



Sacred Heart Early Childhood Center



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August 2020

WELCOME

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year. We look forward to getting to know your child and family. The Parent Information Meeting is scheduled for July 29, 2020 @ 6:00 PM and will be held in the VPK / B&A Building. Due to the current restrictions, we ask that only one parent from each household attend the information meeting. If your child lives in two households, one member from each household may attend. We ask that the children do not attend the information meeting. You may schedule time to bring your child to the Early Childhood Center between 9:00 and 11:30 on August 5th and August 6th to meet Ms. Ida, Ms. Debbie, and Ms. Angie.

As you know, the Pasco County School Board and the Diocese of St. Petersburg pushed back school start dates to August 24th. The VPK Start date will also be pushed back to August 24th.

Please note that the Move-Up date for currently attending children will remain August 3rd.

COVID -19

Due to the continued concern for the safety and health of your children and our teachers, we will continue to screen children everyday before they are allowed to enter the classrooms. Screenings include a temperature check as well as a visual check for signs of illness such as over fussiness, fatigue or out of character behavior. We have implemented additional handwashing breaks during the day for the children and teachers, additional cleaning and disinfection procedures are in place inside the classroom and outside on the playground.

In an effort to cut down on dirt and germs, all children will need a pair of inside “Shoes and Socks” to wear inside the classroom. Street shoes will be worn while playing outside.

We ask that ALL children arrive no later than 9:30 AM. All children that stay all day will need a 1 inch red and blue kinder mat for nap time. DCF regulations require these mats to be free of rips or tears. If your child’s mat becomes torn, it must be replaced immediately. We suggest purchasing two while they are in stock for future use.

COMMUNICATION

WEEKLY PEEKS!

Introducing our new “Weekly Peeks” beginning August 3rd. Communication is especially important to us. The Weekly Peek will provide you with a “peek” at what is happening in your child’s classroom and offer you home extension activities of the curriculum. The Weekly Peek will also be used to keep you informed of classroom news, events and any supplies needed.

REMIND APP

Please sign up for the REMIND App for parent teacher communication, pictures, and reminders about classroom events.

WEBSITE

Please Visit our Website at www.sacredheartecc.com for event dates, newsletters, distance learning videos, weekly peeks, resources and other parent information as well as our virtual tour.

FACEBOOK

Currently attending families may request access to our CLOSED Facebook page. Pictures of daily life here at SHECC can be found here. We ask that all members of our Facebook page do not repost pictures without permission due to children’s privacy and safety concerns. Only pictures of children that have written permission will be posted on the page.

In addition to our CLOSED page, we also have a Public Facebook where we can share photos, events and advertise our center to the public. Please like our page and share with your friends. which will increase traffic to our page.

BILLING

Statements go out each Friday for the week or month in advance for only those with balances. Weekly payments are due every Monday for the week in advance. Monthly payments are due no later than the 7th for the month in advance. Finance charges will accrue on past due balance. Please refer to your parent handbook for additional fees associated with late payments, late care, no call notices, etc.

We appreciate your cooperation in providing timely payments for your child’s care. Please contact our business office either via phone or via email at business@sacredheartecc.com for questions or concerns about your billing.

CHARACTER KIDS



Have you met Keisha, Brandi, Alex, Ricky, and Scooter? These five kids are here to Save the Day and help us learn how to be Super Friends by being Kind, Cooperative, Responsible, Honest and Brave.

When children emulate these traits, we make sure to let them know!

The Lakeshore Character Kids are part of the Social and Emotional Curriculum used to teach pro-social skills to the children from Infants through school agers. These traits are incorporated into our School Rules and can be extended by you at home.

I Will Play Responsibly.

I Will be Kind and Cooperative.

I Will be a Problem Solver.

I Will Speak My Words.

I Will be Honest When I Make a Mistake.

STAFF UPDATES

Please congratulate Ms. Amanda, Ms. Natalie, Ms. Victoria, Ms. Eloisa, and Ms. Jessica for completing the 144-hour classroom portion of the CDA Apprenticeship Class. They will continue to complete their 2000 OJT hours towards Certification. Way to Go Ladies!! We are enormously proud of you!!

Curriculum

Sacred Heart ECC uses “*The Creative Curriculum*”, which is a hands-on play-based activity curriculum, to meet the “*Florida Early Learning and Developmental Standards*”. Each classroom from Infants through VPK participate in activities based on age and developmentally appropriate learning goals and objectives. Our Before and After School program incorporates the Florida Education Standards for K- 8 to plan meaningful activities that extend school learning and children’s interest.

We use the “*Bright Beginnings*” and “*Discovering God’s World*” curriculum to guide children to an understanding of God’s awesome love for them by making God a part of our everyday life. Children learn that God made all things, and made each of us, as special individuals in His Image and that all life is sacred. They learn that God provides all that we need. The Foundations of Faith will be taught through the year with focuses on *Creation and how God made everything, Sin and Consequences, The Bible and God’s Word, The Road to Bethlehem and Christmas, The Miracle of Easter, Jesus’s Prayer and Fruits of the Spirit*

Our center wide Learning Units for the year will be ...

Creating Our Community, The Senses, Advent/ Christmas, Colors, Lent/Easter, Life on Earth, and Water.

Through these units, the teachers will present age appropriate learning concepts and developmental skills that each child needs to reach their full potential. We strive to foster a love of learning and curiosity about the world around us in every child. Young children learn best through open ended hands-on activities that

incorporate as many senses as possible. Language, Math, Science, Engineering, Reading and Writing Concepts are taught through daily hands-on activities.

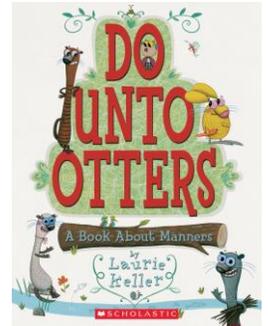
Our first unit, “*Creating Our Community*”, focuses on building our classroom community. This includes learning about the classroom, routines, rules, and expectations. We focus heavily on Pro-Social and Emotional Skills during this time. The Character Kids, Skillstreaming, The Pyramid Model and Second Step curriculums complement each other and provide the framework for our social and emotional curriculum.

Role play and appropriate modeling of behaviors is key in teaching children how to communicate and solve problems. *Respect* is a key focus in the discussions we have when talking with

children about behaviors and how people should treat each other and the property of others, as well as our own. We ask that families join us in “*Expecting Respect*”.

Children should be respected and heard. Children should also be expected to respect their parents, grandparents, siblings, teachers and other students and the belongings of others. A great book for young children is “*Do Unto Otters*” by Laurie Keller.

This is a fun book for teaching children about manners and the “Golden Rule”.



We use a Center Tag System, Daily Schedule, and Job Charts in our classrooms to help children learn to plan their day and make choices about the activities they would like to experience and complete.

Persistence is another key focus throughout the year. Trying when something is hard and trying again when something does not work are important for teaching all age children that they can accomplish anything as long as they keep trying. Support and encouragement are important for children to obtain mastery, which comes through practice, repetition, and persistence.

Children naturally crave independence and the need to do things on their own. Even the youngest child gets frustrated when they are not given the opportunity to do something by themselves. The phrase “I DO IT!” can often be heard by young children. It is vital to let the children have time to complete task and be successful. Those small successes build confidence and the desire to try more, become curious about more and ultimately learn more.

The staff and I welcome you and look forward to a fun filled year of growth and educational accomplishments. We pray for an end to Covid-19 and all the extensive effects it is having on everyday life. In lieu of a traditional open house night, I invite you to visit our website and watch the virtual tour of our facility and sample the Distance Learning videos made by our teachers. If you have any questions you may call the center or email them to me at director@sacredheartecc.com.

Blessings,

Lucinda O’Quinn, Director