

Our Pandemic Response

LIMITED GROUPINGS St. Mary's will keep children in the same group, in the same room with the same instructors through the St. Mary's school day.

During this crisis, all groups will have 2 Instructors in each classroom from 9-1.

DROP OFF / PICK UP

To follow the Department of Families and Children COVID-19 guidelines at drop-off and pick-up, parents will not be allowed inside the classroom.

Though "masks are a must" in Orange county, children in childcare are exempt and *we are not requiring children to wear masks* during our school day.

Depending on each child's classroom, parents will have a designated Pick-up and Drop-off location, this will keep children in the same group. Parents will need to wait for their child to be screened for signs of illness daily, this includes a temperature check. We require that fever reducers not be given to child on any day of attendance, regardless of the reason for fever reducer.

Your child's attendance will be monitored by your child's teacher, the use of the SmartCare clock in/out system will not be used this year at St. Mary's Preschool.

SNACKS AND LUNCH

This year we have fun plans for snack time! Parents are off the hook, and **will not need** to pack **water bottles or juice**. St. Mary's will be providing filtered water at snack, lunch and throughout the day. Your child will be kept hydrated, but water bottles must stay at home. Parents will provide their child's snack. Snacks **must** arrive in a **Zip-lock bag (or if a dry item in a brown lunch bag) LABELED** with your child's name. The snack must be disposable – nothing to return home.

If your child is staying for Lunch Bunch, lunch boxes must be clearly labeled and contain a **cold pack** if needed. Lunch this year will NOT be refrigerated. Lunches are not heated but you may use a thermos for hot items. NO drink, cookies, candies or cakes please.

STUDENT SUPPLIES

This year **NO Backpacks** will be allowed in the classroom. We understand that the picking out of the backpack is a school tradition, feel free to allow your child to bring it to drop-off but it will need to return to the car with Mom or Dad.

At orientation, parents will be asked to bring one zip-lock bag with a complete change of clothes for your child. This change of clothes will be kept in your child's classroom in case of emergency. If it is used, soiled clothes will be returned to you in the zip-lock bag to be replaced.

Parent information may be handed out at pick-up but we also plan to email much of our communication to parents this year.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

St. Mary's Preschool will continue to strictly adhere to our health policies, if children show signs of illness during care, parents will be called to retrieve the child within 30 minutes and the child will be kept isolated from the group. Any student with a fever of more than 100.4 must remain out of school for 48 hours after the fever has broken without fever reducing medications. We will not allow a doctor's note for returning before the 48 hours. Students with a cough and a fever will be required to be seen by a medical professional with-in 24 hours.

A stringent cleaning schedule is in place to sanitize surfaces and toys, throughout the St. Mary's day, including the use of a UV sanitizing wand. Children will be washing their hands throughout the day in addition to the use of hand sanitizer.

Please understand that our procedures and policies have been put in place for the safety of all families and in the best interest of the children.

TRANSITION

We know that leaving your child in the hands of others whether for the first time or in a time of changing procedures can be a very emotional and challenging process. Feel free to stay close and trust that we will call you if the transition does not go well, and parent comfort is needed. Parents are welcome to call during the day to check up on their child. We share a common goal of a successful transition and a positive preschool experience