



Dear Family,

We are so thrilled to have your child/children in our Kindergarten class! We have 58 years combined teaching experience and we are so excited to share with you what we have been planning the last year and a half. We are very eager to provide a fun, enriching learning experience for the students, and we know that this will be a wonderful, memorable year. These little ones make it so easy!

Philosophy:

We believe in a classroom environment in which children feel safe, comfortable, valued and loved. To truly engage learners, teachers must realize how they teach is as important as what they teach. All students will feel affirmed, engaged, and supported. We want to help them be the best little people they can be academically, socially, and emotionally. We feel so blessed to be such an important part of this faith journey.

Communication:

We are excited to work as a team to ensure the best education possible for your child, so please do not hesitate to contact us. The best way to reach us is through email (kriss@ihomschool.org, julief@ihomschool.org, karene@ihomschool.org), which we check frequently. In case of an emergency please call the school office and they will send the message immediately. If you need to let us know about a change in dismissal, an immediate family matter, or a volunteer cancellation, you must send a note in with your child. We will be sending home a weekly newsletter and a Wednesday envelope which will contain important information from the office (this should be returned with your child every Thursday morning). Don't forget to check our Kindergarten web site for pictures, information, Lifetime word list, decodable word list and links.

Daily Schedule:

We will be sending home a daily schedule after the first week of school, but this schedule will be very flexible. Each day the students will participate in

class prayer, a formal religion class and attend weekly Thursday Mass at 8:10. We welcome all parents at Mass but please know that your child will be sitting with their class and teachers. A block of time will be devoted to literacy. Reading workshop, writer's workshop, literacy stations, and social centers will be the fundamental components of the literacy program; there will be a variety of whole group, small group, and individual instruction. The first month of school will consist of many whole group activities to build community, establish routine, and to gauge the instructional needs of each child. We will have a morning snack, drink, and recess break. We also will be devoting much of the afternoon to math using the Singapore Math Program. We will be integrating science, health, and social studies throughout the curriculum. Mid-afternoon the children will have a short read, write, and rest period. Music and art will be incorporated daily in the classroom. The children will attend the following specials: computer, P.E., Spanish, library, and music.

Snack: Children will be able to purchase a milk or water from the cafeteria or may bring in a small drink (no soda is permitted). They will also be able to bring in their own nutritious snack but please remember we are a peanut free zone.

Lunch: Mon. 12:10 - 12:40
 Tues. 12:30- 1:00
 Wed. 12:30 - 1:00
 Thurs.12:35 - 1:05
 Fri. 12:10 - 12:40

We will be sharing the cafeteria with the first and second graders. After lunch just the Kindergarteners will have recess together outside.

Homework:

A brief amount of homework in kindergarten builds a positive mindset as well as a routine for the upcoming years. Homework will be given on Mondays and Wednesdays. As the year progresses, the children will bring home "Take Home" books. More information will come home when we begin this activity.

Volunteers:

Volunteers are much loved and appreciated! There is a sign up sheet on the round table. Volunteers will mostly be working with the students in small

groups. We also love to have volunteer readers come to our class on Wednesday mornings at 8:15 to read a favorite book from their house. This usually only takes about 15 minutes and is a great opportunity for working parents who may not be able to volunteer during the day. Sign up is on the "Parent Picks" sheet. We are only able to accept volunteers in the classroom and on field trips who have been fingerprinted and have taken the Child Protection Class here at IHM. Fingerprinting can be completed tonight in the Church offices. Remember to always wear the lanyard each time you volunteer.

It is important for children to learn the routine and become comfortable in the classroom environment before we begin a volunteer schedule. We will be welcoming volunteers in mid September and will send home a schedule. Thank you in advance for devoting your time, support, and energy to our classroom!

Student of the Week:

Every child will have the opportunity to be "Student of the Week." This is a special week for each student to create a simple book about him/herself and share it with the class. An example and more information will be sent home prior to when your child is student of the week.

Birthdays:

The Kindergarteners love celebrating birthdays by wearing a special badge, eating a special treat, receiving a special wish book and having the class sing and say a special prayer in their honor. It is so helpful if you would send in an individually wrapped treat in a sandwich bag. If a child cannot finish a treat or would like to bring it home they are able to zip it back up. Just a reminder that these treats should also be peanut free.

Important Facts:

- Individual testing will be completed by the end of September.
- Planning for field trips is in the works. Gwen Roth from Hamilton County will be coming to our rooms to give 3 presentations. PTO will also be bringing in presentations to the school.
- Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Kiessler, and Mrs. Dietz will be our full-time teaching assistants.

- In the morning car riders and bus riders will meet in the music room and be escorted to the Kindergarten rooms by 8:00. Although this might be difficult the first few weeks of school, it is usually best to give a quick good-bye hug at the door/bus. Lingering good-byes can cause anxiety in some children, and it is important for you to depart before your child enters the music room door. It makes the transition easier, and it will only take a few days before a comfortable routine is established. It is also so important to establish this routine right at the beginning. If your child will typically be a bus rider it is best to start on day 1. Apple Moms will be there to assist the first month of school.
- If you will be picking up your child after school please wait in the cafeteria and your child will be brought to you by the assistants. If there is a change in the routine dismissal of your child, please make sure to send in a visible note. A note is required or a call to the office; there will be no exceptions.
- Please check your child's "Go Home" folder (empty it) each night and help them organize their book bag for the next day.
- Please write your child's name and bus number home with a permanent marker on the outside of their I.H.M. book bag.
- Write your child's name in all sweatshirts, jackets, and lunchboxes.
- If your child is prone to accidents, please keep an extra set of bottoms in a Ziploc bag to be kept in their book bag.
- The first 3 half days are a great time to ask or discuss with us any questions or concerns you may have when you pick your child up at 11:30 in the Kindergarten building.

We are anticipating a wonderful school year with your child. Thank you for the trust and responsibility you are giving to us. Kindergarten is such a big year of growth and achievement and we are thankful for your support!

Many Blessings,
 Mrs. Easley
 Mrs. Forsthoefel
 Mrs. Speelman

Information about your child:

Please take a moment this week to write a paragraph to me about your child as well as a family picture (no larger than 5x7). You are the expert on your child and can share lots of valuable information. We would love to know anything that would be helpful in making your child more comfortable and happy in the classroom. Please return as soon as possible. Thanks!