

Cry of the Cardinal

Ignite. Infuse. Inspire

St. John Lutheran School
Wrightstown, WI

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Volume 1

Just like that we are starting another school year. Time seemed to be passing slowly through May. Summer came and just like that it is drawing to a close, and even quicker we are two weeks into our school year. I thought this would be a great time to pass on some information that might make the transition for some, and the continuation of others a little less painful as we get further into the school year.

1. Students should be bringing home a binder EACH and EVERY day. This binder contains assignment sheets that should reflect what HAS been completed, and anything that NEEDS to be done. Checking this every evening will aid in all homework being completed thoroughly and promptly.
2. Spelling and Vocab is computer based. It is our only subject that is developed in this fashion. It does present a challenge to students however as some do not get in the regular habit of completing two activities per day to satisfy the content needed to be covered per week to keep them in a forward moving direction. This subject matter can be completed anywhere that a student has access to the internet.
3. If you find that your child is bringing home an amount of homework that looks like it is for five people, a small conversation may be had with your son or daughter about the usage of their time in the classroom. Our schedule is intentionally laid out to maximize both instruction and study time for students. Accordingly, students have adequate time during the day to complete a large portion of the work they are assigned each day.
4. Please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions, or your child tells you something that just doesn't seem quite right, or you don't remember how to do a certain type of math problem, it is perfectly ok to reach out or have your son or daughter reach out for assistance. I am usually available and willing to help walk through subject content.

The first few weeks have flown by; I eagerly look forward to all the growth that awaits each student.

Tim Raddatz, Administrator

Lord, we pray Your emotional, physical, and spiritual protection over our school family. Keep evil far from us, and help us to trust You as our refuge and strength. We pray You will guard our minds from harm, and grant discernment to recognize truth. We pray You will make us strong and courageous in the presence of danger, recognizing that You have overcome and will set right all injustice and wrong. Help us to find rest in Your shadow, as we live in the spiritual shelter You provide for us. Let us always remember the safe place we have in YOU, and the love that YOU will always surround us in.

Amen

Hello, Everyone!

I wanted to let you know that it has been a great first two weeks of the school year! I have enjoyed getting to know the kiddos in my room. We have been working on learning the names of some new friends that were not with us last year, as well as learning the procedures within the classroom. We have also had time for some fun outside (when it has not been raining) and a few indoor games as well.

Over the last two weeks we have talked about what God is like. We talked about how he is powerful and strong, how he loves us very much, how he is our best friend, and how he is our fortress. We also said that he is like the wind, we cannot see him, but we can feel him. We then talked about how God created the world and everything in it with the power of his words, and how he created Adam and Eve special with his hands and breath. They remember the stories pretty well!

For math, we have started to explore different materials that we will be using throughout the year. We also started to work on the concept of a graph and how to tell if there was more or less in a graph. We have discussed things like weather, and practiced our counting.

Literacy at the beginning of the school year has us working on recognizing our names as well as practicing how to write them. We do this through games like Name Musical Chairs, or a paper plate game we play that has the kids' names on them. There has been popular request already to bring back some of these games! This week we will begin studying our letters and we will start with the letter C. We have also been reading stories.

With trying to keep everything sanitized and cleaned, we will be sending bedding home already pretty soon to be washed at home and brought back to school. We plan to have this done twice a month.

If you have any questions, please reach out to me. Thank you for a great start of the school year! I wish you blessings on your next few weeks ahead! -Jamie Buss

We Love Preschool!

So far, we have been rocking in preschool. So much learning is going on it is a blast. We have started to become more familiar with the ins and outs of the classroom and what is expected of us at different times. It is a lot to remember but we are working our hardest to soak it all up. It takes some time, but we will soon be pros at it.

We have started off the year with our first Bible story, the days of creation. We will work our way through the Old Testament and learn about Jesus coming around Christmas. Each month we will learn about a new number, shape, and color. September is all about 2, circles, and red. In about a week we will start having a new letter each week until we make it all the way through the whole alphabet.

Something new this year in preschool is the Happily Ever After Reading Readiness Program. This is a companion program to the Super Kids Reading Curriculum taught in K-2 at St. John's. The goal of this program is to introduce books to the students including how to handle books, listen to stories, and try to process what the story is about. Each month we will start a new story and read and reread it to help understand different aspects of a story like beginning, middle, and end. It also includes colors and letter recognition just like we will be focusing on in other parts of preschool. September's story is Little Red Riding Hood. We have loved being able to have our own book and follow along with the story as it is being read to us. It helps us to really

understand that even preschoolers can read pictures even if we cannot read the words. Continue to keep reading with your child at home and at the end of the month send back that yellow reading chart. Your child will get some stickers as a reward for reading.

A few things to look forward to is Picture day on Sept 29th. Our class will be the first to go in. Hopefully, outfits and hair can still be mostly clean. Remember to bring back that sheet if you plan to order pictures right away otherwise you can order them after you see the prints. There will be a makeup picture day so if for some reason your child missed it, or you wanted new ones you have a second opportunity.

As always feel free to email, or message me with any concerns or questions you have.
Mrs. Alexa Foelske

India's Children's Homes and Schools

This year's school mission offerings will be going to India!

In order to care for poor and orphaned children in India, WELS supports and supervises five children's homes. These homes care for both the physical and spiritual needs of more than 125 poor children and orphans. In these homes, children find a safe place to live, food and clothing, and – most importantly – the gospel of Jesus Christ.

WELS also supports and supervises Gentle Shepherd Lutheran School. This elementary school offers free, quality education to 206 children. More importantly, through daily devotions, Bible stories, and memorization, these children also hear the good news that they have a Savior who loves them.

Your prayers and any offerings are greatly appreciated. Offerings are gathered each Wednesday at chapel or by your child's teacher. Thank you for your support of our mission goal to go and tell the world about Jesus.

Welcome back to school!

We have had a great start to kindergarten and first grade so far. It is wonderful to be back to in person schooling. The students are so excited to have time with each other again, and I am equally happy to be with them. We have a lot of eager, enthusiastic children this year, and I am looking forward to watching them grow spiritually, academically, emotionally, and physically.

The first couple of weeks of school were spent getting used to friends, routines, and rules as well as slowly easing back into academics after a long absence. We will be fully into our regular schedule both for homework and in school classes by next week. Thank you goes out to all of the parents for working with their children at home. Our Accelerated Reader program has been revamped over the summer and has some bugs to work out for daily book quizzes; I am grateful for all of your patience with the program as we try to get it running smoothly for everyone.

Big thanks go out to our volunteers as well. Your students may come home talking about Miss Courtney (Schisel) and/or Grandma Carol (Just). These ladies will be helping our students with a chance to read one-on-one with an adult at school. We are grateful for all they do!

Please keep our class and our school in your prayers as we continue our year that we stay healthy, happy, learning, and closer to God. God's blessings! -Rebecca Wicks

Mrs. Bunn's Classroom News

What a great start to the year! I was not sure what to expect these first few weeks and I am not sure your children did either, but I cannot believe how quickly we are learning or re-learning new classroom procedures. Everyone seemed to be relieved to be together in the classroom again.

All parents have probably noticed a white binder called a take home binder coming home each day in your child's backpack. This is what I use to touch base with your child every morning and to check on daily reading at home. This is the best place to put notes that I need to see right away in the morning. All parents are reminded that school policy this year is that changes in rides home or other appointment information should come written as a note and sent with that child. Cell phone coverage is spotty in my classroom, notifications are not always heard over classroom noise, and there is not time to check messages and emails until the end of the day. Please reserve trying to contact teachers by text during the day to emergency situations. I do receive messages sent before school starts, but keep in mind that teachers are with students at 7:30 each day.

If your child has signed up to receive bag lunch, please note that they have an extra milk to be brought home if you would like. If you do not want it, let me know and we will stop sending it home in your child's backpack. If you do want it, I would recommend sending an insulated lunchbox with an ice pack. Be on the lookout for milks in the backpack otherwise. I do not want you to be surprised by a collection of these in your child's backpack. Do not be like me and wait a month or so to check on the state of your child's backpack. I have found some terrible things in there in the past.

I appreciate all your support so far and I am excited to have your children back in the classroom. There are many teachers out there who do not have the opportunity to teach their students face to face. While they are working extremely hard and doing amazing things, it is never going to be the same. Kids need social interaction, human teachers, and less stressed out parents. Videos and online learning are great ways to support what you are doing in the classroom, but they are no substitute for in class activities, hands-on experiences, discussions, role-playing, games, and a multitude of other enjoyable learning activities in the classroom. Teachers do not rely on books and worksheets for teaching, rather they use them to provide practice or assess how well students understood the information. Thank you in advance for doing everything you are doing to keep your children and others healthy and in the classroom. Continue to make those extra efforts that are keeping us in school as much as possible.

Have a great weekend.

