

ABCs:
Getting to Know
Our Lady of the
Wayside School
and PK-3
with Mrs. Doherty



A: Allergies & Arrival/Dismissal Procedures

Allergies: Please be sensitive to classmates' allergies. As I learn of allergies, I will share any pertinent information with classmates' families.

Arrival: anytime between window of 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.

- Enter from south gate off Ridge Avenue.
- Follow traffic pattern to drop off your child. You may walk your child into the PK entrance (west entrance) (2D) of the Parish Center.
- Park in Ridge Street parking lot. Please cross at the crosswalk to the PK entrance (west entrance) (2D).
- If you arrive after 8:20 a.m., please ring the doorbell at PK entrance (west entrance) (2D) of the Parish Center.
- Exit from the north gate onto Ridge Avenue.

Dismissal: 11:00 a.m.

- Enter the Walnut Street Parking Lot. Follow (counterclockwise) traffic pattern.
- Pick up from preschool entrance (west entrance) of Parish Center.
- Do not park in Ridge Avenue parking lot between 8:30 - 2:45.

- *Please be mindful that this is a school campus. Please drive slowly, and do not use cell phones while driving in the parking lot. Also, when dropping off and picking up your child, please be aware of your child and siblings in the parking lot. Safety is very important.*
- *Please send a note in your child's take-home folder or email me if your child is going home with someone else.*
- *Please copy and paste to share this information with anyone else who will be dropping off/picking up from preschool.*

B: Backpacks & Balanced Literacy & Birthdays & Buddies

Backpacks: Please bring a regular sized backpack that can fit art projects that will come home and a Ziploc bag with an extra set of clothing including socks.

Balanced Literacy: As part of a cohort of schools that grew professionally while implementing Balanced Literacy as part of Roosevelt University's Illinois 5-Year Teacher Quality Grant (2011-2016), Our Lady of the Wayside School has school-wide literacy teams, and teachers use differentiated instruction.

Birthdays: We would love to celebrate your child's birthday at school. If you are available, we will arrange a time for you to read to the class. This is usually at 8:30, but can be rearranged to fit your schedule. Please see the birthday schedule. Contact me if the day/time listed needs to be rearranged. Please do not send in birthday treats or trinkets. If you would like, you may donate a book to the class library to share with the class, but it is not necessary. If you are sending any birthday invitations through backpack mail, they may be sent only if invitations to the entire class are given in order to be considerate of the feelings of others.

Buddies: One of the unique aspects of attending Our Lady of the Wayside, a PK - 8th grade school, is participating in the Buddies Program. Students from different grade levels are paired together. Older students serve as role models to younger children. Students get together with their buddies to read together, attend Mass together and participate in additional activities throughout the year.

C: Communication

Communication: The best way to reach me is ldoherty@olwschool.org. I check emails daily before and after school. My phone number is 847-255-0050 x 350. If you have a message that you would like to send via the take-home folder, please use that as a form of communication, too. If plans change for pick-up during the day, please call the school office. 847-255-0050. They will let us know of any changes to pick-up plans. Also, check website for updates. Additionally, I will send home a weekly Peek at the Week newsletter to highlight our time together in preschool.

D: Dad's Night & Domains of Development

Dad's Night: This is a special night to bring dad (or another favorite person) to school and share some time together in preschool.

All students in PK-3 Wednesday, November 7 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Domains of Development: During the year, we will focus on these Domains of Development:

- Approaches to Learning
- Creative Arts: Dance/Movement, Drama, Music and Visual Arts
- Language & Literacy Development
- Mathematical Knowledge & Skills
- Physical Development & Health
- Scientific Knowledge & Skills
- Self-Help Skills
- Social & Emotional Development
- Spiritual Growth

E: Emergency Contact Information

Emergency Contact Information: Please be sure emergency contact information is up to date, and please let me know if there are any changes to contact information during the year.

F: Field Trips and Fifth Grade Helpers

Field Trips: All PK students are welcome to attend three field trips during the year with a parent, caregiver or another special person. We will go apple and pumpkin picking at Royal Oaks Farm Orchard in Hebron on Thursday, September 27th and will see *The Jungle Book* at the Metropolis Performing Arts Centre on Friday, April 12th. We will meet at the field trip locations. An end of the year celebration will take place at Jumps and Jiggles at the Elk Grove Pavilion (tentative date is Thursday, May30th) There will be no school at Our Lady of the Wayside for PK-3 any of these days.

Fifth Grade Helpers: Be sure to give a "Hello" and "Thank You" to our fifth grade helpers who help in many ways throughout the school including Kiddie Patrol, PK/K morning helpers, Milk Room helpers, Flag Patrol and more. As the oldest students in the elementary school, they develop leadership skills as they generously volunteer their time.

G: Gardening Angels

Gardening Angels: Do you have a green thumb and/or time to give to help beautify our parish and school grounds? Please let me know, and I'll give you more information about Our Lady of the Wayside School's Family & School Association Gardening Angels who contribute to our parish and school's gardening efforts. This is led by parent volunteer, George Kiaupa.

H: Handwriting without Tears (Fine Motor Skills)

Handwriting without Tears: The PK-3 Program offers opportunities to develop fine motor skills, pre-writing skills and letter formation in a variety of ways including the [Handwriting without Tears Program](#).

I: Involvement (Class, School, Parish Community)

Involvement: Please take the time to experience Our Lady of the Wayside School and Parish by participating in various opportunities offered by the school and parish.

To learn more, visit:

[Our Lady of the Wayside Family & School Association \(FSA\)](#)

[Our Lady of the Wayside School Calendar](#)

[Our Lady of the Wayside Parish](#)

J: Jolly Phonics & Journals

Jolly Phonics: The PK-3 Program offers exposure to letter recognition and letter sounds through [The Jolly Phonics Program](#).

School Journals: Students will have opportunities throughout the year to journal, an important pre-writing skill, which helps to capture memorable moments in young children's lives. Children will draw and adults will take children's dictations to tell about the pictures. Journal entries will be saved and taken home in student portfolios/memory books at the end of the year. Journal entries can be seen at conferences. If you would like to see journal entries anytime during the year, feel free to come in at drop-off or pick-up and take a peek at Memory Books which are kept in our Writing Area.

Home Writing Journals: Encourage your child to draw a picture. Ask them to tell you about what they drew. Write down what your child tells you. Send it to school, and I will write a message back to your child.

K: Kid-Centered (Child-Centered)

Kid-Centered (Child-Centered): This learning approach encourages children to explore, learn, take risks and learn from people around them.

To learn more, read [Child-Centered Curriculum](#).

L: Loose Parts (Manipulatives)

Loose Parts (Manipulatives) help students to develop and strengthen their:

- Fine motor skills
- Fine motor control
- Eye-Hand coordination
- Ability to use the pincer grasp
- Color, shape and number recognition & identification skills
- Math knowledge and skills (counting, sorting, classifying, patterns, etc.) and so much more!

M: Masses & Medical Alerts

Masses: Our Lady of the Wayside students attend Mass throughout the year. Masses are usually at 8:30 a.m. See the Monday Memos or school calendar/website if you would like to attend. Initially, three year olds will not attend Mass as we wait until we develop a classroom/school routine and are ready to attend Mass.

Medical Alerts: If your child has a medical condition, food allergy, or any life threatening allergy, please let me know and contact our school nurses ASAP. You may be required to schedule an Action Plan meeting before your child begins school. This meeting records the steps that are needed for your child's safety at school. School nurses contact information is: schoolnurse@olwschool.org or 847-255-0050.

N: Nature

Nature: We will spend time appreciating nature and all of God's gifts.

To learn more, read [*Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*](#)

O: Outdoor Play and Exploration

Outdoor Play and Exploration: Outdoor play and exploration is an important part of the day. When weather is cooperative, we will spend approximately 15 minutes outside each day. Please wear shoes with a back.

P: Play & "Pray & Play Extended Day" & Process Art

Play: Play is a very important part of the preschool day. To learn more about the value of play, read:

- [A Conversation with Vivian Paley](#), author of *The Importance of Fantasy Play*
- [The Power of Play: Learning What Comes Naturally by David Elkind](#), author of *The Power of Play*
- [NAEYC References to Play](#)

Pray & Play Extended Day Program: Students have the opportunity to pray, play, and eat lunch with friends until 12:45 p.m.. This program is offered daily. For more information, contact Mr. Wood or me.

Process Art: This philosophy focuses on experiences and on exploration of techniques, tools and materials. The goal is to encourage children's creativity through developmentally appropriate art experiences. To learn more, read [How Process Art Supports Preschoolers](#).

Q: Quiet (Introverts) and Extroverts

Quiet (Introverts) and Extroverts: We honor and respect all children and their unique dispositions.

To learn more, read [Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World that Cannot Stop Talking](#) by Susan Cain.

R: Religion & Resources

Religion: Our PK program incorporates aspects of our faith life throughout each day, a unique component to Catholic education. Students will learn rote and spontaneous prayers. Additionally, we will listen to Bible stories, learn about saints, and pray together. We review the upcoming Sunday Gospel together. The Religion program will also be supplemented by *Stories of God's Love Preschool Program* published by RCL Benziger.

Resources: Some of my favorite resources:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Child Development](#): Shares information regarding Developmental Milestones, Positive Parenting Tips, Child Safety First and Healthy bodies.
- [Loyola Press: Sunday Connection](#): Tells highlights for each Sunday's Gospel in age appropriate ways and suggestions for families to incorporate the Gospel into daily lives.

- [National Association for the Education of Young Children \(NAEYC\)](#): Works to promote high-quality early learning for all young children.

S: Service & Snack

Service: Our Lady of the Wayside School is committed to serving others. Throughout the year, the student body participates in a variety of service projects such as collecting food for a family's Thanksgiving dinner. PK will also participate in service projects such as sending cards to retired military participating in an [Honor Flight](#) and sending cards to residents of local nursing homes.

Snack: We will have a daily snack each day around 9:45 a.m. Families will rotate each week and bring fresh fruits or vegetables for the class in individual snack-sized baggies. Water will be provided by teachers during snack time.

T: Team

The PK Team includes:

Room 106: PK-4, T, W, Th, F

(Parish Center) Mrs. Jane Strzyzynski, Teacher

Mrs. Jennifer Cummings, T/Th. Teacher's Aide

Mrs. Sharon Hendricks, W/F Teacher's Aide

Room 115: PK-3 T/Th., PK-3 M/W/F

(Parish Center) Mrs. Laura Doherty, Teacher

Mrs. Barb Carbone, T/Th. Teacher's Aide

Room 206: PK-4

(Elementary) Mrs. Kim Brennan, Teacher

Building) Mrs. Rita Kokotis, morning Teacher's Aide

- Mrs. Brennan's class is made up of a mix of half-day and all-day students.

Room 207: PK Multiage All Day

(Elementary) Mrs. Halina Brittain, Teacher

Building) Mrs. Rita Kokotis, afternoon Teacher's Aide

Mrs. Dorothy Maentanis, morning Teacher's Aide

U: Undergarments and Other Extra Clothing

Undergarments and Other Extra Clothing: Please send a back-up outfit in a ziploc bag that will be kept in our classroom. This may be needed in the event of any spills, brushes with mud, and/or accidents.

V: Volunteers

Volunteers: Do you have any talents, hobbies, and/or professional experiences you would like to share with the class? If so, we would love to have you visit to help us learn and grow. If you are ever interested in taking home "honey-do" projects (prep work/cutting/pasting etc.), we would love your help.

W: Washing Hands & Wellness

Washing Hands: We will reinforce what you are teaching at home regarding the importance of washing hands to stay healthy. To learn more, visit [CDC Handwashing Tips](#).

Wellness: Please refer to page 22 of the Our Lady of the Wayside Family Handbook 2017-2018 for information regarding illnesses. Reminder: “Children must stay home from school if they have a fever. They should be fever-free for 24 hours with a temperature below 100 degrees without the use of medication.”

X: X-Mass (Christmas Show)

X-Mass (Christmas Show): The T/Th. PK-3 Christmas Show will be on Tuesday, December 18 @ 10:00 a.m. The M/W/F. Christmas Show will be on Wednesday, December 19th @ 10:00 a.m. This is a regular school day.

Y: Yoga & Gross Motor Movement

Yoga & Gross Motor Movement: Developing gross motor skills is an important part at this age. One way to develop that is through yoga. Elements of yoga will be incorporated into the classroom throughout the school day. To learn more about yoga’s benefits for preschoolers, read [PBS Parents: Why Yoga and Kids Go Together](#).

Z: Zippers/Buttons & More (Self-Help Skills)

Zippers/Buttons & More (Self-Help Skills): Developing self-help skills is important in preschool. It takes time and patience. To learn more, read [Ways to Encourage Self-Help Skills in Children](#).



Dear Jesus,
This day is for you.
God bless this day.
God bless me too.
God bless all that I think
God bless all that I say.
God bless all that I do. Amen.

