

Reopening 2020 - 2021 StMM Preschool FAQ's

All students will be charged a \$100 application fee and a \$150 tuition deposit. Both are non-refundable.

What Preschool programs are offered at StMM?

This year, due to public health requirements we must limit the mixing of different groups of students. As a result, we have decided that we are only able to offer the following programs:

3 year old Full day Preschool:

Hours: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

5 day Tuition: \$8262 Supply fee: \$250 Application Fee: \$100

4 Year Old Full day Preschool:

Hours: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

5 day Tuition: \$6885 Supply Fee: \$250 Application Fee: \$100

4 Year Old Half-day Preschool:

Morning Hours: 8:30.m. – 11:30 a.m.

5 day Tuition: \$3442 Supply Fee: \$125 Application Fee: \$100

There is a possibility that, after evaluating final enrollment numbers and assuring adequate space, we might be able to create dedicated classes for other program schedules.

Do you have an extended morning or lunch option for half-day students?

No. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer our 3 and 4 year old Lunch Bunch program this year.

Do you offer before and/or after care programs?

Our preschool does not operate any before and/or after care programs. St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School offers a Before and After School Care program that preschool families may register for separately. As of August 2020, due to public health restrictions, these programs are paused and not available. For updated information about the before/after school program, please contact Mrs. Megan Mastrogiovanni at Mastrogiovanni@stmm.net.

Does the supply fee cover all of the supplies, or will I be asked to send in school supplies?

In each of the preschool classes, you will be asked to send in some basic school supplies such as glue sticks, writing notebooks, markers, etc. The list of supplies varies depending on the class in which you are enrolled.

How old does my child need to be to attend Preschool at StMM? What is the birthday cut off for preschool?

To enroll in the 3 year old program, children must be 3 years old on or before August 31st of the academic year they will enter school.

To enroll in the 4 year old program, children must be 4 years old on or before August 31st of the academic year they will enter school.

How many children are in each class? What is the student: teacher ratio?

In order to accommodate moderate social distancing in preschool, we have reduced the maximum number of children in each classroom.

3 year old Preschool: Up to 7 children in each room with 1 teacher in each room and a shared assistant between the 2 classes. This is a maximum of 14 students with 2 teachers and one assistant.

4 Year old Full day Preschool: Up to 13 children in each room with 1 teacher in each room and a shared assistant between the 2 classes. This is a maximum of 26 students with 2 teachers and one assistant.

4 Year old Morning Preschool: Up to 13 children with 1 teacher and one assistant.

Do children have to be potty trained? Can children wear “Pull Up” Diapers?

All children entering the preschool program must be completely toilet trained. Pull Ups or diapers of any kind are not permitted in the classroom.

Do you offer a “Mother’s Morning Out” Program for younger children?

No. While we would love to offer such a program, we don’t have any available classroom space at this time. We may offer a MMO program in the future if we can resolve the space issue.

Can I get a tour of the facility?

Yes, we are happy to schedule a tour of the preschool program for you. You are welcome to bring your child with you when you visit the school. Everyone, including children over age 2, must wear masks at all times during the tour. Please contact Barbara Senn (senn@stmm.net) or Lydia Binanay (binanay@stmm.net) to arrange a tour.

Can I come and observe the classrooms?

During this time of heightened health and safety measures to help control the spread of the novel coronavirus, we are not permitted to have non-essential visitors in our classrooms. We are working to create video sessions from each program for parents to view.

Do you provide snack or lunch for the children?

No.

In the 4 year old Morning Program, the children should bring a healthy snack and a water bottle each day. They will have an opportunity to eat snack about mid-way through the scheduled class time.

In the 3 and 4 year old full day programs, children should bring 2 snacks and a water bottle. In addition, these students may either bring lunch from home or they may buy the lunch offered by the school cafeteria each day.

All meals and snacks will be eaten in the classroom this year.

In order to provide a safe experience for all of our students, StMM is a peanut and tree nut free environment. Products that contain or MAY contain peanuts or tree nuts are not permitted.

If I enroll in Preschool at StMM, is my child automatically accepted into the kindergarten class?

Yes. Children that are enrolled in StMM’s four-year-old program are automatically accepted into our kindergarten program pending the results of their Kindergarten Readiness Screening.

What if my child has food allergies?

The teachers and staff of StMM are very aware of the serious nature of many food allergies. We maintain a peanut and tree nut free environment. If your child has food allergies, you will be asked to fill out an Allergy Action Plan for him/her. If your child must have an Epi-pen or Benadryl on hand in case of allergic reaction, you will be asked to provide 2 Epi-pens to keep on campus. (1 in the classroom, 1 in the nurse's office) A StMM Medical Form detailing dosing instructions and signed by a physician must be on file for each medication.

Do the children in Preschool wear uniforms?

The children in the 3 year old Preschool classes DO NOT wear uniforms.

The children in the 4 year old Preschool classes DO wear uniforms. They follow the same uniform guidelines as the children in the elementary school with a few exceptions. The preschool students are NOT required to wear a belt when wearing pants or shorts, and they are not required to have a P.E. uniform. This year, we are asking all preschoolers to wear either slip-on shoes or shoes with Velcro closures. Preschoolers should not wear shoes with laces that need tied.

What type of curriculum is used in the Preschool program? What types of things/activities do they do?

Our main goal is to create a safe and nurturing environment where young children can learn and explore. We believe that a basic understanding of the beauty of God's creation and of His unending love and forgiveness for all people helps to set young children on a positive path for friendships, behavior, and knowledge of their own self-worth.

Weekly activities in the preschool classrooms include arts and crafts, music, movement, alphabet and number activities, science and sensory activities, dramatic play, block play, writing activities, and manipulative toys such as puzzles and peg boards. In both the 3 and 4 year old programs, there is significant emphasis placed on social skills and language skills.

The Preschool program at StMM follows the curriculum guidelines developed by the Diocese of Raleigh. Classroom teachers use the teaching methods and activities that they have found to be most effective with their age group as they address each of the curriculum standards set forth by the diocese. The Diocesan Curriculum for Early Childhood Programs includes activities and skills for each developmental area in which children learn and grow. These areas include spiritual, social, emotional, cognitive, language and physical motor skills. An overview of the Diocesan curriculum guidelines for Early Childhood programs is available on line at: <https://dioceseofraleigh.org/catholic-schools/standards-and-instruction>

What about religion? Do the children attend Mass?

The children in both the 3 year old and 4 year old classes use a religion curriculum which includes many activities and stories designed to help young children appreciate the beauty and wonder of God's Creation and His love for all living beings. In addition, the children participate in classroom prayer services during Advent and Lent.

This year, our weekly school Mass will be live streamed into our classrooms. The preschool teachers will have the option of having the children attend Mass virtually at that time or creating a separate liturgical activity for them.

Do the full-day students take a nap?

Yes. The children in the Full-Day 3 year old and 4 year old classes have rest time scheduled each day. The children are asked to rest quietly on their mats, but they are not required to sleep during this time.

What measures are you taking to limit the spread of COVID-19?

Saint Mary Magdalene Catholic Preschool is committed to providing a safe and nurturing environment for our families and employees. We are committed to working within guidelines set forth by state and local health officials and collaborating with staff, parents, students, and physicians to minimize risk of exposure and/or spread of COVID-19. The health and safety of our students, staff, and community are a top priority and we urge any student, staff member, or visitor who is not feeling well to stay home.

We will not allow any person to enter our buildings who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days, has recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19, or is experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms

In addition, reduced class sizes, increased physical distancing, health screenings, and enhanced hygiene and cleaning procedures have been put in place.

You can find more details about our plans here: [StMM Preschool Reopening Plan 2020-21](#)

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Barbara Senn at senn@stmm.net or 919-657-4800 ext. 7283.