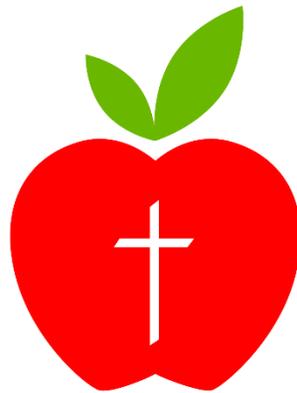


ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL

Nursery and Pre-Kindergarten Classes
Licensed by the State of New Jersey Department of Children and Families



ST. JOHN'S Christian Nursery School

Serving His kids and families for 50 years.

Located at and a ministry of:
St. John's United Methodist Church
149 Ganttown Road
Turnersville, NJ 08012
discoverstjohns.org/nursery-school
856-227-3722

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTIAN NURSERY SCHOOL

Welcome to St. John's Christian Nursery School. We are a ministry of St. John's United Methodist Church. The Church Council is our governing board and our staff is comprised of members of St. John's Church. Every staff member meets the requirements to work in a licensed nursery school as mandated by the State of New Jersey's Department of Children & Families Office of Licensing.

Although we are owned and operated by St. John's United Methodist Church, we are open to children of all faiths, races and nationalities. Children do not have to attend our church in order to attend our nursery school.

As Christians, our staff members depend daily upon God for guidance and direction in every aspect of their lives. Our vision is to show children the love of Jesus, help them to personally know Jesus and to teach them to show the love of Jesus to others in the world around them. We do this through age-appropriate Bible stories, songs, prayers, service projects and our daily interactions with the children. It is in this loving, Christian environment that we seek to help each child grow in every area of his/her life.

Our goal is to prepare every child for entrance into an elementary school program. We seek to provide learning experiences that will nurture, stimulate and challenge each child to grow mentally, emotionally, and socially. We want every child to feel accepted, loved and secure within our classrooms. We realize that parents have entrusted to our care their most treasured assets, their children. At St. John's Christian Nursery School, our staff considers it an honor and a privilege to partner with parents in educating children.

OUR PROGRAM

We have classes for children between the ages of 3- and 5-years-old. Classes are based on the child's age as of October 15th of each school year. There are NO exceptions. All children must be potty-trained and physically able to take care of their own personal toilet needs.

Our curriculum includes math and reading readiness activities, stories, indoor and outdoor play, crafts, music and games. We provide weekly Bible stories, music and/or cooking activities. Our students are provided with a wide range of "hands-on" activities which encourages them to use a variety of their senses. Your child's

teacher will share with you her plan for the school year during our annual Open House in September. Classroom goals and curriculum will be explained at that time.

SNACK TIME

We serve daily snacks. Our snacks generally include crackers, pretzels, cream cheese and crackers, celery, carrot sticks, hard cheese and crackers, or popcorn. We offer milk, apple juice or water to drink. We are aware that some children have dietary restrictions and food allergies. Because we want to be sensitive to the needs of all children, St. John's is a "nut free" building. If your child has any dietary restrictions, please make our staff aware of the situation. We will take all the necessary precautions and post it in your child's classroom.

Children with *severe* food allergies and dietary restrictions are asked to bring a snack from home. It must be labeled with your child's name. Please let your child's teacher know if you are choosing this option.

If, during the school year, you would like to send in a snack for your child's class to share, please check our school's approved snack list. Some of our children have life-threatening food allergies and we must strictly adhere to our food policies for the classroom.

HEALTH & SAFETY OF YOUR CHILD

When you enroll your child in our school, you will be required to give us a Universal Health Form that has been completed and signed by your child's physician. Our students are also required to have the necessary and up-to-date immunizations and a tuberculin clearance. This is a requirement of the State of NJ.

We request that you keep your child home for the day if he/she has any of the following conditions:

- Has had a fever within the last 24 hours.
- Has severe pain or discomfort; has swollen joints.
- Has a sore throat
- Has yellow eyes and/or jaundiced skin
- Has a heavy nasal discharge; yellow or green runny nose
- Has had diarrhea within the last 24 hours

- Has a questionable rash
- Has infected, untreated skin patches
- Has skin lesions that are weeping or bleeding
- Has visibly enlarged lymph nodes
- Has a stiff neck
- Has blood in the urine
- Has difficult or rapid breathing
- Has excessive coughing
- Has a discharge in or around the eyes; red eyes
- If your child has received an antibiotic, he/she should have received treatment for at least 24 hours before returning to school

If a child exhibits any of these symptoms during the course of the school day, we will notify the parent. The child will wait in the director's office for an authorized adult to pick him/her up from school.

Please contact the school if your child has a communicable disease such as: chicken pox, measles, German measles, mumps, strep throat, whooping cough, Hepatitis A, salmonella, shigella, impetigo, lice, scabies, tuberculosis, guardia lamblia, meningococcus, or hemophilus influenza.

SAFETY DRILLS

The State of New Jersey's Department of Children & Families Office of Licensing requires all licensed childcare centers to complete monthly fire drills, as well as two lockdown drills each year. At the start of the school year, our staff explains these drills to the students prior to conducting them to ensure the students understand the process and are not frightened by it. As parents know their children best, we would also encourage you to discuss this with your child if you feel they may find the safety drills intimidating. Your child's teacher can provide an overview of how our drills are handled to equip you to prepare your child.

ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

Our morning classes begin at 9 AM and end at noon. Our afternoon classes start at 1 PM and dismiss at 4 PM. We encourage our parents to please be punctual when dropping off and picking up their children. If you are going to be late, please call the school office. Children are often embarrassed when they have to walk into a

classroom after the class has started. They also become upset when all the other children in the classroom have been picked up. We realize that sometimes the unexpected happens and you are detained. However, please make every effort to be consistently on time.

Our doors will open for each session at 8:55 AM and 12:55 PM. We ask that you do not drop off your child at the outside doors and assume they will arrive safely at their classroom. Please escort your child to the room. Do not enter the room until your teacher or teacher's assistant has arrived. Our staff gathers for prayer each morning and is not available to supervise children until class time.

In order to keep our students safe and secure, we lock the outside doors 15 minutes after arrival time and re-open them five minutes before dismissal time. If you must come into the building at any other time, please use the door closest to the church office. You will be video monitored and asked to identify yourself before being allowed to enter our building.

At the end of each class session, you will be required to sign out your child to verify that he/she was picked up by an authorized adult. If you cannot pick up your child on any given day, please make your teacher aware in writing of the name of the person that you are authorizing to pick up your child. You may also help us by notifying the person who will be picking up your child that he/she will be required to show personal identification (a valid driver's license) to the teacher, and it will be notated on the sign-out sheet. This is a safeguard to protect your child. Under no circumstances will we release a child not authorized by the parents to pick up a child. We also reserve the right to refuse to release a child to any parent/guardian or approved escort who is under the influence of drugs, alcohol, or is in any way impaired. We will not compromise any child's safety at any time.

BIRTHDAYS

We like to give each child the opportunity to celebrate his/her birthday with the class. We encourage parents to bring in a special treat that your child can share with the class. Please check the school approved snack list before choosing a birthday snack. Make sure there are no food allergies or dietary restrictions in the classroom. Each birthday child will receive a birthday book made by his/her classmates and get a treat from the birthday box. Summer birthdays are also celebrated throughout the year. Your teacher will assign you a celebration day.

PARTY DAYS/HOLIDAYS

Our children celebrate the following holidays with a party: Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Easter. Parents are asked to volunteer to help prepare food for the parties such as pancakes, waffles or grilled cheese sandwiches. They also help set-up, serve and clean-up on party days. Each teacher will ask for volunteers during the course of the year. **As a Christian school, we do not celebrate Halloween in any way. We do acknowledge and mention Santa Claus, the Easter Bunny and leprechauns at St. Patrick's Day. If you have concerns with this, let your child's teacher or the director know.*

TUITION

Tuition is based on an annual rate and then broken down into 10 equal, monthly installments for your payment convenience. We kindly request that you do not deduct money from the tuition payment for illness, family vacations, school holidays, field trips or emergency school closings. Tuition payments are due the first week of each month beginning in August. If you would like to make weekly or bi-weekly payments, please make arrangements with the director. All checks can be made payable to "St. John's C.N. School." If you choose to pay with cash, please be sure to get a receipt. Never leave a cash payment in the classroom or office without obtaining a receipt. You can pay tuition online using a credit or debit card at www.discoverstjohns.org.

There is a \$35 fee for returned checks. After two returned checks in a school year, you will be asked to pay with cash or pay online for the remainder of the school year.

DISCIPLINE

Our school uses "take a break" for discipline purposes. When a child's behavior becomes harmful or distracting to himself or others, he/she will be asked to "take a break." The rule of thumb for "take a break" is three minutes for a 3-year-old, and four minutes for 4-year-old. The child will be asked to "take his/her break" in the classroom but away from the group. When the "break" is complete, the child will be encouraged to rejoin the group. At no time will a child be isolated in a corner or put outside in the hallway. If the teacher finds that the child is not responding to "take a break," she will notify the parent(s) and a parent-teacher conference will be scheduled.

St. John's Christian Nursery School will not deprive a child of his/her snack as a means of discipline. Nor will any staff member engage in corporal punishment to discipline a child. We do reserve the right to remove a child from our program should he/she continually engage in behavior that is harmful to him/herself and others, or shows an un-readiness for a nursery school experience.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Once you have chosen St. John's Christian Nursery School, it becomes our responsibility to work along with you to meet your child's needs, whatever they might be. Our teachers and director are always available to speak with you. We will keep you updated on your child's school adjustment, progress, growth and development. We will gladly arrange a conference at any time during the school year. Prior to our February registration time, teachers will schedule conferences for pre-kindergarten students to discuss kindergarten readiness.

Our staff will provide a safe, secure, loving environment for children, where parents can feel comfortable leaving their child. We also recognize that God has appointed parents as the primary religious instructors of their children and it is our responsibility to support the family in the spiritual nurture and growth of their child. Let us know if there is anything we can do to further support your child or family.

HOW YOU MAY HELP US

We would like you to understand and discuss our goals and beliefs with us. Feel free to observe our classes and see our children and staff "in action." This is a happy place to be, with much learning taking place! We want you, as well as your child, to feel a part of the St. John's Christian Nursery School family. Educating children is a cooperative effort between parents and nursery school staff. We can't do it without you! We depend on you for new ideas or suggestions that might help our program become even more successful.

Parents are always welcome to participate in our class trips, party days, and special events. We welcome parental participation throughout the school year and hope you will take part in as many of your child's activities as possible. You will have the opportunity to sign up for some of these activities at our annual Open House in September.

Parents are always welcome to come into the classroom to read a story, do a craft or any other activity you think the children might enjoy. Your child's teacher will be happy to make arrangements with you to accomplish this.

If, at any time, you have questions or concerns regarding your child or you have feedback of any kind, please don't hesitate to speak with your child's teacher or the director. We believe in the slogan, ***"If you like what we're doing, tell others. If you not happy with what we're doing, tell us."***

Finally, we would appreciate your prayers. We cannot do this job without the Spirit of God working in us and through us to minister to His kids. We also ask for His love and protection to be poured out on each and every one of our students day by day.

OUR BELIEFS

We believe...

*Children are a gift from God and should be handled with love & care.

*Children deserve a safe, positive, nurturing and age-appropriate learning environment that is free of fear, pressure to “grow up” or prejudice.

*That nursery school ministry is not just “to children” but “with children.” We learn from the children as we teach them.

*That God has appointed parents as the primary religious instructors of their children and our role is to assist in the cooperative effort of that task.

*Successful nursery school ministry is the shared responsibility of children, nursery school staff and parents.

*Nursery school ministry should be creative, innovative and in-touch with the children and families of our community.

*Jesus has called children to follow Him and children can be equipped to serve Jesus and others.

*Children are important in the Kingdom of God and Jesus died to redeem children, as well as adults, from their sin.

*Effective teachers and staff are the most important component of our nursery school ministry.

TUITION RATES & SCHEDULES

**Tuition is based on an annual rate and then broken down into 10 equal, monthly installments for your convenience.*

Monday, Wednesday, Friday AM Nursery & PreKdg. Classes

- 9 AM to noon
- Annual tuition of \$2870.00
- 10 monthly payments of \$287 each

Monday, Wednesday, Friday PM Nursery & PreKdg. Classes

- 1 to 4 PM
- Annual tuition of \$2870.00
- 10 monthly payments of \$287 each

Tuesday/Thursday **OR** Wednesday/Friday AM Nursery & PreKdg. Classes

- 9 AM to noon
- Annual tuition of \$1910.00
- 10 monthly payments of \$191 each

Tuesday/Thursday **OR** Wednesday/Friday PM Nursery & PreKdg. Classes

- 1 to 4 PM
- Annual tuition of \$1910.00
- 10 monthly payments of \$191 each

*Nursery classes are for children turning 3 years old by Oct. 15, 2018.

*PreKdg. classes are for children turning 4 years old by Oct. 15, 2018.

****Please be advised that we make no exceptions for this age requirement policy.***

REGISTRATION FEE

Our school charges a \$100 (\$50 for returning students) non-refundable registration fee, which is due at the time of your child's registration. Fifty dollars of the fee (new students only) can be credited towards your tuition payment any month after October, when your child begins our program. Notify the director as to which month to which you would like it applied to receive the credit.