



## St. Paul's Preliminary Pre-Kindergarten Information

January 2012

- **Our Mission:** *To educate each child in a Christ-centered environment for a life a service to God and man.*
- **Our Philosophy:** St. Paul's Pre-Kindergarten program offers a clean, safe, and structured learning environment tailored to the appropriate growth and development needs of 4-5 year olds. Our emphasis is on developing the whole child (academic, physical, social, emotional, aesthetic, and spiritual). We view the Pre-Kindergarten experience as an important stepping stone to Kindergarten readiness and as the foundation for future learning. All developmentally appropriate learning experiences offered through our program are presented in a Christ-centered manner.
- **Our Curriculum:** St. Paul's Pre-K curriculum emphasizes Literacy, Math, and Science skills development appropriate for 4-5 year olds to prepare them for Kindergarten/Primary grade success. We use Indiana's *Birth-Age5 Literacy Framework* as a reference for our research-based early reading/writing experiences in the classroom. We also offer each Pre-Kindergartner an individualized online math plan, providing developmentally appropriate activities which can be reinforced at home! Our indoor and outdoor activities/centers incorporate planned "play" time designed to stimulate creativity and develop critical thinking skills... all through positive encouragement and reinforcement.
- **Our Facility:** St. Paul's Pre-Kindergarten classroom is clean, spacious, and *state-of-the-art!* It is equipped with age appropriate learning stations, including a wireless laptop math lab. The classroom is designed to provide a variety of rich, experiential learning opportunities for 4-5 year olds, with plenty of space to read, rest, and explore! While the Pre-Kindergartners have their *own space* to learn and grow, they will be right next door to the school office, as well as part of the *primary (K-2) education wing* of our school.... *with easy access to drinking fountain / clean restroom facilities!*
- **Our Staff:** Mrs. Stephanie Mueller (Director-Teacher) is a licensed K-8 teacher in the state of Indiana, with a B.A. in Education/Art Concentration. All teachers at St. Paul's maintain Red Cross First Aid-CPR certification. With over ten years of teaching experience from Preschool through grade eight, she brings a rich background and educational expertise to our program. Mrs. Mueller has a passion for teaching/nurturing young children in their early years of growth and development. She has full administrative support throughout the day from our K-8 day school office personnel.
- **You!:** No matter how great a curriculum, facility, or teacher, *YOU* are the most important person in your child's education... and life! As such, we invite you to become actively involved in your child's early education at St. Paul's. Take the time to get to know your child's teacher, be involved in activities in the classroom and school, and network with other parents going through many of the same challenges you're experiencing.

- **Resources:** We appreciate the challenge of raising young children in a culture/society that seems to focus on “self”. At St. Paul’s, our commitment is to support young families from a Christian, “selfless” perspective, with parenting resources covering all kinds of important topics, such as parenting skills, what to expect from a 4-5 year old (child development), appropriate and effective discipline for young children, as well as how to raise a healthy child!
- **Safety:** A safe and secure environment for our children is a top priority! All school entrances are locked, with a video camera at the main entrance. All visitors must be “buzzed in” by the office staff and check in at the school office. Visitors who are not recognized by our school staff are required to present a photo ID to school office personnel. In addition, our indoor and outdoor “play” equipment is designed for age-appropriate use by 4-5 year olds.
- **Accreditation:** In preparation for St. Paul’s Pre-K program to begin in Fall 2012, we are in dialogue with NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children), in cooperation with NLSA (National Lutheran School Accreditation), to determine the appropriateness for completing a separate Pre-K program self-study and accreditation process. St. Paul’s maintains all of the rigorous accreditation standards associated with operating a K-8 accredited school in the state of Indiana.
- **Flexible Program:** St. Paul’s understands the need for flexibility when it comes to young families’ schedules. We offer a 5-day/week academic program in the morning, with lunch and extended care options in the afternoon. Even though our morning curriculum is designed around a 5-day program, parents may discuss alternate schedules with the teacher which meet their family’s needs.
- **Cost:** While providing the highest quality program and care for young children, we offer competitive rates and payment plan options to meet a family’s needs. Since our morning curriculum is designed around a 5-day program, there is one cost for the morning session. The afternoon cost varies depending on which extended care options you choose to take advantage of.
- **Contact Us:** For more detailed information on pricing and program options, contact our Admissions Counselor at 260-424-0049. You may schedule a tour of our facility, arrange an appointment with the teacher, or simply request a Pre-K brochure and information packet. (*Information about our K-8 program is also available upon request.*)
- **NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY:** St. Paul’s Pre-Kindergarten, which operates as an independent program, is an extension of our K- 8 Lutheran day school, a non-profit, 501(c)(3), independently owned and operated by St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. As such, St. Paul’s Pre-Kindergarten admits students of any race, color, creed, religion, gender, national and ethnic origin, and does not discriminate in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, financial aid, or other school-administered programs.