's world by encouraging observation
- Provide opportunities to gain answers to questions through experimentation, research, and problem solving
- Stimulate curiosity about science through a variety of experiences which lead to discoveries.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Broaden knowledge and develop a deeper understanding about home and family living
- Become better acquainted with community helpers and resource people
- Participate in patriotic and national holiday celebrations
- Appreciate recreational and cultural opportunities in the community
- Learn to be a good citizen in relationships with others
- Use maps to visualize basic geography of the world around us

PLAY

- Including indoor and outdoor play with opportunities to participate in:
- Free-play games
- Rhythmic activities
- Creative dramatics
- Physical movement with stationary and moveable equipment

EXPRESSIVE ARTS

- That the child learns to express his or her thoughts via:
- Art media: painting, clay modeling, drawing, pasting, cutting, and others
- Music: singing, listening, rhythmic experiences, musical instruments
- Movement experiences
- Dramatic play
- Manipulative activities: pegboards, puzzles, etc.
- Constructive activities: blocks, boxes, Lego's, etc.

THEMES

We will also be studying various themes in conjunction with the curriculums. Each theme will last at least two weeks and will be carried over into most activities being done in the classroom. Your child will be studying the following themes throughout this year.

- Special me
- School Rules
- Helpers
- My body
- House and Home
- Transportation
- Community Helpers
- Trees and Apples
- Fall Pumpkins
- Night time
- Thanksgiving
- Family
- Christmas
- Polar Animals
- At the Seashore
- Underground
- Seasons / Weather
- Dr. Seuss
- Farm Animals
- Easter
- Spring / Plants
- Earth Day / Recycling
- Butterflies
- Kindergarten 500
- Dinosaurs



SPECIALS

Full day students will be attending special classes on a rotating basis throughout each week. They will go to a different teacher's classroom approximately 45 minutes each day for Art, Physical Education, Computer, and Music. They will also go to the school library once a week where they will listen to a story and be allowed to check out one book to take home.

HOMEWORK

The students will be assigned a short homework assignment each week. The homework will be sent home on Monday and will need to be returned by Friday. The homework will focus on kindergarten skills. The homework will be sent home in your child's VIP folder and needs to be returned by Friday in the VIP folder. Please take the short amount of time needed to help your child with these assignments. They are meant, not only to get the parent involved in their child's learning, but also to teach the children responsibility. Memory work will be assigned on Mondays. The assigned verse will be written in the weekly newsletter. It will need to be memorized and recited by Friday when your child comes into school.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES FOR KINDERGARTEN DRESS

Please refer to the school dress code and dress your child accordingly. You will be notified if your child is wearing something that does not comply with the dress code and asked that the clothing not be worn in school.

SCHOOL HOURS

School begins at 7:50am. Your child will be marked tardy when arriving after the bell rings. When arriving after 8:30am, he or she will be marked as partially absent. School dismisses at 3:00pm.

PICKUP AND DROPOFF

Refer to school guidelines for the appropriate car line drop off and pick up procedures. If you choose to walk your child into the building or pick them up at the classroom, please be sure to park in a designated parking area as to not block traffic or interfere with the car line. You will be asked to fill out a transportation paper letting the teachers know by whom and where your child will be picked up. We must receive a note any time the pick up or drop off procedure is different from what is written on your child's transportation paper. This is for your child's safety!!!

SNOW DAYS & TWO HOUR DELAYS

Snow days: Listen to local radio stations or watch local news for school closings.

Two-hour delays: Watch or listen for these on the radio and news.

COMMUNICATION

VIP folders will be used to communicate between school and home. These folders will go home every day and need to be sent back the next day. We will furnish the folder for you. We also use email to frequently communicate with you. Reminders, newsletters, etc., will be sent home in the VIP as well as through email. A newsletter will be sent home every week letting you know what we will be studying and making you aware of any important announcements. If you need to contact your child's teacher please send a note in your child's VIP folder, email them, or call the school and leave a message. We will get back to you as soon as possible. We will not be checking our voicemail between 2:00pm and dismissal. If there is an emergency or late change in transportation, please let the secretary know and she can get the message to us.

MONEY

Any time money is sent to school with your child, please put it in an envelope and write your child's name and what the money is for on the front.

BOOK ORDERS

Scholastic book orders will be sent home periodically. They sell great storybooks at a very low price. Please send orders in by the date on the attached paper to ensure a timely delivery. Please make checks out to Scholastic Book Club.

LUNCH

Full day students may choose to bring lunch from home or eat a hot lunch from the cafeteria. A lunch menu is sent home at the beginning of each month to let you know what will be served each day. If your child does not like what is being offered and would like a "sub" lunch (peanut butter and jelly sandwich) instead we must receive a note stating so. Each student has a lunch account through the school cafeteria. The account is set up on a pre-pay basis. You may choose to pay monthly or whatever works best for your family. Please see the school calendar for lunch fees. The students have lunch cards that are scanned each time your child purchases a lunch or milk from the cafeteria. This automatically deducts the money from your child's lunch account. Account balances are always available on Fast Direct. Parents are welcome to eat with us on any day. If you need a lunch for a guest please let the teacher or cafeteria know so it can be marked on the lunch count for that day.

BIRTHDAYS

Your child may bring a special birthday treat to share on his or her birthday. Birthdays that occur during summer break will be celebrated in May. The treat may be cookies, brownies, or things of that nature, but they must be pre-packaged and NOT contain nuts. Birthday parties are always a special time in the life of a child. We understand that birthday parties will be held outside of school. However, if not all the students are invited please mail the invitations and thank you notes to the other students' homes.

VOLUNTEERING

You will be asked to fill out a volunteer sheet at the beginning of the school year if you are interested in coming in to help in our classrooms. Before you can help you must go through the mandatory Child Protection Training program. This program is through the school and you must be certified as successfully completed this training before you are allowed to help in any way. This includes accompanying us on field trips. The training sessions are offered at least twice a month and you may sign up through the school or church office. This program is designed to keep your children safe!! Other requests may come up throughout the school year. You may be asked to donate party supplies, craft supplies, or other various things. We greatly appreciate anything that you are able to send in!!!

CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

All classes will use the same discipline procedures. Each class has the same short list of general rules and expectations.

Be Respectful

- Be a good listener
- Share / take turns
- Obey those in authority
- Use kind words and actions

Be Responsible

- Follow directions
- Complete assigned tasks on time
- Use school resources for intended purpose

Be Safe

- Walk quietly in the building
- Use all equipment as intended
- Follow instructions of those in authority

All students start the day on the green light. Throughout the day, all students will have the opportunity to move their clips up for positive behaviors (exceeding expectations) or be asked to move their clip down if they make poor choices. The color they finish the day with will be displayed on their behavior chart in the VIP folder. Explanation will be given when clips are moved down.



Color Explanations

Purple:	Role Model
Teal:	Outstanding Behavior
Blue:	Good Choices
Green:	Ready to Learn
Yellow:	Make a Better Choice
Orange:	Consequence
Red:	Parent Contact

STUDENT SERVICES

The student population of St. Peter's is becoming increasingly diverse, especially in the area of academic performance. No longer do we have "cookie cutter" students who all basically perform at the same level. The group of students in the "middle" continues to shrink while the group of students who are extremely gifted and the group of students who require additional academic support continues to grow. In order to most effectively reach as many students as possible, special services must be provided. This information sheet outlines the services that St. Peter's Lutheran School and or our local public school corporation, in conjunction with St. Peter's, are able to provide.



TEACHER ASSISTANCE TEAM (TAT)

When teachers begin to notice that students are struggling, their first responsibility is to communicate with the parents and discuss possible strategies to improve the situation. If these strategies are unsuccessful, teachers are encouraged to utilize our Teacher Assistant Team (TAT). TAT is comprised of several St. Peter's teachers who have Resource or Special Education teacher experience, as well as a local public school corporation child psychologist. TAT meetings are held once or twice per month and are designed to simply provide support and assistance for teachers who are trying to help

struggling students. Specific goals are developed, implemented, and evaluated to measure their success. If the specific goals are not successful, then additional testing from the local public school corporation may be necessary. The public school child psychologist serving on TAT will facilitate public school testing services.

RESOURCE TEACHERS

Resource teachers are available for all students at St. Peter's. While the majority of the time spent by our Resource teachers is in the classroom with all students, working in an "inclusion" environment, some students may also receive one-on-one or small group care if needed.

INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION/SERVICE PLAN

It may become necessary for some students to receive an Individualized Education/Service Plan (IEP/ISP). IEP/ISP's typically outline special modifications necessary to encourage and/or facilitate the successful progress of students. Our teachers work with local public school personnel to create and implement IEP/ISP's. IEP/ISP goals are monitored by classroom teachers and public school psychologists and are updated on a yearly basis.

SECTION 504 PLAN

Section 504 Plans are awarded to some students who may have physical disabilities. 504's are similar to IEP/ISP's in that individual modifications and goals are determined, implemented, and monitored.

SCHOOL COUNSELOR

Mrs. Violet Dickerson serves as our school counselor. For acute or ongoing social or emotional needs, Mrs. Dickerson is a great resource to provide necessary services.

SPEECH THERAPY

Speech therapy is available on site through therapists provided by the local public school corporation. Students receiving speech therapy must have an IEP/ISP established through public school personnel.



+ To God Alone Be the Glory +