

July 2018

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

Phil 4:13

Welcome to All Saints STEAM Academy or welcome back!

We are so happy to begin our school year with you.

Mrs. Brouse has chosen this theme to represent this school year.

The Apostle Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, told them how much he appreciated their support, because when he went out from Macedonia, the Philippian church was the only church that supported him. He said, “I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. . . . I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. **I can do everything through him who gives me strength**” (Philippians 4:10-13).

We are using the symbol of the anchor to illustrate this message throughout our school year. The anchor is seen all over Rhode Island and most readily on our state flag. Our motto couldn't be any more clearly stated, “Hope”. I even giggle a bit comparing the colors to our All Saints school hues. St. Paul is asking us to be content and always hopeful that no matter where you find yourself that hope will remain in you and to know that Jesus strengthens us no matter what.

What a perfect message for our new school year.

Be blessed, and be a blessing,

Miss Dawn

Announcements

Monthly Newsletter

Yes, this is your first edition of my monthly correspondence. They can be a bit wordy, but if you read it, you will not miss a beat as to what happens in our busy classroom! I always begin with a spiritual message that is directly related to what we are studying, and conclude with announcements about upcoming events and classroom needs, etc.

Orientation Day 2018

Our Pre & Primary School Orientation Day is held as an open house from 9am-12pm, Friday, August 24th. Please stop in and meet your teachers, new friends, old friends and our super administrative staff! You may want to wear your new uniform! Many families will bring in their supplies this day to ease the load on the first day of school. (Supply list further down in this document). It's a great day to check in with the Office or Bookkeeping to ensure we have all your materials and correct information. Mostly, it truly takes the edge off of any nervousness that may occur on the first day of school. We hope to see you here!

Arrival and Dismissal

The classroom opens at 8:30am. We ask that you please check in before 9am if possible, as many parts of our day begin promptly around that time. It also offers a time for “free choice” before the scheduled activities of the day begin. Announcements begin at 9am, and it is important for students to be part of Morning Prayer and any important information we need to share for the day. Once a month we attend Mass at 9am or Mrs. Brouse plans a Prayer Service promptly at 9, or a gathering for Rosary. On an ordinary day we begin the cleanup process in our room around 9:20 and begin “The Morning Show” at 9:30am. (Morning Meeting). Dismissal is from the Car Line at 3pm. If you need to come early to get to that Swim Lesson or Doctor appointment, please do so between 2:30-2:45 pm. If you write down on the Special Concerns of the Day sign-in sheet that an early dismissal will be happening, we will try our best to have your child ready to go when you arrive.

The Car line

If you are picking up in Car line please help us to ensure we get you on the road quickly by doing the following:

Placing your color-coded sign in the windshield.

Placing the student’s car seat on the passenger side of the vehicle if possible.

Please stay in your car.

Please do not cross the car line on foot.

Please limit conversations with child until after you leave the line.

Please do not jump the queue if you have your child ready and the family ahead of you isn’t quite settled yet.

School buses have the right of way. You will be directed by one of us when it is time to exit.

The car line usually averages 15 minutes in duration from the time we begin. At times, buses might arrive earlier than normal and then we will dismiss bus lines first. If you know you are running late plan to be at the end of line. Come in at 3:15 and you will find no wait. Also, please remember when jacket season begins to loosen the harnesses on the car seat.

Extended Day

Children not picked up by 3:20pm will be brought to Extended Day Program. If you know you might be late please phone the office and let us know. It is never too late to call and make arrangements to use the after school service. Mrs. Perez (my full time assistant) is the Extended Day coordinator which works out beautifully for children to exit with her after class is over. Extended Day closes at 5:30pm. If you require extended time in the morning, they open at 7:30am. Again, you do not need an appointment you can just drop off, just so long as we have all of your emergency paperwork, etc. The children are brought down from the Extended care room to the classroom at 8:30am. You are billed weekly for the service, and the invoice will be placed in your child's take home folder.

Uniforms

We begin classes in the *Summer Uniform*. (Please see **Uniform guidelines**). Usually, the beginning of the school year can still be quite warm. For those not from these parts, September and October are two of our BEST months for weather! Students will be in the “summer” uniform until Columbus Day weekend. Then for the boys the sweater vest/cardigan/pullover will be standard uniform with khaki pants. Girls, Jumper, knee socks or tights, mary-Jane style rubber sole brown/black shoe preferred. (Girls may also wear the “boy uniform” if they choose.) It's fine for students to wear sweater combos with shorts, especially on those chilly mornings.

(PLEASE LABEL ALL uniform pieces!) It is still a pretty strong sun in September, so you may want to pre-apply sunscreen before you leave the house. Teachers are not allowed to apply sunscreen.

Snacks and Supplies

I often let Mrs. Perez be in charge of this, if you have any questions. In Pre K we observe a “Community Snack”. You are required to bring a monthly snack donation for one day of snack and juice per month for the class. Honestly most anything works! Many families bring it the first of the month so they don’t forget. We have storage both in our closet and refrigeration. But the day might come and your child asks to bring a fun treat, as an example, Munchkins, so of course we will use that snack for that day. Same goes for fresh fruit, or Birthday snacks. Other snacks we will put away for other days and sometimes even pair up items such as Crackers and Cheese sticks, or Go-gurts and Graham Crackers. Juice is fine during this time. I do prefer them to have water or milk at lunch time if possible. Water bottles are always welcomed and live on the mailbox table throughout the day.

Sign-In in the Morning

Please know I am ALWAYS present at your sign-in. I love to be available for a Good Morning, and ask how things are going. (Some mornings I have faculty meetings, so I may be a few minutes later coming in than you.)

I ask you to sign in on the clipboard when you first enter.

Check off the necessary boxes of:

Milk

Extended Day

Special concerns for that day

Different Pick-up Driver

Students should place their folder, water bottles, and lunch boxes in the designated areas. I ask you to check your child's mailbox as well. If you do not Mrs. Perez will always place any items left behind into the folders before dismissal. The mailboxes are cleaned out daily. The child will walk their backpacks and coats to the closet, and then engage in their Free Choice activities. I ask you to please make your goodbyes short and sweet. Children with separation anxiety need to know that you trust us, and our school environment. They look to you for that comfort! Also, it might upset other children if you linger. Trust me, if anyone is truly struggling after your departure, I will be the first one to call you. You may use the red exit doors just outside of my classroom to get to the parking lot. Please make sure doors close properly behind you.

Parent Night

Our mandatory Parent Night is Wednesday September 12th at 6:30pm. The meeting begins with a welcome from Mrs. Brouse in the multi-purpose room. It also is a meeting to introduce the staff and faculty, review policies, discuss the Handbook, and meet the PTO. The meeting concludes in our classroom with Q&As between us about policies, reviewing our days, upcoming events for fall.

Field Trips

Pre K and Preschool enjoy many field experiences during the first part of the school year.

They are a huge part of our learning and tons of fun!
Our first field trip will be to the Eastons' Beach Save the Bay Aquarium as a part of our RI Sea Life unit. (End of September). We will need to obtain drivers to help shuttle our class over. ALL PARENTS interested in driving for field trips

MUST be screened, PLEASE SEE MRS K in the office ASAP if you intend to help us throughout the year with field trips, and other assignments. If you were screened last year you must be re-screened each year. Please do this soon and quickly, as it takes a few days/weeks for background check results to come back to us. It is always nice as well if you happen to own a big vehicle that can seat a few. Please let me know if you are interested as soon as possible. And... if your student does not come on a particular day that a trip is scheduled, you are more than welcome to join us providing you stay on with them. Typically fees average \$5, and usually you can bring a sibling or grandparent as well provided the fees are paid for them. Chaperoning trips is a great way to know the students of our classroom, and encourage friendships. Again, if you have been thinking about purchasing a Booster Seat now might be a great time!!

Holiday/Sick Days/Other:

We are closed during most Holidays that are recognized nationally. Those Holidays and Professional days are listed on your school calendar. We may also be closed during snow events, hurricane warnings, etc. Students are not permitted to make-up days if this day happens to fall upon their scheduled day. This also applies to sickness and planned vacations that do not coincide with our vacation days. However, if you need to plan a day to do something outside of your regular schedule, *and we have the space*, we will consider accepting the student for a daily fee.

Emergencies happen, If you need care for the day please inquire either with me, or Mrs. K.

Supply List

- Backpack LARGE (any style)**
- Lunch Box (contains Ice pack)**
- Take-Home Folder (Vinyl & pocketed)**
- 2// 8-pack Jumbo Crayola Classic Crayons**
- 2// 8-pack Crayola Washable Classic Markers**
- Package of Glue Sticks**
- 3-pack Lysol Disinfecting Table Wipes**
- 3 Rolls White Paper Towels**
- 1 Hand Sanitizer**
- 1 Package Plastic Spoons**
- 1 Package Plastic Forks**
- 1 Plain Paper Plates**
- 1 Change of uniform/underwear to be kept in classroom**
(At this time we do not need Tissues or Baby Wipes)

I encourage you to get into the habit of going through your child's folder nightly, as there is MUCH in the way of correspondence from both myself, the school office, and work/projects that your student is bringing home. At times, there may be timely paperwork or Birthday invites/thank you notes in the folders, as well as reminders from me for an upcoming event or a last minute change. Sometimes, I will enclose "homework" or catch up work...or maybe a topic of interest that can be discussed at home over the supper table. When I see positive exchanges happen in the room I always try to send a little note home so that you know our friends are all helping each other become better citizens/ Christians.

*The days of summer are short, please enjoy this time with your child.
These are special days indeed.*

Any questions:

Call or email me at:

dgrinnell@allsaintsacademy.org

missdawng@aol.com

All of our best for a wonderful school year,

Ms. Dawn Grinnell & Mrs. Silvia Perez