

Dear Incoming Nursery Parents and Students,

We are so excited that school is starting soon! We cannot wait to meet you and begin our year together. We know that our littlest learners have some worries...and maybe grownups too if it's the first time in a new school. We want to reassure you that we have an exciting and fun year planned.

We hope you will come to our Playground Day on August 19th. You can meet your classmates and have a popsicle. That night, our PTO is hosting a Back to School Night event. We hope you can attend one or both events!

You can also stop by the school on August 26th between 10:00 - 11:00 am to visit our classroom with your child. This is an informal visit just to get the kids comfortable with the school. Feel free to come at any time during that 1-hour window!

Below you will find some specific information that seems to be our frequently asked questions list. Feel free to email the school with any other questions you have or call Mrs. Donahue at 978-686-1862.

Bag/Backpack

Students should come to school each day with a big enough backpack to fit a folder that measures 10 x 12 inches (folder will be provided by teacher). They should be able to open and close the backpack on their own. The backpack should be able to fit their lunch box, snacks and water bottle.

Bathroom

To ensure a positive and successful experience for all children, we require that all students entering our Nursery classrooms be fully potty trained. This means:

- **Children must be able to recognize when they need to use the bathroom and get there in time**
- **Accidents should be infrequent**
- **Children must be fully independent with bathroom routines, including wiping after a bowel movement**
- **If an accident occurs, your child must be able to change their own clothes without any adult assistance**

We understand that all children develop at their own pace, and we appreciate your support in helping your child meet these expectations before the school year begins. If you have any questions or need resources to support potty training, please don't hesitate to reach out. Thank you for your understanding and partnership!

Extra Clothes

Please send in an extra set of clothes with your child to be stored in their cubbies for the school year in case of emergencies. This set of clothes **does not** need to be the official uniform. Navy blue sweatpants/shorts and a gray t-shirt from Target/Walmart/Old Navy/etc. are acceptable for their spare set. We would like you to send 1 pair of pants, 1 pair of shorts, 2 pairs of underwear, 1 pair of socks, and 1 shirt. If your child's clothes come home, please send in a new set the following day. Please label all clothes you send into school in a large Ziploc bag which will fit perfectly in the cubbies. You are welcome to bring your child's extra clothes on August 26th during the informal classroom visit.

Supplies

The teachers will provide all school supplies for your child. However, we always need baby wipes, tissues, and paper towels. Any donations would be greatly appreciated!

Snack and Lunch

Students should bring a snack and a refillable water bottle each day for their morning snack. For those students who will be staying for our Afternoon Bunch Program, please send in an additional snack. It helps if these are labeled and kept in a separate bag from their lunch (a gallon sized Ziploc works great). We love to see healthy choices every day!

Please keep in mind that Saint Michael School is a peanut and tree nut free school when packing snacks. (Tree nuts include products containing Brazil nuts, almonds, cashews, pistachios, walnuts, pecans, and hazelnuts). If you send your child with SunButter please label it.

If your child is still working on opening packages, we recommend that you open the package and place it in a Ziploc bag. Please peel fruits at home before sending them to school. Nursery students may also purchase lunch from our lunch provider, Just Like Home. The meals will be delivered to the classroom. Visit this site for more information: <https://www.saintmichael.com/parent-resources/>

Toys from Home

We understand that your child may be a little nervous about starting school and they may want to bring their "lovey" to school with them. We ask that you do not do this as we would not want anything to happen to it at school. We have many engaging toys in each classroom that we will not need any toys from home.

Specials

Our nursery students will participate in a daily special. This year, students will attend physical education, music, art, and STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics).

Uniform Policy

Students entering nursery school are required to wear the official SMS gym uniform daily. Students will be going outside every day that weather permits so please send in appropriate layers for outdoor play. The nursery clothing regulations are as follows:

September - October 31st and April 1st - June

- Navy blue mesh gym shorts with SMS logo
- Gray shirt with SMS logo (short or long sleeve)
- Sneakers must be worn every day (no sandals, flip flops, crocs, etc.)
- Please only send your child in with laced shoes if they know how to tie them

November 1st - March 31st

- Navy blue sweatpants with SMS logo
- Gray shirt with SMS logo (short or long sleeve)
- Navy blue crewneck sweatshirt and sweaters with SMS logo
- Sneakers must be worn every day (no sandals, flip flops, crocs, etc.)

We look forward to seeing you very soon!

Erin Siddiqui
Erin_Siddiqui@saintmichael.com

Amy McGovern
Amy_McGovern@saintmichael.com