



## **We Will Serve the Lord**

August, 2018

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Welcome to our St. Malachy School Family! I am truly excited for the 2018-2019 school year to begin with a new group of students and families to get to know! I have been teaching at St. Malachy Parish School for 36 years. My first three years were teaching in the third grade and the last 33 years I have been teaching kindergarten. I attended Purdue University and majored in Early Childhood Education. At IUPUI, I attended classes to be certified in Elementary Education. I received my Masters Degree in both fields from Butler University. Each year I attend professional conferences and in-services, as well as read professional books. My teaching partner, Jennifer O'Connor and I work together to plan our lessons each week, and we share many ideas and learn from each other. I am blessed to have a profession that I truly enjoy!!

My husband, Marty and I celebrated our 31st wedding anniversary in June. St. Malachy Parish is an important part of our lives and we strive to be active members. Our grown children are Nolan, who is working at BioStorage Technologies, and Bridget is working in Health Services Management.

I strongly feel that communication between parents and teachers is crucial for a successful year. Please contact me anytime that you have a question, concern, or comment, during the school day, by sending a note with your child in his/her folder, by emailing at [mfeeney@stmalachy.org](mailto:mfeeney@stmalachy.org), or leave a message on my voicemail at 852-2242, extension 7307. Let me know when the best time to reach you would be (evenings are fine, too), and I will get in touch with you within 24 hours.

Formal parent conferences will be held on October 17th & 18<sup>th</sup>. The weekly parent information letter is in our kindergarten blog on the school's webpage by Friday afternoon. Our report cards are very detailed and will be issued at the end of each grading quarter. If I have concerns about your child's progress between report cards, I will contact you and you may do the same if you have concerns.

Mrs. Alison Brittenham is the Kindergarten Instructional Aide for our classroom. She works with individual students who need extra help as well as small groups. We are blessed to have her!

**Please carefully read through our school's parent handbook and keep it handy.** It has important information for kindergarten families and contains answers to many questions! The parent handbook will be available on the school website.

God bless you,

Mrs. Mary Feeney

# PROCEDURES THAT HELP OUR DAY RUN SMOOTHLY

Please be sure that both parents as well as child care providers are aware of these routines! 6:45-7:20-Morning Care-for \$1 per child each day.

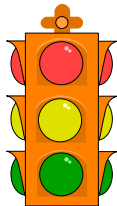
**MORNING ARRIVAL**-7:20 AM until 7:50 AM. **Tardy:** Children arriving after 7:50 AM need to report to the office through the front doors for a tardy pass. A staff member will then escort your child to the classroom after reporting to the school office. If you must walk your child to the classroom, please sign in at the office.

## **AFTERNOON DISMISSAL**

Dismissal is at 3:00 PM, **Wednesdays at 2:30 PM.**

Please see School Dismissal procedures and traffic patterns in the parent handbook.

Extended Day Care is available for an additional fee until 6:00 PM.



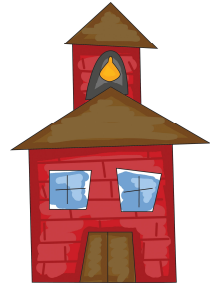
## **TRANSPORTATION CHANGES**

If your child is going home with someone different or a way that is different than usual (ie. from car rider to extended day), **send a written note in your child's folder.** Call the office if it is a last minute change by 2:30 so there will be time to get the message to the teachers. **Please do not use our voice mails or e-mails for this.**

# Daily Agenda

- ★ Arrival-by 7:50 AM
- ★ Morning Meeting-prayer, Bible verse, calendar, weather, how many days of school, choral fluency poetry reading, and movement songs on the Smartboard.
- ★ Snack
- ★ Reading Readiness
- ★ Recess-time may vary according to indoor/outdoor recess by outdoor temperature
- ★ Math
- ★ Writing Workshop
- ★ Lunch
- ★ Outdoor Recess- weather permitting
- ★ Teacher Read books to the class
- ★ Religion
- ★ Learning Centers
- ★ Specials Classes (are at different times on each day)
- ★ Dismissal- 3:00, **Wednesdays -2:30**

# Specials Schedule



- ☐ Monday-Music
- ☐ Tuesday-Library-please return books
- ☐ Wednesday-Mass, Gym- wear athletic shoes to school, Art
- ☐ Thursday-Art, Gym- wear athletic shoes
- ☐ Friday-Computer, Spanish

# Lunch Schedule



**Please pack your child's lunch so your child can open all the food independently, so he/she can eat right away instead of waiting for an adult to help him/her.** For instance, children have a difficult time opening Lunchables, so pack it in baggies. **Your child needs to be able to tell us what your child is doing for lunch at 8 AM for our lunch counts:**

- packer with no milk
- packer and needs milk
- tray lunch with entrée
- tray lunch with turkey sandwich
- salad

Lunch is from 12:10 to 12:30. You are welcome to meet us by the lunch line and join your child. Please email the office by 7:50 am, if you will need an adult lunch or salad. No fast food may be brought in please.

# Snacks

## Peanut and Nut Free

Here are the guidelines for snacks:

- **Pack the snack separately (but may be stored in lunchbox if needed) and your child knows where to locate it.**
- something that can be eaten with a 5 minute time period.
- Snacks are not shared with others, if they don't bring one, they don't eat. (We will provide a box of crackers for the first week only, in case someone forgets.)
- Snacks must be healthy-**NO PEANUTS, NUTS, OR PEANUT OIL PLEASE, not high in sugar and no candy, desserts, chips are not allowed. Please be aware of the amount of sugar per serving. 4 grams of sugar equals 1 teaspoon of sugar, (32 grams of sugar=8 teaspoons of sugar!)**
- **We will drink water from their daily water bottles brought to school-no additional drinks are needed. Please send in a full, flip-top refillable water bottle daily.**

*\*It is best to avoid, granola/granola bars, trail mix, cheese and crackers (unless packaged at home or on this specific list), chex mix.*

**Please use the following extensive list as a good guideline. Please check all packaging to make sure it does not contain peanuts, peanut oil or made in a factory that makes peanut products even if it is on this list as things can change. This can all be found on the side of the packaging by the nutrition information.**

Fresh fruits and veggies such as carrots,  
celery, apples, bananas, strawberries, grapes,  
oranges, pineapple, etc

Fruit cups

Dole FruitnGel Bowls

Yogurts- Not soy brands (Danimals)

Jello cups

Cottage cheese cups

Cheese sticks or cubed cheeses

Goldfish

Rold Gold Pretzels

Snyders of Hanover Pretzels

Packaged fruit snacks-(tend to be high in sugar)

Fruit rollups

Animal crackers

Pepperidge Farm Cheddar Goldfish (only plain, pretzel or cheddar. **Not Cinnamon Grahams**)

Sargento- Mootown Crackers & Cheese Dip

Keebler Town House Crackers

Sportz Cheddar Crackers

Kraft Handi-Snacks Cinnamon Graham

Crackers with Applesauce Dip

Kraft Handi-Snacks Crackers with Cheese Dip

Wheat Thins

Triscuits

Honey Maid - Cinnamon Grahams & Sticks,

Honey Grahams & Sticks

Applesauce

Popcorn cakes-check labels to be sure

Prepopped popcorn-Pop Secret, Orville

Redenbacher, Healthy Choice

Raisons

Teddy Grahams

Kellogg's (ONLY) fruit bars

# ABC's for KINDERGARTEN PARENT INFORMATION

Please save this! It will answer many questions.  
It will also be on our kindergarten blog on the school website.



- **ABSENCE PROCEDURES**
  - **CHILD OF THE WEEK**
  - **ORDERS FOR BOOK CLUBS**
  - **RECOGNITION AWARDS**
  - **SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS**
- And much more general information!**

## **ABSENCES**

***Parents must call the office by 8:30AM to report an absence.*** We will make up any essential work with your child for excused absences, a little each day during learning center time. Anything sent home does not need to be returned. It is our school policy that students absent for family vacations will not be given work before the absence, and all work will be made up at home following your child's return..

## **BE PUNCTUAL and BIRTHDAYS**

It is a good habit to be punctual and it starts your child's day off well!

Your child's birthday will be recognized by singing to him/her and have a special sticker and crown to wear. Summer birthdays will be recognized in May. **Due to state guidelines, birthday treats and treat bags are not allowed. Our school policy is not to pass out party invitations and thank you notes.** You will receive a school directory with the addresses and phone numbers of your child's classmates. Treat bags are also not permitted for holiday parties.

## **CHILD OF THE WEEK**

The order of the names on the list is made by drawing names randomly. One day during the week your child will share their page from the Class Album. Curious George materials will be sent home with the child. During the week, the class will draw pictures of the child and dictate something that they like to do with the child and this will be bound into a booklet. On Friday, the child will return the Curious George materials, and we will read the story about what they did at your house during that week.

\*If either or both parents are welcome to come in sometime during your child's week to read your child's favorite story! You may read two short books, or one longer book- for about 10 minutes. You may come together or on separate days. **Please check with us about the time and date beforehand.** Younger siblings are welcome! If you are unable to visit our classroom or do not feel comfortable reading to the class, just send in your child's book and we will be glad to read it to the class as time allows during the week.

**DRESS** your child in uniform. Please see your parent handbook for specifics.

**EXERCISE** is an important part of learning and it truly wakes up your brain! We do exercises that cross the mid-line of the body to help the two sides to the brain to talk to each other better! The kindergartners use Minds in Motion maze activities.

**FORGOTTEN ITEMS and FIELD TRIPS**-It is not necessary to go back home to retrieve items such as book bags, library books, etc. There isn't anything that we can't live without. If a library book is forgotten, please return the old book the next day. We take two field trips with five parent chaperones for each field trip. We will ask for chaperones closer to the time of each field trip.

**GYM** class is twice a week.

**HELP** your child to be prepared for school the night before! This will help them learn the days of the week and remember whether they need to return a library book, and it will help prevent scrambling before school.

**INSIDE** the school office is a Sign-In sheet. *All parents and other visitors are asked to sign in each time they enter and leave the school building only through the front doors and wear a security badge.*

**JESUS** is present in our classroom and the reason for our school. The kindergarten children's hearts are very receptive to learning about God!

**KINDERGARTEN** names are written with a capital (upper case) letter at the beginning, but all other letters are small (lower case) ex- Jennifer O'Connor. Please help your child to learn to print his/her name in this form.

**LABEL** all jackets, boots, backpacks, etc. with your child's name.

**MONEY** and checks should always be sent in an envelope labeled with your child's name and what purpose the money is for.

**NOTES** to us should be sent in your child's folder in the book bag. **Your child will open his/her backpack upon arriving in the classroom to check the folders daily** and it is expected for you to check it as well, for correspondence, projects, papers, and notes from me. **Please empty the folder daily.** The children learn responsibility by bringing the folder back and forth every day. **Please have your child choose one folder so that your child doesn't have to look through multiple folders for your notes.**

### **ORDERS FOR BOOK CLUBS**

We place monthly optional orders from Scholastic Book club. They offer good literature selections and are reasonably priced. If you wish to order, we will send home instructions how to order online with the monthly selections. Watch the due dates on the order forms. Your ordered items will be sent to our classroom and we will place them in your child's backpack. The best part for our class is that we earn free books and materials through these orders.

**PARTIES**- Room parents will assign six parent volunteers each for the Halloween, Christmas, Valentine, and Easter parties.

**QUESTIONS** from you are always welcome! **Email is the best way to get in touch with us.** If you need to leave us a phone message, call 852-2242 our extension: Mrs. Feeney is 7307, Mrs. O'Connor is 7316. .

**RECOGNITION AWARDS**- Big R weekly award- All children receive this for being responsible, respectful, and resembling Jesus and have a visit with our principal, Mrs. Bostrom on Fridays. In December and May there are three awards for two children for each award-Wisdom, Leadership and Service.

**ST. MALACHY** is our Patron Saint. St. Malachy was a bishop in Ireland. He was a Church leader until his death at 41 years. His feast day is on November 3.

**TOYS** should be left at home. We have so much power-packed learning going on that we don't want to spend time settling squabbles, looking for lost parts, or mending broken hearts over broken toys.

**USUALLY** a newsletter from us will be posted by Friday afternoons on our Kindergarten Blog on the school website. This newsletter will explain what topics the children will be learning about and upcoming events. It will give you clues about what to ask your youngster and discuss what we have been doing at school.

### **VOLUNTEERS**

Please fill out the PTO volunteer sheet if you wish to help in our school in any capacity. P.T.O. needs many volunteers for their committees in order to provide support for our school. Room mothers and fathers help by coordinating helpers for our holiday parties. Individual recipes are made during some of the parties. **It is our school policy that younger siblings are not allowed to attend parties so that your full attention can be on the kindergartners.**

**WEB SITE** is [www.stmalachy.org/school](http://www.stmalachy.org/school). We will post our weekly newsletters on it. Please refer to our Kindergarten Blog page throughout the year where all of these important documents will be in a sidebar called "Resources". Another side bar lists upcoming events.

**EXTENDED DAY Program** is available until 6:00 P.M. for additional fees. Please check in the office for more information.

**YOU are the most important teacher that your child has, especially about Religion.** Your child will mirror your attitude toward school. Let your child know that what happens in school is a priority for you. **Please have your child get plenty of rest at night –asleep by 8:00-and eat a healthy breakfast before attending school.** He/she will be able to learn and get along with his/her classmates so much better!

**ZIPPING** one's own jacket and pants, and tying one's own shoes makes a child feel confident and independent, but it comes with practice and the coordination and development of small muscles. **Please practice your address with town/city, phone number, birth date and tying shoes with your child.**



### **St. Malachy Parish School Home Activities**

*It is our belief that children in Kindergarten should not have daily pencil/paper homework because it is developmentally inappropriate for the age. However, that is not to say that Kindergartners should not be doing activities that are a learning experience which build background knowledge and a solid foundation for more abstract learning in the future. We will not be sending homework home to be returned for a grade, but the following is a list of ideas that are developmentally appropriate and you may do as home activities to extend your child's learning as you wish.*

Keep the black and white readers sent home from us in a gallon Ziplock baggie and read 2-3 nightly.



Standards practice Go Math worksheets are sent home that correspond with the current Math lesson. These are a great way to practice the skills and review previous skills. **They do not need to be returned to school.**

Have your child make books (2 pieces of paper folded and stapled) write about and illustrate things that they have experienced.

Write a story dictated by your child and then have them reread it to you many times.

Write their letters/high frequency words in sand, sugar, salt, shaving cream, or pudding.

Read a book (This could be a higher level book like Magic Tree House) daily to your child, asking them questions for understanding and having them retell the story.

Make/play a memory game with the high frequency words on index cards.

Graph candies like M&Ms or Skittles by colors, what do you have more/less/equal?

Ask them oral story problems such as if you have 3 kids and each one wants 4 slices of pizza how many slices of pizza will you need? Or hand them 2 forks and say, "We need 6 forks for our family to eat. How many more forks will you need from the drawer?"

Have him/her count to 100 by ones, tens, fives, and maybe even twos.

Order numbers on index cards first to 10 then when ready to 20.

Play hopscotch and identify the number the rock/bean bag lands on.

Find shapes, letters, high frequency words, in our environment while riding in the car or cut out of magazines.

Place items like Cheerios or dry noodles in a baggie and have them estimate the number and then count the items. Increase the number of items as you find appropriate.

Take them to the zoo and truly discuss what they are seeing adding descriptive words such as the "elongated neck of the giraffe." These experiences will add to their decoding, comprehension, and writing content in school.

Use activities on these websites with your child-[www.child-brainconnection.com](http://www.child-brainconnection.com) ; [www.tracerpages.com](http://www.tracerpages.com); and [www.starfall.com](http://www.starfall.com).

Have your child help you plant in your garden and discuss the things the plant needs to grow such as water, dirt, and sun. Create your experiences like this---catch a bug in a bug catcher and observe it for days and journal the observation such as what it eats, what it looks like, how long it lives! ☺