

## What To Expect the First Day at St. James Lutheran Preschool (and in a COVID World)

**COVID-19 Update:** “Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, CDC recommends universal indoor masking by all students (age 2 and older), staff, teachers, and visitors, regardless of vaccination status.” -CDC August 5, 2021

**Masks:** The Preschool will be following the recommendation of the CDC for all children (2 and over) and adults, regardless of vaccination, to wear masks while indoors. Wearing a mask for a few children may be a challenge, however, we will assist a child, as needed, with an age-appropriate and loving approach. And we take mask breaks often (during snack time, playground time, and any time any of us need a break).

**On your first day of school, please arrive about 5 minutes early at your child’s Teacher Classroom Door.**

### **Here’s what to expect:**

**Smile!** We are going to welcome you and your child at our oversized Preschool Balloon sign outside your child’s classroom door. Here we will take a photo of you and your child together and we will also get an individual photo of just your child. These pictures will be used in our classroom for our “Getting To Know You” bulletin board and also for a fun preschool project.

**Temperature Time!** We will use contactless thermometers to make sure you and your child are fever-free. CDC, NYS DOH, and OFCS guidelines state that a temperature of 100.4 F and over is considered a fever. If you and/or your Child read 100.4 F or over, we will retake the temperature after a 5-minute pause to ensure a correct reading was taken. As per NYSDOH HIPA laws, your child’s temperature will not be recorded or spoken aloud, however, we will record “C” (for Clear) or “NC” (for Not Clear) on the Class Attendance Sheet. And unfortunately, Child and Parent must return home if either reads 100.4 F or over.

**COVID Pledge! We trust you!** If you can answer YES to any of the below questions, we TRUST that you will remain home AND call the Preschool Office to inform us! Our Preschool remained open last year because of the AMAZING transparency shown by ALL of our families! We are looking forward to this same transparency, support and commitment by our families to help keep us all safe as possible! We promise to do the same!

1. Have you or a member of your household tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
2. Have you or a member of your household knowingly been in close contact in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or had symptoms of COVID-19?
3. Have you or a member of your household experienced any symptoms of COVID-19, including a temperature of greater than 100.4 degrees F in the past 14 days?
4. Have you or a member of your household traveled internationally or from a state with widespread community transmission of COVID-19 per the New York State Travel Advisory (<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>) in the past 14 days?

**Handwashing Time!** Once inside your child’s classroom, we will direct you to the handwashing station located in the classroom. Once hands are washed, please enjoy meeting the teachers - they will have lots of fun and interesting things to show and tell you about the year ahead!

We know that this will be, unfortunately, another year in a COVID world, however, we are confident that learning, growing, socializing, and caring WILL take place in and around our classroom - with or without masks on! Children are resilient! As parents and educators, it’s our positive approach to learning that matters the most and makes the biggest difference in our children’s educational journey! **Let’s look towards all the wonderful, exciting, and good things that your child will experience and discover this coming year!**

All the best to you and see you soon! ~ Mrs. Johansson and St. James Lutheran Preschool Staff