

The Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception



St. John Paul II Early Childhood Education Center Preschool – Extended Care

*957 E Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43205*

Parent Handbook 2026-2027

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PHILOSOPHY

Our Center follows a Catholic curriculum developing a positive self-image in relation to our loving God. A child’s sense of God comes from a warm atmosphere of love and acceptance in the Early Childhood environment where the child learns about himself/herself and God’s wonderful world. (Diocesan Guidelines)

- Our programs seek to provide a stimulating learning experience in a safe, wholesome environment.
- Throughout the program, we will have a strong emphasis on faith development and values.
- At the Center, children are given encouragement and guidance in physical, intellectual, emotional and social adjustment.
- Children will be involved in both structured and non-structured activities that encourage education, social and spiritual growth.
- Each child is unique with individual interests and needs. The daily activities and play experiences are planned in accordance with the age, developmental level and interests of the child.
- Individual and group activities are devised in a way to ensure maximum opportunity for our children to develop their independence, self-reliance and confidence, and to permit self-expression.

STATE LICENSE

The John Paul II Center is licensed by the State of Ohio. The license is displayed in the Director’s Office or foyer. We are inspected periodically by regulatory agencies to ensure the best for your child in the areas of health and safety as mandated by state standards. The Center does not discriminate against race, sex, national origin, marital status or religion.

PURPOSE AND USE OF HANDBOOK

This HANDBOOK exists to inform the parents of the policies and procedures of the Center and to foster its efficient operation. To meet this objective, the Director is given flexibility and the ability to exercise discretion. In appropriate circumstances, the Director has the discretion to take actions other than those specified in the Handbook. This Handbook is not intended and should not be considered to create any additional rights of children or parents. Please take the time to carefully read the enclosed information and be informed of the workings of the Center. If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the Director.

AMENDMENTS TO THE HANDBOOK

This Handbook is subject to change at any time when determined by the Director and staff. If changes are made to the Handbook, parents/guardians will be notified promptly.

CURRICULUM

The education program of our Center is aligned to the Ohio State Department of Job and Family Service Standards using the framework of the Creative Curriculum Guidelines also used by the Diocese of Columbus. (<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Early-Learning-Content-Standards>). These guidelines meet the needs of the young children, the educational objectives of Early Childhood Education and are consistent with the philosophy of Catholic Education. Our program is designed to guide the spiritual, intellectual, physical and emotional development of the child. Early Childhood teachers are required to prepare weekly lesson plans, which follow the guidelines and incorporate the concepts therein, through appropriate techniques and experiences:

- Religion
- Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Art
- Gross and Fine Motor Skills
- Music
- Science
- Social Studies
- Personal - Social Development
- Computer Literacy

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Throughout the preschool year, progress is evaluated on an ongoing basis through projects, teacher observation, subject area testing and progress reports. Communication with parents/guardians is ongoing throughout the preschool year by means of daily student report, phone calls and conferences.

The teachers keep the parents/guardians informed of progress, achievements and problems. If problems occur, the parents/guardians are notified and become part of the process of strategizing for a positive solution.

CHILD ASSESSMENT CONFERENCES

Teachers conduct formal assessments of their students throughout the school year. Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled in late January or early February to review the assessment information. The assessments are for the benefit of the child's family, and are not provided to local school districts or the ODJFS.

PARENT-TEACHER COMMUNICATION

- Please call the Center if you have any questions or concerns about your child and/or our program.
- Parents can request a conference at any other time. Please see the Director or the Teacher in advance to schedule an appointment.
- Activities from each class are displayed in the classrooms, and on the bulletin boards in the hallways. Please take the time to view and enjoy them.

- Please carefully read all notices sent home from the Center.

SCHEDULE

DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION

The Center is open Monday through Friday, from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m.

Preschool and Day Care hours are as follows:

Full Day	(7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.)
Extended	(7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.)
Half Day	(7:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon)

The schedule you have chosen must be adhered to throughout the school year. If it is necessary to change your schedule, please see the Director.

STAFF/CHILD RATIOS, AGE GROUPING AND MAXIMUM GROUP SIZE

Age of Children	Child Care Staff Member/Child Ratio	Maximum Group Size
Young Preschoolers (at least 3 years and less than 4 years)	1:12	24
Older Preschoolers (at least 4 years and not enrolled in or eligible to be enrolled in kindergarten)	1:14	28

DAILY SCHEDULE

9:00 – 9:20 am	Arrival, Visual Health Check, Free Play, Activity Centers, Daily Art Activity (Fine Motor Skills)
9:20 – 9:30 am	Clean Up
9:30 – 10:15 am	Learning Circle: Role, Prayers, Flag, Weather, Calendar, Structured Learning Activities: Religion, Math & Reading Readiness, Language, etc.
10:15 – 10:40 am	Bathroom, Snack/Lunch
10:40 – 11:10 am	Language Development: Music, Finger plays, Rhythm Activities, Exercise
11:10 – 11:20 am	Story Time
11:20 – 11:35 am	Gross Motor Activities (Playground, Exercise, Free Play)
11:35 – 11:45 am	Review Day’s Events, Follow-Up Art Activity
11:45 – 12:00 pm	Dismissal, Nap Preparation

12:00 – 1:00 pm	Rest Time
1:00 – 1:20 pm	Bathroom, Snack
1:20 – 2:00 pm	Learning Circle – Review the Day’s Happenings
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Art, Story, Film
2:30 – 2:45 pm	Outside Play, Free Choice, Learning Center
2:45 – 3:00 pm	Clean Up, Preparation for Dismissal
3:00 – 5:30 pm	Extended Care (Free Play, Outside Play Art, Movie, Snack/Dinner).

STUDENT HEALTH AND WELLNESS

St. John Paul II Preschool is committed to providing a preschool environment that promotes and protects children’s health, wellbeing and the ability to learn by supporting healthy eating habits and physical activities. The link between nutrition and learning is well documented. Healthy eating patterns are essential for students to achieve their full academic potential, physical and mental growth, and lifelong health and wellbeing. The purpose of this policy is to offer students the tools and knowledge necessary to make healthy choices for their bodies.

The following components will be addressed during the preschool year:

- Nutritional guidelines
- Nutrition education
- Physical activity
- Other school-based activities
- Parent and staff involvement

IMPORTANT NOTICE: WE ARE A DESIGNATED PEANUT/NUT FREE SCHOOL ZONE!

Because peanut and tree nut allergies can be life-threatening, many schools have responded by designating peanut- or nut- free lunch tables or classrooms, or even by declaring the entire campus peanut- or nut- free. Parents of kids with these allergies learn to read food labels to make sure they’re safe, but for parents who are new to packing lunches or snacks for a nut-free classroom, the learning curve can be steep.

Here are some rules of thumb for reading labels:

*Under federal law, peanuts and tree nuts must be clearly identified in a food label if they’re used as an ingredient. Look for the word “peanuts” or a particular type of tree nut—macadamia nuts, Brazilian nuts, cashews, almonds, walnuts, pecans, pistachios, chestnuts, beechnuts, hazelnuts, pine nuts (pignoli or pinon), ginkgo nuts or hickory nuts—in the list of ingredients, or following the word “contains.”

NO NUTS, OF ANY KIND, ARE ALLOWED!

*Foods that pose a possibility of manufacturing cross-contamination – that is, where nuts were processed on one line and then another nut-free food was made on the same line, where it could potentially have been contaminated with nuts – are **not allowed** in nut-free classrooms. Look for warnings like “may include traces of peanuts” or “manufactured on a shared line with tree nuts.”

THE CENTER DOES NOT PROVIDE MEALS

Snacks

Families are responsible for providing snacks. We will provide a suggested list of snack items. Each family will sign up for two months and provide bulk food items to be distributed throughout the classes for their designated months. Snack items should consist of nutritional foods and drinks (juice or water). The school will provide water.

The children will have snacks mid-morning and with lunch at about 1:15 p.m., and again as a mid-afternoon snack, according to your child's schedule. Please pack a lunch (prepared food that does not require cutting or peeling), and know that we can microwave prepared foods, if needed. Please also pack 2 drinks (milk, fruit juice and other nutritious food items*) in a lunch box with an ice pack. No candy. **No peanut/nut products. No soda.** **Please label your child's lunch box with his/her name.**

***So what kinds of foods *are* good to bring to a nut-free classroom?**

Here are some ideas:

- >Fresh fruit. Bananas are popular year-round, apples and pears are great in the fall, and clementines are easy to peel and available through the winter, just to name a few.
- >Cheese. Most cheese is nut-free, including kid-friendly string cheese and convenient cheese cubes.
- >Vegetables. Baby carrots, cherry tomatoes, broccoli and cauliflower are among the vegetables some kids will eat raw. Small containers of plain yogurt, salad dressing or sour cream may be good dips.
- >Raisins and other dried fruits.
- >Pudding cups.
- >Applesauce. The healthiest and most convenient type is unsweetened applesauce in single-serving cups.
- >Fruit snacks.
- >Chips. Potato, tortilla, etc.
- >Lunch meat and sandwich bread.
- >Juice, water and most other approved beverages.
- >Some cookies, snack cakes and crackers. These are more likely to contain nuts or to pose cross-contamination risks than other items on this list, so either check labels very carefully or consider buying these items from a nut-free manufacturer such as Enjoy Life Foods (available nationally).

BIRTHDAYS

When your child has a birthday, you may provide a "treat" for each child in the class. Please discuss it with the teacher before the celebration. Sugary treats are limited to birthdays. Instead of an edible treat, a good suggestion would be to provide an item such as pencils, erasers, etc., for the birthday child to share with classroom friends.

If you are planning a private class party, please give the invitations to your child's teacher to distribute. Parents should not organize a party to be celebrated at school—parties of such nature should be celebrated outside of the school. Also, to be aware of and sensitive to each child's feelings, unless you are inviting the entire class to your party please do not distribute the invitations via the cubbies in the classroom... children are very aware, and feelings can get hurt.

ILLNESS

Please do not send any child to the Center:

- If they have had a fever of 100 degrees or above within the last 24 hours. He/she may return to school after remaining fever-free for 24 hours.
- If they have vomited in the morning before school.
- If they have had any sort of communicable disease.

Good Morning Check:

State-certified teachers are required to inspect children as they arrive each morning for any health problems or signs of contagious disease. State law mandates that if the child displays certain symptoms, the teacher must refuse admittance for that day, or as long as symptoms persist. Parents, we ask for your help and cooperation with this policy by making a thorough “good morning check” before bringing your child to school. Here are some basic symptoms to look for:

- ❖ Red eyes (can be pinkeye/conjunctivitis) ❖ Pale or jaundiced (yellow) skin coloring
- ❖ Blotchy skin or unexplained rash ❖ Unexplained spots (not insect bites)
- ❖ Dull eyes ❖ Itchy scalp (lice)
- ❖ “Green Slime” nose (the sign of an infectious cold, more than just a virus, may require antibiotics)
- ❖ Severe runny nose and fever (highly infectious cold)
- ❖ Hacking cough (might even be whooping cough, which has recently, to the surprise of many, made a comeback)

If a child is not feeling well in the morning, please do not send him or her to school especially during the flu season.

HEALTH AND HYGIENE

We encourage good personal health and hygiene habits at the Center. We require hand washing before meals, after toilet use and at all other appropriate times.

Classroom tables are disinfected before and after meals. Sleeping mats are washed weekly.

POLICY ON THE MANAGEMENT OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

If a child exhibits any of the following symptoms, he/she should not attend the Center. If such symptoms occur at the Center, the child will be removed from the group and parents will be called to take him/her home.

- Severe pain or discomfort
- Acute diarrhea
- Episodes of acute vomiting
- Elevated oral temperature of 101.5 degrees Fahrenheit
- Sore throat or severe coughing
- Yellow eyes or jaundice skin
- Red eyes with discharge
- Infected, untreated skin patches

Difficult or rapid breathing
 Skin lesions that are weeping or bleeding
 Skin rashes lasting longer than 24 hours
 Swollen joints
 Visibly enlarged lymph nodes
 Stiff neck
 Blood in urine

Once the child is symptom-free, or has a doctor’s note stating that he/she no longer poses a serious health risk to himself/herself or others, he/she may return to the Center.

TABLE OF EXCLUDABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

A child who contracts any of the following diseases may not return to the Center without a physician’s note stating that the child presents no risk to himself/herself or others:

<u>Respiratory Illnesses</u>	<u>Gastrointestinal Illnesses</u>	<u>Contact Illnesses</u>
Chicken Pox **	Giardia Lamblia*	Impetigo
German Measles	Hepatitis A*	Lice
Hemophilus	Salmonella *	Scabies
Influenza*	Shigella*	
Measles*		
Meningococcus*		
Mumps*		
Strep Throat		
Tuberculosis*		
Whooping Cough*		
Covid-19*		

*Reportable diseases that will be reported to the health department by the Center.

** Note: If your child has chicken pox, a doctor’s note is not required for re-admitting the child to the Center. A note from the parent is required, stating that either at least six days has elapsed since the onset of the rash, or that all sores have dried and crusted.

If your child is exposed to any excludable disease at the Center, you will be notified in writing.

EMERGENCY CARE

Should your child become ill at the Center, you will be called to make arrangements to pick up your child. Emergency forms must include current home, work and cell phone numbers of parents and all additional persons who are permitted to pick up the child if necessary. It is also necessary for us to have the name and phone numbers of your physician and preferred hospital.

If a child suffers a medical emergency, the preschool will call 911 and the child will be transported to the nearest medical facility as determined by the emergency personnel. Parents/guardians will be contacted immediately.

INSURANCE

Although the Center has an extensive safety awareness program, along with inspections and regular maintenance of the building, playground and equipment, accidents do happen. Most accidents occur as a result of children being children: playing and testing their abilities. When such an accident occurs and requires medical attention, you should contact your health insurance provider for reimbursement of the medical cost.

MEDICATION

- Prescription medication will only be given between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.
- With the children's health and safety in mind, we **CANNOT** dispense medication without a note from **BOTH** the doctor and the parent(s).
- Medication must be brought to the Center in its original container with your child's name, name of medication, date, dosage, directions for administering, storage instructions, physician's name, pharmacy and phone number.
- Please complete a "Prescription Medicine Authorization Form" for **EACH** day your child is to receive medication.
- It is your responsibility as the parent to update any medication changes and keep a current written physician's order. This written physician's order must accompany all prescription and non-prescription medications in order for any medication to be administered.
- All medication **must be given** directly to the Director or Teacher. **DO NOT** leave medications of any kind in lunch boxes, backpacks or cubbies.
- All allergies should be reported to the Director and/or Teacher in writing stating the allergy and the kind of reaction. To ensure the safety of the child, it is the parent's responsibility to provide appropriate snacks and necessary medications.
- **ALL CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL LIFE-THREATENING MEDICAL NEEDS ARE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MEDICAL ALERT BRACELET.** Regarding the Center's stance on allergies, we can only guarantee that we are a peanut/nut-free Center.
- If you have any questions or concerns about your child's health, please contact the Director and/or Teacher.

REST

Your child's day at the Center will be filled with activities. To balance the active time, there will be a period of quiet rest. Sleeping mats are provided by the Center, but we ask you to bring a light blanket for your child. Please refrain from bringing stuffed animals and personal bedding except a light blanket.

Rest Time: 12:00 noon - 12:45 p.m.

The daily **schedule** will provide for learning, play, story, snack and rest times.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

The instructional time will begin at **9:00 a.m.**; therefore, the children should arrive by **8:45 a.m.** at the latest, to be prepared for the planned activities. Aside from relaying essential information or details to the teacher, arrivals and departures need to occur as quickly as possible. **Parent-to-parent meetings** are to be held **outside** the classroom.

- You are welcome to visit the Center at any time, provided not during a pandemic.
- **UPON ARRIVAL:**
Please remember to **print** your child's name in the **Sign In/Sign Out Book**. For the parent's signature you need to **print your name first, followed by your signature.**
- Person picking up must be 18 or older.
- In case of an emergency, please notify the Center of your late arrival.
- **UPON DISMISSAL:**
- **A.M. DISMISSAL** is **PROMPTLY** at **12:00 noon** as to prepare the afternoon classes for rest.
- **P.M. DISMISSAL** is **PROMPTLY** at **3:00 p.m.**
- Please remember to sign your child **OUT** in the Sign In/Out Book located in your child's classroom. **Please print your name legibly in the Sign Out Book so it can be easily recognized.**
- Your child will be released only to you or your designated person(s). Identification will be requested from the designated person(s).
- When another person other than a parent/guardian is to pick-up a child, a written note must be sent to the Center identifying the person(s) that will take the child home.
- **If for any reason you will be late in picking up your child, you must call. State Law requires the school to call Office of Families and Children (OFC) if a child is left more than 30 minutes beyond the designated pick-up time.**
- After the scheduled departure time of **3:00 p.m.**, the children may remain for the After School Program until **5:30 p.m.**

WE ARE REQUIRED BY LAW TO REPORT SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT TO THE PROPER AUTHORITIES.

ABSENCE

Please call the Center in the morning if your child is to be absent from school. A note must be sent to school with your child upon return to class. **No makeup days are permitted.**

POLICY ON THE RELEASE OF CHILDREN

Each child may be released only to the child's parent(s)/guardians or person(s) authorized by the parent(s)/guardians to take the child from the Center and to assume responsibility for the child in an emergency if the parent(s)/guardians cannot be reached.

If a non-custodial parent has been denied access, or granted limited access, to a child by a court order, the Center shall secure documentation to that effect, maintain a copy on file, and comply with the terms of the court order.

If the parent(s) or person(s) authorized by the parent(s) fails to pick up a child at the time of the Center's daily closing, the Center shall ensure that:

- 1) The child is supervised at all times.
- 2) Staff members attempt to contact the parent(s) or person(s) authorized by the parent(s); and
- 3) An hour or more after closing time, and provided that other arrangements for releasing the child to his/her parent(s) or person(s) authorized by the parent(s), have failed and

the staff member(s) cannot continue to supervise the child at the center, the staff member shall call the Division's 24 hour Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-792-8610) to seek assistance in caring for the child until the parent(s) or person(s) authorized by the child's parent(s) is able to pick-up the child.

If the parent(s) or person(s) authorized by the parent(s) appears to be physically and/or emotionally impaired to the extent that, in the judgement of the Director and/or staff member, the child would be placed at risk of harm if released to such an individual, the Center shall ensure that:

- 1) The child may not be released to such an impaired individual;
- 2) Staff members attempt to contact the child's other parent or an alternative person(s) authorized by the parent(s); and
- 3) If the Center is unable to make alternative arrangements, a staff member shall call the Division's 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline (1-800-792-8610) to seek assistance in caring for the child.

For school-aged childcare programs, no child shall be released from the program unsupervised except upon written instruction from the child's parent(s).

CUSTODY

Certified custody orders must be provided to the Director prior to enrollment. Any changes in custody must be provided to the Center immediately.

TRANSPORTATION

Our Center will not be responsible for transportation of the children. Any arrangements made for transportation will be the responsibility of the parents/guardians. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CHILD IN THE CAR UNATTENDED (State Law).**

DISCIPLINE

The teaching staff and the supportive personnel will stress a positive atmosphere to encourage the healthy development of a child's self-esteem. The Center's personnel will employ positive discipline techniques such as praising and calling attention to appropriate behavior, modeling and reinforcing good behavior. **"TIME OUT"** will offer a child a few moments to think about his/her action and will help the child regain self-control while learning appropriate behavior.

Our goal, in the design of the environment in the use of methods, is to encourage self-discipline, to teach helpfulness and respect for the rights of other children and teachers. Should you have any questions and concerns, please feel free to discuss it with your child's teacher or the Director of the Center.

EXPULSION POLICY

There are, unfortunately, times when a child must be expelled from the Center on either a short term or permanent basis. The Center will make every effort to rectify all situations with the parents of the child before enforcing this policy. Please note our policy for expulsion or suspension from the Center as stated below.

Causes for expulsion include, but are not limited to:

- Child presents behavioral problems that may cause injury to the child, other children or staff.
- Child fails to properly adjust after a reasonable amount of time.
- Child has uncontrollable outbursts and/or tantrums, is verbally or physically abusive to other children or staff, bites excessively or displays other signs of frequent aggression.
- A parent physically or verbally threatens or intimidates other children or staff members.
- A parent's habitual failure to pay tuition in a timely manner or failure to submit proper immunization records.

Expulsion will occur at the discretion of the Center after reasonable attempts have been made to improve the situation. The parent will be informed verbally and/or in writing of the child's or parent's behavior warranting expulsion. The parent will be notified verbally and in writing when their child has been expelled from the Center.

REGISTRATION

St. John Paul II Center provides a developmental program for children ages three to kindergarten. A child must be three years of age by the first day of school to be admitted into our program and must be toilet trained.

Required Health Enrollment Forms

Proper documentation is required by the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services. All sections must be completed in full. This includes all parents listed with contact numbers, at least one emergency contact who lives within an hour's drive of the Center and other information that may be important during your child's visit. Each child must have their own copy. This form must be filled out by parents or legal guardians as it is a legal document. This form can be found on our website or by visiting us.

Medical statement

An ODJFS medical statement, signed by a physician, along with a copy of your child's immunizations are required to be submitted at the time of registration at the center. Children will not be permitted into the center if the form is not submitted and kept up to date each year. Children who are Kindergarten age or older are not required to submit this form. Medical statements must be updated every 13 months.

Care of children without immunizations

Children are permitted to attend St. John Paul II Center without the state recommended immunizations. An ODJFS medical statement, signed by a physician, is still required to be submitted at the time of registration at the Center.

When completing registration paperwork, please use the child's full legal name. In parentheses, please state the name you wish your child to be called (for example, "James (Jimmy)").

REGISTRATION and ACTIVITY FEES of \$100 are due upon enrollment of your child. The registration fee is non-refundable.

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL requires a written notice at least **two weeks** prior to withdrawal from the Center.

FEES AND FINANCIALS

- Tuition rates are based on the school calendar year....please check your schedule on the calendar. Parents with multiple children in the Center will receive a 10% discount off the second and third child’s tuition.
- All tuition is billed monthly. Monthly payments are **DUE BY THE 15th DAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH**. Should any tuition become delinquent, suspension or expulsion may occur at the discretion of the Director, until the overdue balance is paid in full.

Tuition is **not** an option, it is an obligation! If paying monthly, tuition is due by the 15th day of the preceding month. **If tuition is not paid by the due dates, and there is no communication with the Director by the parent to resolve this problem, withdrawal of your child will be required.**

SEPTEMBER	tuition should be paid by	AUGUST 15th
OCTOBER	tuition should be paid by	SEPTEMBER 15TH
NOVEMBER	tuition should be paid by	OCTOBER 15th
DECEMBER	tuition should be paid by	NOVEMBER 15th
JANUARY	tuition should be paid by	DECEMBER 15th
FEBRUARY	tuition should be paid by	JANUARY 15th
MARCH	tuition should be paid by	FEBRUARY 15th
APRIL	tuition should be paid by	MARCH 15th
MAY	tuition should be paid by	APRIL 15th
JUNE	tuition should be paid by	MAY 15th
JULY	tuition should be paid by	JUNE 15th

- Checks should be made payable to St. John Paul II Early Childhood Education Center.
- **RETURNED CHECKS** will be charged a **PROCESSING FEE** of \$15.00, and the Center will have the option to refuse any further payment by check.
- If a child is absent due to illness or vacation, tuition is still due. Parents will continue to be charged until they officially withdraw their child. This is necessary because staff salaries are still paid.
- Please retain your monthly **TUITION RECORDS** for income tax purposes.
- Dismissal Tardiness Fee...Any parent who is late picking up their child at dismissal (more than 15 minutes) will be charged a fee of \$15.00 for each delinquent ½ hour.
- **ATTENTION: Tuition for the month of JULY must be paid prior to JUNE 15th.**

VACATION TIME

Parents, we suggest that you plan vacation time during the Christmas and/or Easter breaks because the Center is closed and no tuition is assessed for that time. However, for any other week from September through July, you must pay tuition even if your child is not in attendance.

HOLIDAYS

The Center will be closed for the month of August and on the following holidays:

Labor Day
All Saints Day - November 1st
Thanksgiving Day
Thanksgiving Friday
December 8th - Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Christmas Break
New Year's Day
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Presidents' Day
Easter Break
Memorial Day
Summer Break - one week off before summer program begins July
4th - Independence Day

OUTDOOR PLAY

Outdoor play will be included in our program daily and is located in a fenced-in area attached to the building. Children will be supervised at all times during outdoor play and will never be left alone. Children have quick access to an indoor drinking fountain. The outdoor play area is inspected thoroughly each quarter to ensure that we are staying with the health and safety guidelines for our children.

Outdoor play will be cancelled when the temperature drops below 25 degrees or rises to about 90 degrees. Other factors that may affect the cancellation of outdoor play include but are not limited to: wind chill, heat indexes, rain, lightning, ozone warnings, allergy / pollen counts. Please dress your children appropriately per the weather so they can be prepared to be outside. Children not dressed appropriately will be given other staff activities.

According to ODJFS licensing, sunscreen is considered a medication and every child must have a Request for Administration of Medication Form completed and kept in their file. This form is good for one year. This form will allow St. John Paul II Center staff to apply sunscreen to your child when going outside to play

SECURITY

- **NO vehicle** may be left in the parking lot during school hours without the prior permission from the Director.
- **Play areas:** Please monitor your child at all times on the school grounds. The **playground** is the only area that is a “designated” play area for use by the faculty during school hours only. For insurance purposes and school liability, all other areas are “off limits” for play, unless supervised by a faculty member during school hours.
- **Intruders.** A person with no legitimate reason or written documentation to be on preschool grounds will be asked to leave by preschool personnel. If the person does

not leave or is armed, the police shall be called and a preschool-wide lockdown will be initiated immediately.

- **Natural or Human-Created Disaster.** In the event of a natural disaster (flood, earthquake or any other type of natural disaster) or human-created disaster (acts of terrorism, hostage, etc.), parents and staff will be notified immediately via phone or email. During school hours (7:30am – 5:30pm) all children will be kept on the preschool property or relocated to a safe location nearby until a parent/guardian picks them up.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

- St. John Paul II Center will be closed or delayed for inclement weather when local school districts and government are both closed or delayed. Still, our Center has its own exclusive circumstance. Please call us for the most up-to-date information in each unique situation: 856-874-6096 or 614-372-5656.
- We strive to make the decision to close by 4:45 a.m. or earlier so we can notify parents immediately via email, voice recording and our website. Please keep in mind that unusual weather conditions may force us to make the decision after this time. It is quite possible that parking or building issues could arise and not be discovered until after 6:00 a.m. In those cases, decisions on the Center's closure may be made later in the day.
- Even if weather conditions worsen, we cannot reverse our decision in the morning without endangering the children and staff. If conditions worsen throughout the school day, we may need to have an early dismissal, but we will give as much notice as possible through the previously mentioned methods of communication.
- Although we do our absolute best in this process, we know that often no perfect decision exists. If you do not feel that it is safe for your child to attend, use your best judgment whether or not he or she should attend. We prefer to exercise flexibility in these situations as opposed to an inflexible policy.

FIRE DRILLS

- Fire drills are held regularly. Should an emergency requiring evacuation of the Center occur, you will be notified immediately.
- Lock-Down Drills are held at least two times a year in accordance with the regulations of the preschool emergency action plan. Teachers orient all students and classroom volunteers to follow drill procedures.

SUPERVISION

At no time will a child be left unattended, or out of sight or ear shot from the teacher assigned to their care. Staff will supervise children always, including naptime. Children will not be exposed to inappropriate language or media. Screen time will always be scheduled in advance with a parent's knowledge.

Teachers: All teachers are pre-screened with a thorough background check, including a criminal record check with the Bureau of Criminal Investigation. At all times, there will be

a manager certified in CPR, First Aid, communicable disease and child abuse recognition and prevention at the Center.

TOYS AND PERSONAL BELONGINGS

Stuffed animals/pillows from home **are not permitted**. Suitable items for “SHOW AND TELL” or sharing time are permitted but must be labeled and taken home at the end of each day. **NO GUNS OR TOYS OF A VIOLENT NATURE ARE PERMITTED, NOR ARE LIVE PETS PERMITTED TO BE BROUGHT INTO THE CENTER.**

CLOTHING

Fresh air and exercise are important to a child’s good health. Please be sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather according to the season. The Center discourages the use of belts, open-back shoes including flip-flops, any clothing or jackets with string ties, shoes or sneakers with laces, boys’ tight snap jeans, or one-piece shirts that snap between the legs. Velcro tabs (fasteners) on clothing or sneakers, and elastic waistbands, are highly recommended. **Fancy dress boots** are uncomfortable to wear for circle time and hazardous for activities such as a balance beam.

If your child wears any type of boot to school, please bring another pair of shoes or slippers for the child to change into once inside the Center.

Please provide a “**complete**” change of clothing, labeled with your child’s name, and placed in a plastic bag. Remember to check periodically to see that these items still fit and are relative to the weather. Also, please label your child’s sweaters, jackets and hats, as well as any other clothing/accessory that might be removed.

Also, please note that for safety reasons, jewelry is not advised.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Field trips and social gatherings are important events for children. The Center provides this type of learning experience by bringing the “field trips” to the Center. Activities may include nature walks, as well as visits from Santa Claus, local fire companies, law enforcement agencies and medical professionals.

Each holiday is celebrated with a class pizza party (pizza is provided by the Center). Christmas and End of the Year programs, as well as, graduation, are also celebrated. Parents will be notified of each activity in advance.

CLASS PARTIES

A parent pays tuition for their child to learn, perform and enjoy their accomplishments. St. John Paul II Center has a moral obligation to every child of a parent who pays tuition to provide an environment where each “registered child” may enjoy these activities and treats as a “class activity”. Therefore, with regard to class parties, any planned events, program, treats and games are **only** for the child who is registered at the Center. Siblings and relatives are invited to observe, but we need to respect and understand that the activities, accomplishments and rewards of a class should be shared **only** by the children in that class if we are to fully recognize their efforts and support the parents who pay for them. **In**

certain circumstances (as in, due to a pandemic), parents will not be permitted to attend classroom parties.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

Our academic programs give parents the opportunity to get involved with class parties! If you are looking for additional ways to get involved, please see the program's director. **In certain circumstances such as a pandemic, parents are not permitted to attend classroom parties.** However, there are some events that parents are still able to participate in limited number for the events marked below in red font.

August	- Parent Orientation
September	- Center Opening
October	- Family Rosary *Pumpkin Picking
22 October	- St. John Paul II Day
November	- Thanksgiving Food Drive *Thanksgiving Party
December	- Tree Trimming Festival - Giving Three - Christmas Program *Christmas Party - Santa's Visit
January	- Parent Conferences/Progress Reports - Open House/Registration
February	*St. Valentine's Day Party - Community Helpers Presentations (Nurse, Doctor, Pilot, Police Officer, etc.)
March	- Special Person's Day
March/April	*Easter Party *Easter Egg Hunt -Earth Day
May	-May Crowning -End of Year Program -Graduation

*For St. John Paul II Registered Students Only.

SUMMER PROGRAM

The Center is open for the summer program from July 04 through July 15. Hours of operation: Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm. Although our program continues to maintain our basic philosophies as listed on page 1 of this Handbook, our summer program is more relaxed and allows more constructive leisure and fun activities, while stimulating individual growth... physically, socially and spiritually.

WATER ACTIVITIES will not be offered in the Center.

St. John Paul II Center

Pandemic Guidance EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, several changes have been implemented to the Handbook. It is imperative that you read the Handbook in its entirety. At John Paul II Early Childhood Education Center, we welcome your child to our preschool, and we want you to know we are doing everything we can to ensure the safety of your child. The COVID-19 pandemic is scary for adults and is hard for children to understand. We want to create an environment where you feel safe leaving your child and where your child feels safe. Based on ODJFS rules and recommendations, you and your child will see changes to our program. Some of those changes are outlined below. You can also find pandemic childcare resources for families at: <http://jfs.ohio.gov/cdc/CoronavirusAndChildcareForFamilies/>

DROP OFF/ PICK UP PROCEDURE:

The drop-off and pick-up will be at the entrance of the building. Parents will not be permitted in the classrooms. Upon arrival, the child's temperature will be taken. Each child must wash their hands upon entering the school building (a staff member will assist your child with handwashing, if needed).

EXCLUSION FROM CARE:

As new regulations set forth by the CDC (Center of Disease Control, and our licensing agent ODJFS) require, we will be enforcing a very strict policy on sickness. If your child has a fever of 100.0 degrees or higher, they will not be permitted to attend and/or will be immediately sent home. The child will not be permitted to attend for 48 hours after the fever returns to normal, when unmedicated. If other symptoms are present, a doctor's excuse may be required to return to care. Your child will not be permitted to return sooner than the 48-hour window even with a doctor's excuse.

If a child has had known contact with someone confirmed or probable to have COVID-19, they cannot return to school until complete isolation or quarantine procedures have taken place in coordination with our local health department guidelines.

We will work with the local health department if we encounter any confirmed cases to ensure the safety of our children and staff.

JPII will follow all state and local health guidelines throughout the pandemic. Please be aware that school policies may change as updated guidelines are received by these health agencies.

Other guidelines will be implemented in cases of pandemics or health outbreaks in accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Ohio Department of Health, and the Department of Job and Family Services. Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, JPII preschool families will be notified of policy and procedure updates via addendums to the current written policies through the JPII communication system throughout the outbreak.

In addition to JPPII return preschool policies, in the event that a staff member or child enrolled in the preschool program has tested positive for COVID-19, the school will:

- Notify the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services (ODJFS) by the next business day in the Ohio Child Licensing and Quality System (OCLQS) as a serious incident.
- Notify the local health department by the next business day.
- Ensure that the person completes current isolation or quarantine procedures for COVID-19 in coordination with the local health department, ODH, CDC and Ohio Job and Family Service Guidelines.
- Work with the local health department to identify potentially infected or exposed individuals to help facilitate effective contact tracing/notifications.
- Follow deep sanitation or program closure guidelines if recommended by local health authorities.

After reading the Handbook, you are asked to sign a Handbook Agreement that signifies you have read and understand the rules and regulations implemented within our program. If you have questions about the information included in this Handbook, please ask the Director. We are looking forward to your child entering our program. We are here to help you and your child be comfortable and feel safe in our program. While together, we help your child learn and grow during these critical developmental years.

PHOTO PERMISSION

St. John Paul II Center takes photographs for Facebook, Instagram and our website. We would like your permission to use pictures of your child _____

_____ YES. I grant permission to use photos of my child.

_____ NO. I do NOT grant permission to use photos of my child.

HANDBOOK AGREEMENT

I have received a copy, reviewed and agree to the policies therein outlined by the St. John Paul II Early Childhood Education Center Preschool Policies and Procedures.

Parent\Guardian Signature _____

Date _____