



# REGISTRATION NEWSLETTER

January 2019



## *Growing with God...*

*Where the joy of learning is nurtured through socialization and play as we grow in our love of Jesus.*



Welcome to St. Michael Catholic Preschool! The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you of our philosophy, programs, registration process, and some general administrative policies. Please call, stop by during office hours, or email if you have any further questions.

St. Michael Preschool offers half-day programs for children ages 2-5, including a Developmental Kindergarten. We also offer Extended Day Programs such as daily Early Arrival, weekly Lunch Bunch, and monthly Adventure Camps.

Our primary focus at St. Michael Preschool is to nurture the love of learning through socialization and play while growing in our love of Jesus. We provide a safe and loving environment where children can grow through meaningful age-appropriate experiences. Your child will build their self-confidence, self-esteem, and a sense of wonder about the world around them.

It is through a strong home-school connection that we can foster the best start for your children. We accept the responsibility to keep you informed of the pre-kindergarten or kindergarten readiness concepts and skills being taught. Furthermore, parent participation is encouraged and welcomed as we work together to support the preschool's mission.

Thank you for entrusting your children's very special years to us. **May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him... Romans 15:13**  
Blessings,

*Lisa Ciesla*

Preschool Director

[lciesla@stm Cary.org](mailto:lciesla@stm Cary.org)

## MISSION STATEMENT:

### *OUR REASON FOR BEING*

*St. Michael Preschool is an important mission of St. Michael Roman Catholic Church. We provide a safe and loving environment in which children can grow socially, emotionally, mentally, creatively, and spiritually. In this preschool, children discover the inherent goodness in all that they are and how God is a part of their everyday lives.*



*"Play is the work of children" is St. Michael Preschool's educational philosophy. A philosophy supported by leading early childhood researchers.*

**St. Michael Preschool** serves 156 children; 30 children in our two-year-old program, 60 children in the three-year-old program, 50 children in the four-year-old program and 16 children in the Developmental Kindergarten.

Each classroom has a lead teacher and teacher assistant. Teachers in our three, four, and five-year-old programs have a Bachelor's Degree in Education or are certified with an Early Childhood Credential. Staff members receive first aid, EpiPen, and CPR training and take continuing education classes yearly.





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### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS**

Our programs offer a developmentally appropriate curriculum, and each level builds on the previous one. Faith development, music and movement, language and literacy, creative expression, math, and science are all included in our everyday activities in the classroom. Learning objectives within each of these areas are addressed as children participate in hands-on activities that engage their curiosity and interests while helping them to develop self-confidence in a fun and safe Catholic community. Whether exploring the many facets of dinosaurs, traveling to Mexico, England, or the moon, retelling a felt board Bible story, play-acting classic fairy tales, collecting bugs, or experimenting with erupting volcanoes, our goal is to expose the children to a wide variety of thematic units and provide a joyful atmosphere of learning through socialization and play.

Units are designed to develop prekindergarten and kindergarten readiness skills. In addition to regular classroom activities and outdoor play, the children attend music and movement 1-2 days a week and monthly Church Mornings. A variety of in-house field trips occur throughout the year in order to bring the community to the children as well as provide enrichment in the cultural arts.

### **AGE REQUIREMENTS**

The director reserves the right to extend the cut-off date for all programs. Children in our three, four, and five-year-old programs must be independently toilet trained. NO EXCEPTIONS. Neither pull-ups nor diapers are permitted.



### **TWO-YEAR-OLD – Two Day (M/W or T/TH): Two by 8/31/19**

The two-year-old program has 10 children in each class. It is an opportunity for parents to have time away while their children play and socialize in a safe caring environment. Depending on the needs of the children and the class as a whole, parents or caregivers may be asked to help in the classroom on a rotating basis. Activities are developmentally appropriate for the age of the children.



### **THREE-YEAR-OLD – Two Day (T/TH), Three Day (M/W/F), or Four Day (M-Th): Three by 8/31/19**

There are 15-16 children in the three-year-old classrooms. The 3's program places significant emphasis on socialization. The teachers strive to help the children build self-confidence and self-esteem while they learn through play. We encourage and promote interest in imaginative, solitary, and cooperative play. These activities are enriched with music and stories to learn shapes, colors, and counting while also developing fine and gross motor skills.



### **FOUR-YEAR-OLD – Four Day (M-TH), Four Day (T-F), or Five Day (M-F): Four by 8/31/19**

The four-year-old classes have 16-18 children. The program consists of an array of thematic units that teach kindergarten readiness skills in a fun, rewarding, and age-appropriate way. Children are encouraged to look for peer relationships, play cooperatively, explore, create, and contribute to group activities. A multi-sensory handwriting approach is utilized and continued development of fine and gross motor skills are integrated.



### **FIVE-YEAR-OLD – Five Day (M-F): Five by 10/31/19**

The DK program has 16-18 children in the class. This program offers a “kinder, gentler” approach for children who need an extra year to grow before entering a full-day kindergarten. Readiness to learn and question, interest in pretend play, construction and simple games, and utilization of the children’s developing sense of responsibility are all cultivated through this curriculum.





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### PRESCHOOL HOURS

School begins at 9:30 am each morning and ends at 12:30 pm each afternoon. Children need to know that someone will bring them to school on time and be waiting when school is over. Therefore, please be prompt both in bringing your child to school and in picking him/her up. Activities begin promptly each day and are disrupted by late arrivals.

### EXTENDED DAY PROGRAMS

#### EARLY ARRIVAL

An early arrival program is available for all enrolled children Monday through Friday beginning at 8:15 am. The cost is \$7 per day, or \$5.50 per day if your child attends weekly throughout the school year. Classroom and teacher assignments will vary each day and will be provided upon arrival. Students in the morning program will split their time between the classroom and playground. Snack or breakfast is not provided during this program. Children are escorted to their regular classrooms at 9:15 am.



#### LUNCH PROGRAM

St. Michael Preschool offers a lunch program for children in the 3, 4, and 5-year-old classes. Children stay from 12:30-1:30 pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for a fee of \$7 per day, or \$5.50 per day if your child attends weekly throughout the school year. Students will need to bring a peanut/nut-free lunch, and weather permitting, will go outside on the playground after they have finished eating.

#### ADVENTURE CAMPS

Adventure Camps are offered once a month, typically on the first Thursday and Friday from 12:30 – 2:00 pm. It is offered to all students in 3, 4, and 5-year-old preschool programs. Students in Adventure Camp will need to bring a peanut/nut-free lunch. Following lunch, students will explore, create, and investigate based on the theme for the day. The Fee is \$12.50 per camp.



### APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are accepted online with a registration fee of \$125. The application can be found on our website at [www.stmichaelpreschool.com](http://www.stmichaelpreschool.com), follow the link to "Registration". Review application tips on our website for guidance in submission.

Parishioners who are interested in receiving the Stewardship Tuition rate must complete a Stewardship rate application form available on our website.

Registration information sessions are available for those parents who have never had a child attend our preschool program.

#### Information sessions are scheduled as follows:

- Friday, January 4, 10:00 am
- Thursday, January 17, 10:00 am
- Tuesday, January 22, 10:00 am
- Monday, January 28, 10:00 am

### REGISTRATION DATES

**Returning Students:** January 21 - January 25

**Parishioners:** January 28 - February 1

**Non-Parishioners:** February 4 - February 8\*

\*Priority is given to parishioners of other Catholic parishes.



### WAITING LISTS

Enrollment in any program for which there are more applications than spaces is determined by lottery. When all spaces in a program are filled, children's names will be placed on a waiting list.

- Children whose parents are parishioners of St. Michael will be given priority.
- Waiting lists do not carry over from year to year. If your child is currently on a waitlist, and you wish to enroll for the next year, you must reapply.



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### TUITION AND FEES

Tuition is a yearly fee, payable as follows:

- Payment in full by June 5, 2019, or
- One-half payment by June 5, and one-half by December 5, or
- Ten monthly payments beginning June 2019 through April 2020 (There is no July payment as the office is closed)



### 2019-2020 TUITION RATES

#### Developmental Kindergarten or Five Day 4's

Full tuition: \$3540/yr. - Stewardship family: \$3000

#### 4-Day Four-Year-Old Program

(NEW THIS YEAR - 2 Options M-TH or T-F)

Full tuition: \$2830/yr. - Stewardship family: \$2400

#### 4-Day Three-Year-Old Program (NEW THIS YEAR)

Full tuition: \$3390/yr. - Stewardship family: \$2870

#### 3-Day Three-Year-Old Program

Full tuition: \$2545/yr. - Stewardship family: \$2155

#### 2-Day Three-Year-Old Program

Full tuition: \$1690/yr. - Stewardship family: \$1440

#### 2-Day Two-Year-Old Program

Full tuition: \$2010/yr. - Stewardship family: \$1700

### SPONSORSHIPS

Limited sponsorships may be available for children who would be unable to attend the program for financial reasons. To discuss or obtain an application, please contact the director at (919) 468-6110 or email Lisa Ciesla at [lciesla@stm Cary.org](mailto:lciesla@stm Cary.org).

### ORIENTATION INFORMATION

Orientation letters, along with the first tuition invoice will be emailed to enrolled children in May. Class lists and extended day program registration will be mailed in August.

Our calendar for the upcoming school year will be available online at [www.stmichaelpreschool.com](http://www.stmichaelpreschool.com) beginning in May.

The St. Michael Preschool Parent Handbook is also available on our website.



### REQUESTS FOR TEACHERS

A great deal of thought and planning goes into forming classes. Teacher recommendations for the placement of children for social and/or developmental reasons have top priority. Therefore, requests to place children with specific teachers cannot be honored while considering the best interests of all the children. Finally, it is our policy to consult parents of same age siblings regarding their wishes to have the children placed together or separated.

### ALLERGY SENSITIVE PRESCHOOL

To maintain a safe environment for children with life-threatening allergies, snacks or lunches may not contain peanuts/nuts or peanut/nut products. This includes foods that have been produced in a plant with nut products. Please carefully read the labels on the food you send in.

### WITHDRAWAL

Unless tuition is paid in full, tuition payments are not refundable once the school year starts. However, if a family is moving out of the area and the school year has not begun, one-half the June payment and the August payment will be refunded if the seat can be filled from our waiting list. Notice of withdrawal must be in writing. If a child is withdrawn during the school year without 30 days written notice, parents are responsible for paying an additional monthly tuition payment.

**St. Michael Preschool Administrative Assistant:**

**Michele Lanuti**

Payment questions or to schedule a tour please email [mlanuti@stm Cary.org](mailto:mlanuti@stm Cary.org)