

## Welcome to St. Katharine of Siena Kindergarten!

We would like to welcome all of you to the Kindergarten program. We are thrilled that you have chosen SKS for your child and are looking forward to working with you and your family.

Summer Prep: Here are a few things that you can do to get your child ready for the new school year.

1. Read Often- read stories to your children. It's important for beginning reading readiness. Read books that rhyme or that have repetitive text. If they already know how to read or recognize some words, read together.
2. Get Musical- whether it's an educational cd in the car ride or just the routine of singing and rhyming. Music helps develop a strong vocabulary, triggers recall, and strengthens social skills.
3. Encourage Responsibility- Set the bar high and they will rise to the occasion. We teach them to be independent and to take responsibility for themselves and their actions. They will be responsible for unpacking in the mornings, packing up in the afternoon, cleaning up after themselves, taking care of their belongings, and keeping the classroom clean.
4. Practice zipping, tying, and buttoning- Please practice these skills at home. Giving your child independence with these skills is very rewarding. 25 plus pairs of shoes are a lot of shoes to tie.
5. Start conversations- This helps build their strong oral language and greater academic success. Talk in the car- ask questions and have them respond in a complete sentence. While making dinner play I Spy: "I spy something that starts with a B or that rhymes with star", etc. These early literacy skill builders can be worked into the busiest of schedules.
6. Get involved- Volunteer to come to lunch duty. Your child will love to see you and you can meet their friends. There are many ways to volunteer and become involved.
7. Practice writing- Let them write their name, letters, numbers, sentences, stories. Encourage the proper way to hold a pencil. This is building their fine motor skills. Help them write a simple sentence about their day and draw a picture to go with it.
8. Celebrate childhood- Let your child laugh, play, and even make a mess! Bake together, make a fort, plant a garden, cut, glue. Have them put down the devices and let their imaginations run wild. They are only this age once and it goes way too fast.
9. Kindergarten is meant to be a time when children can be children, a place where their hearts can be nurtured, friendships formed, social skills strengthened, and laughter is encouraged.
10. Whether your child is joining us in kindergarten or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, we treasure them as if they are our own. We want them to be happy, comfortable in their environment, safe, and successful.

Back to school supplies- All supplies for the Kindergarten will be purchased by the teachers. At back to school night we will let you know the supply fee for the year. You will need supplies at home to complete homework...the basics: pencils, crayons, scissors, and glue.