

Preschool Program

Our Lady of Peace implemented a four-year-old preschool program starting with the 2009-2010 school year and added a three-year-old program at the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

Teacher:

Mrs. Tara McFayden attended the University of Wisconsin-Stout where she earned her degree in Early Childhood Education. She received her Elementary Education Certification from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She taught third grade in the diocese for five years before staying home to raise her three children. Mrs. McFadyen began teaching preschool at Our Lady of Peace School in the fall of 2009 when the preschool program began.

Teacher's Aide:

Mrs. Jane Kulik has been an aide at Our Lady of Peace School for ten years, participating in all aspects of instruction. The past three years she has worked as an aide in the preschool program and thoroughly enjoys working with young children. She attended Hope College where she received a degree in Primary Education with a Humanities Composite, Dance Minor. Her past experience as a first grade teacher included ten years at Pierce Downer located in Downers Grove. Mrs. Kulik's daughter was fortunate to be a 2008 graduate from Our Lady of Peace School!

Teacher's Aide:

Mrs. Michele Perisin is the product of a Catholic education, having attended Catholic grade school, high school and university. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from the University of St. Francis in Joliet. Her studies also included social work and psychology. Mrs. Perisin currently has two children attending Our Lady of Peace School. For the past six years, she has been a frequent volunteer at the school, assisting wherever is needed. She is very excited to be a part of the Our Lady of Peace family.

Class Size:

The three-year-old program currently has 18 students enrolled. The four-year-old program currently has 15 students enrolled.

Program Times and Location:

Three-year-olds: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:45-11:15 a.m.

Four-year-olds: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:45-11:15 a.m.

Classes are in session from Labor Day through Memorial Day.

The preschool classroom space is inviting and spacious and has a dedicated restroom.

An optional pick up and drop off lane in front of the school allows for safety as the children arrive and depart. Parents are also welcome to walk their child to and from the building.

Program:

The preschool program is faith-based and includes small group and one-on-one time. Curriculum is research-based and includes a healthy combination of play time, literacy activities, science and math.

- **Religion:** Daily Diocese curriculum is used. Children receive ashes on Ash Wednesday. Prayer is said at the start of class and at snack time.
- **Circle Time:** Stories, songs, and games pertaining to the area of study or theme are presented.
- **Free Play/Open Centers:** Blocks, toys, science table, and Playdoh are among the items used in this area.
- **Math:** Calendar time, building with blocks, identifying shapes, and recognizing numbers are some examples of math being incorporated as a natural part of the children's play and daily activities.
- **Music:** Weekly classes with songs and piano are incorporated into the schedule. The children participate in Christmas and year-end music performances.
- **Literacy:** Exposure to letters, letter sounds and pre-reading skills through storytelling, finger plays, name and letter practice, poetry, author studies, and the creation of mini-books. The four-year-olds visit the school library once a week for story time and to check out books.
- **One-on-One Time:** Attention is paid to letter and number writing, art, or any other skills as needed.
- **Science:** A science table is available to provide students with experiences in exploring items such as rocks, seashells, pine cones, etc. Students are introduced to experiments.
- **Physical Education:** The four-year-olds participate in physical activities in the gym once a week. Outdoor time is available for both the four- and three-year-olds as weather permits.
- **Field Trips:** Twice per year with parent chaperones.
- **Parent Volunteers:** Parents are welcome to volunteer in the classroom for reading time as well as the art projects and parties. Parent volunteers are required to attend the "Protecting God's Children" training class prior to volunteering.
- **Secure Environment:** School doors are locked at all times. Visitors can enter only through the main doors after the office allows entry. Double doors prevent visitors from entering into the main school area.