

# Catholic Academy of Niagara Falls

## Pre-K 4 Year Old Learning Standards



Our most important goal at the Catholic Academy Pre-K is to help our students become independent, self-confident, inquisitive learners. We are teaching them how to learn, not just in Pre-K, but all through their lives.

We strive to give the children good habits and attitudes, particularly a positive sense of themselves, which will make a difference throughout their lives.

We are following the NYS Core Curriculum which has been adopted by 48 states. The learning standards we teach are a part of the Board of Regents Guidelines.

In order to accomplish all these mandated learning standards we have adopted a four day program which we believe will help all the students succeed. Some of the standards are listed on the following pages.

### **English Language Arts**

- Identify upper and lower case letters
- Identify initial sounds in words
- Recall sequence and details of a story
- Recognize first and last name
- Recite full name and age
- Recognize the relationship between written and spoken words
- Understand proper positioning e.g. top/bottom, left/right
- Identify rhyming words
- Blend individual sounds in words
- Tap or count number of words in a sentence
- Identify parts of a book

### **Math**

- Distinguish between letters and numbers
- Use one to one correspondence when counting to 10
- Understand the concept of zero
- Understand the concept of addition and subtraction
- Identify shapes - Sorts, compares, classifies, and orders objects by more than one attribute
- Reproduce a simple pattern
- Use correct vocabulary that describes length, height, volume and size
- Use standard and non-standard methods to measure and make comparisons

## **Science**

- Ask “why”, “how”, and “what if” questions and seek information through experimentation and investigation.
- Record and organize data using graphs, charts, and science journals
- Classify things as living and non-living
- Describe simple life cycles of plants and animals
- Make age appropriate, logical conclusions about investigations

## **Fine Motor Development**

- Use proper pencil grip
- Print first and last name in correct letter order
- Use proper hold on scissors
- Be able to cut on a line
- Successfully trace an object
- Understand the concept of using real colors while coloring
- Draw a human figure with head, body, and arms

## **Listening/Speaking**

- Able to work independently to complete tasks
- Verbally participate in small or large group activities
- Take turns speaking
- Listen to others, be polite
- Follow multi- step directions
- Use language to express ideas, feelings, and needs
- Speaks clearly using volume, speed, and sentence structure

## **Computer**

- Explore the possibilities of computer usage
- Learn to navigate a website
- Be able to use a mouse correctly

## **Religion**

- Recite Angel of God, Our Father, and Hail Mary prayers
- Make the Sign of the Cross
- Express personal prayer petitions
- Understand Catholic traditions

## **Self-Help**

- Put on and take off coat
- Zippering
- Buttoning
- Independent bathroom skills
- Responsible for own belongings, school tools e.g. putting away crayons, cleaning work area
- Promote independence in all areas

# Catholic Academy of Niagara Falls

## Pre-K 4 Year Old Handbook



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Catholic Academy's Pre-K! We are so excited that you have chosen our school to assist in building your child's educational foundation. We are looking forward to all the exciting changes and learning that will occur.

During the Pre-K year, students learn important skills that will provide them with the cornerstones necessary for the development of later academic skills. Research confirms that the patterns of learning in Pre-K are closely linked to later achievement: children who develop more skills within the Pre-K year, have stronger foundations, and continue to perform better in the primary grades.

This handbook will answer some of the questions you may have and will be good to keep on hand for future reference. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Miss Maria



### School Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

**Arrival:** Pre-K will enter door #2 no earlier than 7:50 a.m. You may bring your child directly to their designated locker, where I will meet you in the hallway. If your child needs to attend morning latchkey, you may bring him/her any time after 7:00 a.m. to door #6. There is a \$3.50 charge for morning latch key.

**Dismissal:** Pre-K will be dismissed directly from the classroom to their parents. Please enter the building at door #2. **All parents should park on the opposite side of the parking lot, against the fence. This allows for the busses to get through.**



### Emergency Contact Forms

There are forms inside your folder to fill out authorizing who has permission to pick up your child and emergency information. Please fill out and return these forms ASAP. During the first few weeks, until we get to know everyone, we will be asking for ID at dismissal time. In case of emergency and someone new will be picking up your child, please notify us at 283-1455.

## Dress Code

I strongly encourage you to dress your child comfortably for school. When choosing their clothing, please keep in mind they will be taking care of bathroom needs independently. Pants that the children are able to manipulate themselves are best. One piece body suits should never be worn to school.

Children will need an extra set of clothes to be kept in a Ziploc bag in their cubbies in case of an accident.

## Show-N-Tell

Show-N-Tell is used as a language experience. Each child may bring one item which should be clearly marked with his/her name on it. Show-N-Tell will be on Mondays and will follow the weekly theme.

## Lunch

Pre-K will be eating lunch in the cafeteria at 11:00 a.m. The children may either buy or bring their lunch. If your child will be buying lunch, please indicate their lunch and milk choice on the lunch list located outside the classroom on the podium. Please put the appropriate amount in an envelope with your child's name on it. Lunch boxes will be stored on the shelf located outside the classroom.



## Snack

Each month you will receive a snack calendar that will indicate when your child's snack day is. We encourage you to bring in nutritious snacks. You will also need to provide a drink and napkins. Drink boxes work the best. No chocolate cupcakes or Oreos, please.

## Attendance

In Pre-K, regular and prompt attendance is very important. Our school day begins at 8:00 a.m. Daily lessons will begin at this time. Please make sure that your child is in the classroom by this time so he/she does not miss any of the daily directions.



## Homework

Students will have homework on Mondays and Wednesdays. Mondays they will complete the letter of the week page in their ABC Journal. On Wednesdays they will find the letter of the week on a letter and number search worksheet. Helping your child to complete homework is a great way to show that you value their school experience. However, it is

important to keep in mind that I am looking to assess your child's progress not yours. So please aid your children with their work but do not do it for them.



## Communication

Parent and teacher communication is key to your child's school success. We will be using a go home communication bag. We will be going through these bags on a daily basis. If you have any questions or concerns you can send me a note in the book bag and I will send you a reply. These bags will be used for communication only. Your child will need a back pack to take to school daily to transport shoes in the winter. There should also be a complete change of clothes kept in their bags as well, including underwear and socks in case of a bathroom accident.

## Book Orders

Each month we will be sending home Scholastic book orders. This is a great time for you to purchase books at a discounted price. Please send back the orders by the due date. Make checks payable to Scholastic.

## Rules and Classroom Management

**We have two main rules in our classroom.**

1. We never say we can't. We always just try and try.
2. We are a team and we all help each other. Teammates are respectful, they listen, they help.

Good behavior is rewarded daily by earning a stamp on your child's hand at the end of each school day, except for Fridays. On Fridays we have a big treat and good behavior is rewarded by a trip to the treasure chest. **Some days your child will not receive a reward. Please support us by helping your child understand what they need to do to be rewarded at the end of the day.**

## **September Fees:**

\$10.00 - Alphabet Journal, Classroom Journal and Communication Bag

\$25.00 - Rest Mat

\$12.00 - September Craft Fee, additional \$12.00 will be due in January

Any questions please feel free to ask me.

Thank you in advance for all your support and cooperation.

Miss Maria☺