

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

## **What time does school start?**

You can begin dropping your child off in the morning car line at 7:30 am. A patrol will escort your Pre-K4 child to the classroom from 7:30am to 7:50am. School starts at 7:50 am. The Pre-K4 children join the entire school at the morning prayer and flag ceremony in the courtyard. Pre-K4 students will be considered tardy (late) after 8:00am.

## **What time does school end?**

Pre-K4 is dismissed with the rest of the school at 3:10 pm.

## **What if my child is tardy for school?**

We understand that there may be instances when it is not possible to be here on time. However, please try to have your child at school on time so we can begin our day together. If your child is tardy, he or she will be missing many valuable learning experiences which may impact learning. Tardies will be noted on report cards and habitual tardies may affect your child's progress.

Pre-K children (accompanied by you) arriving after 8:00 am must:

- Be walked by you to the office to be signed in
- Get a tardy slip before being walked to the classroom door by you as well.

## **Where do I pick my child up after school?**

All parents are asked to pick up their child from the car line. Please do not leave your car to come for your child. The safety of all the children is our main concern. The Pre-K4 children will be waiting safely inside the front gate. A patrol will escort each child to their car. Crossing in between cars in the car line is not safe for your child.

### **What if I have to pick up my child before dismissal time?**

Please send a note in the morning in your child's binder or call the school office to inform us. When you arrive, go directly to the school office, not the classroom when picking up your child before dismissal time. You will have to sign your child out in the office and they will call our classroom to get your child ready. You will then come to the classroom to pick up your child. If your child is to be released to anyone other than a parent, written authorization is required. Your child's safety is always our first consideration.

### **Can my child attend the Extended Day Program?**

Yes. All children may go to the Extended Day Program after school. Parents are expected to fill out the necessary information to be kept on file. All children not picked up from school on time will be taken to Extended Day. The Extended Day room is the school cafeteria located behind the Parish Center.

### **What is the VPK STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY?**

The VPK STUDENT ATTENDANCE POLICY is located in the Parent Handbook. Parents must review and agree to abide by this policy. Attendance is very important for both the success of your child and our program. VPK classes are governed by a uniform attendance policy that mandates how your child's attendance will be funded. It is expected that you will have your child in the classroom every day unless there is a reason for the absence. Repeated absences may result in your child being removed from the program. You must call the school office if your child is going to be late or absent. Absences and tardiness may be excused if appropriate documentation is provided.

### **What is the Monthly confirmation of Attendance?**

At the end of each month, you must verify your child's attendance. We ask that a parent do the following:

1. Park your car and come to the classroom to sign the attendance book between 7:30 and 7:50 am.

2. This will occur on the morning of the last instructional day of the month.
3. You will sign the Student Attendance and Parental Choice Certificate forms in blue ink.
4. Your signature will confirm that your child has been in the program during the month and that you wish your child to continue in the program at this school. Your child's continued funding in the program depends on your cooperation in a timely manner. Children who do not meet the attendance requirements will lose VPK funding. Your child may be allowed to remain in the classroom, but will be required to pay the monthly tuition.

### **Will my child be taking a rest at school?**

Yes. All children rest for one hour after lunch and book time. Each child will receive their own resting mat. Most children fall asleep during rest time. Resting toys and pillows are not allowed. Your child's blanket must be a small children's throw blanket 46" x 60" or smaller. Make sure it is not too bulky. It must fit inside the cubby along with your child's extra set of clothing. Blanket comes to school on Monday and is sent home on Fridays to be laundered.

### **Does my child need a backpack?**

Yes. All students will need a functional backpack and must be:

1. Large enough to hold:
  - Daily communication binder (we provide) ½ inch binders
  - Rain gear (no umbrellas please)
2. NO WHEELS ON BACKPACKS
3. LABELED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME IN PERMANENT MARKER VISIBLE ON THE OUTSIDE.
4. Bring backpack and binder to school every day.

### **Does my child need to bring a change of clothes to school?**

Yes. Please send an extra change of clothes in the Ziploc bag provided in your folder today by Monday. The change of clothes should include: shorts, shirt,

underwear and socks. (These clothes do not have to be uniform clothing.) Please launder clothes and return clean clothes to us the next day.

### **What school supplies will my child need?**

All school supplies will be provided. However, a classroom donation/wish list will be sent home if you would like to contribute items for classroom use. Items such as paper towels, “baby wipes” (unscented), and tissues, 5 oz. paper cups, small paper plates, napkins, and paper bowls need to be restocked constantly and can be sent in at any time. I will let you know on my newsletter each week which things we really need right now.

### **Do I need to send a snack to school with my child?**

No. A mid-morning snack will be provided each day. The snack consists of a choice of apple juice or water and crackers, cookies, pretzels, and seasonal fruit, etc. Children are encouraged to eat healthy snack and drink water during the day.

### **Will my child need to bring a refillable water bottle to school each day?**

Yes. We provide drinks when needed but this will help with “in between drinks” and can be used outside on P.E. days. Four and five year olds can get extremely thirsty and we want them to stay hydrated. We will be happy to refill the bottle if needed during the day.

### **Will my child be eating lunch at school?**

Yes. Pre-K does not participate in the hot lunch program. Your child should bring a lunch on all full days of school. On early dismissal days, ONLY PACK LUNCH IF ATTENDING EXTENDED DAY.

**PLEASE SEND READY TO EAT FOODS. NO MICROWAVING IS PERMITTED.**

**LUNCH CONTINUED:** Please DO NOT SEND: soda, candy, and limit foods high in sugar. The children will be learning healthy eating habits. **Lunches must include a main course** such as pasta dishes, salads, chicken nuggets, sandwiches, meats, cheeses, left overs, etc. Lunches should be in a lunch box with a small ice pack. Please label the lunch box with your child's name using a permanent marker visible on the outside. If you want to send hot foods, place them in a thermos.

### **What if my child is sick?**

If your child is sick please keep him/her at home. Small children catch germs very easily and germs can spread rapidly around the classroom. Please do NOT SEND your child to school with any of the following symptoms:

- FEVER: All students must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school
- RASH
- DIARRHEA
- VOMITTING
- LICE
- PINK EYE/CONJUNCTIVITIS
- RUNNY NOSE (WITH GREEN OR YELLOW DISCHARGE)
- EXCESSIVE COUGHING
- ANY OTHER SYMPTOMS THAT COULD AFFECT THE HEALTH OF OTHER CHILDREN

### **OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT ILLNESSES:**

- If you are keeping your child home due to illness, please contact the school office (561-965-8190) by phone to let us know.
- **Send a note to school explaining why your child was absent when your child returns to school.**
- If your child is sent to school sick, or becomes ill during school hours, you will be contacted to come pick up your child. Please keep all phone numbers current so we can reach you in the event of an emergency.

## **What if my child needs to take medicine?**

Medicine will only be given if it is prescribed by a doctor and the proper forms are completed and are on file in the school office. DO NOT SEND OVER THE COUNTER MEDICINE TO SCHOOL WITH YOUR CHILD.

## **What must be on file in the school office before my child can attend school?**

- A copy of your child's birth certificate
- Immunization records
- Your child's VPK certificate

## **What is the school uniform for Pre-K?**

**SHIRTS:** a set of T- shirts (red, yellow, blue, orange, green)

**PANTS:** Uniform shorts/pants in khaki or navy blue, elastic waist, no belts.

**SHOES:**

- **VELCRO** sneakers/leather shoes: white, navy, gray, brown or black.
- **NO** open toed shoes, or slip on, or light up, or shoes with laces!

**SOCKS:** white, navy, or black and must be visible.

- **T-Shirts** can be purchased **after** the Open House/Orientation in the Library. Pants/shorts should be purchased through:

Harris Uniforms: 561-881-8689,  
4152 Blue Heron Blvd. W. , Suite 118  
Riviera Beach, FL 33404

## **COLD WEATHER ATTIRE:**

- No hooded sweatshirts permitted.
- Sweaters, sweatshirts, or jackets with SLCS logo only may be worn over the uniform.
- Please refer to Family Handbook for complete uniform policy and personal appearance and hairstyle guidelines.

## **What does it mean when my child is the leader of the day?**

Each day there will be one classroom leader. Leaders rotate on a daily basis in random order. In addition to being the line leader, he/she will have other responsibilities such as helping with the DAILY MATH BOARD at our morning meeting.



## **Can I bring treats for my child's birthday?**

You may send MINI CUPCAKES, cookies, or a favorite snack (like pretzels) to school for your child's birthday. Send the snack in the morning with your child. Patrols will carry the birthday snack to the classroom for you. Please notify me a few days before so that it will not be a surprise to me! We will take pictures and a video of us singing Happy Birthday to your child and post them on ClassDojo. That way you don't miss any of the fun! Your child will take a birthday bag home with a few small gifts from us. You may send a goody bag for each child in the classroom as another way to make your child's day special. THIS IS NOT EXPECTED OR MANDATORY.

## **BIRTHDAY PARTY INVITATION DIRECTORY:**

During Open House there will be a paper to fill out with your child's name, your name, and address and phone number so that we can make a birthday party INVITATION DIRECTORY. We do not give out birthday invitations at school. So, we make a list of names/addresses/phone numbers so that you can call to invite or send the invitations through the mail. It is not mandatory for you to participate. I will send the list home within the first few weeks of school.

## **What can I do to help my child's teacher?**

- There will be many opportunities to help by volunteering and supporting the many school sponsored activities and supporting our room parents when needed.

## **What are the classroom rules?**

For some children, Pre-K will be their first experience in a large group. Students need to learn skills necessary for positive social interaction. The students will be learning about the “I - CARE RULES” to develop their social and listening skills, as well as an awareness of their own feelings and the feelings of others.

### **I - CARE RULES**

- 1. We listen to each other.**
- 2. Hands are for helping, not hurting.**
- 3. We use I-Care language.**
- 4. We care about each other’s feelings.**
- 5. We are responsible for what we do and say.**

## **When will report cards be sent home? Conferences?**

We follow the quarterly system with the rest of the school. We receive an interim report in the end of the month of September to give us a starting point. In the months of October, January, March, and May we receive a more formal progress report. We will schedule conferences after each VPK Assessment period to discuss the results with you. You may schedule a conference at any time by writing a note on the communication page in your child’s ABC Binder. I will respond within 24 hours. Please check that page every day and I will do the same. Please sign your note and list your phone number where I can call you if necessary. Conferences are usually scheduled before/after school.

## **What can I do at home to help my child be successful in school?**

Please work with your child on the following skills at home:

1. Sharing	5. Recognizing/identifying letters
2. Cleaning up	6. Recognizing/identifying numbers
3. Recognizing colors	7. Cutting with scissors
4. Recognizing shapes	8. Buttoning, snapping, zipping, and tying



## **How do I know if my child is ready for school?**

You will know that your child is ready for school when:

- Your child can use the bathroom independently-including wiping, taking off pants/underwear and putting on again independently.
- Your child can dress himself/herself.
- Your child can separate from you without becoming emotionally upset.
- Your child knows how to wash his or her hands independently.
- Your child knows how to cover his or her sneeze.
- Your child knows how to wipe or blow his/her nose independently.
- Your child follows simple directions.
- Your child can sit and listen to a story.

## **Will my child be attending Mass?**

- Yes. When the students are ready the class will attend Mass on the First Friday of the month. As the year progresses, we will begin to go to Mass every other week. Each child will have a partner from the upper grades to help them during Mass.

## **What is Show and Tell?**

We will be having “Show and Tell” on Fridays. Please help your child choose something to bring to school to show and tell about. Sharing items should be limited to one and the item **MUST** fit inside their backpack. To add to the learning experience, I encourage interesting and unusual items rather than toys. Some weeks I might set a theme for show and tell. Always check our weekly newsletter just in case. However, do not send in fragile items or priceless heirlooms. Remember, we are only 4 years old and things break!

## **What are ABC Binders?**

Every day your child will be bringing home a communication binder that will be referred to as the ABC BINDER. (*AWESOME BINDER COMMUNICATION*). Please check this binder for important school notices, teacher notes, calendars, newsletters, etc. Your child will learn how to take his/her own ABC Binder out of the backpack and put it in a designated area of the classroom every morning. You will receive your ABC binder on Monday.

- Check folder with Bee on front -SCHOOL COMMUNICATION FOLDER)
- Empty the folder daily (KEEP AT HOME SIDE) left
- Send things back to school on the BACK TO SCHOOL SIDE (right)
- Keep binder in your child's backpack
- Check the Communication Log every day
  - Write notes to teacher, date, sign, and write your phone #
  - Teacher will respond or write notes to you

## **What are Book Buddies?**

- A Book Buddy is a special backpack that may contain activities, books, a stuffed animal or character, and a journal that goes home with one child each Friday beginning in September on a rotating basis. Book Buddies are designed to be fun and informative ways for families to share literacy and learning experiences at home. The Book Buddy backpack has to return to school on the following Wednesday as the next child in the rotation wants to be able to take it home on Friday.

## **What is ClassDojo?**

- It is a behavior feedback plan used by teachers and students to build positive behaviors and teamwork. It is an opportunity for teachers to give real time feedback to students. The program gives you an opportunity to view your student's behavior and know if he/she deserves a reward or redirection of some kind.

- **It is also a way to stay tuned in to your child's day. Pictures and videos from our daily activities are posted each day. Important information is posted in the message section as well. There is also your child's story section where you can ask a question or make a comment directly to the teacher that will not post to the rest of the class. It works directly through your phone. Sign up information will be coming shortly.**