



Pre-Kindergarten 3 and 4

2016-2017

Mrs. Carrie D'Attilio

Calendar and Class Times

We follow the Iroquois Central School calendar. Attached is a list of vacation days.

Class times are as follows:

Pre-K 4: Monday-Friday: 9:00 - 11:30

Pre-K 3: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 9:00 - 11:30

Mommy and Me: Monday: 9:30-11:30

* We will follow the emergency school closing policy of Iroquois Central School District.

Drop Off

Drop off time can be a difficult time for everyone. It is a very busy time for teachers and a very emotional and stressful time for students and parents. I ask that students be walked to the door and allowed to enter on their own. They will walk in put their supplies in their cubby and then find a seat at the table to partake in the morning activity Doing this on their own will help foster independence as well as make it less hectic for everyone.

Transitioning New Children/Separation

Children will sometimes have difficulty separating upon arrival to school, this is extremely typical and will lessen as time passes. Here are a few suggestions to ease separation anxiety:

Allow adequate time in the morning to get ready and get to school (rushing will make children feel more anxious).

While driving to school talk to your child about the day ahead (who will be there and what they will do).

Give hugs and kisses outside of the room and reassure them you will return when school is over.

Please tell your child goodbye and make a quick departure. The longer the separation process the more difficult it is for students to make a positive transition.

Departure

Students will be dismissed to their parent or guardian at the door. They will have their materials gathered and wait for their name to be called to meet their parent or guardian. If anyone other than the child's parent or guardian will be picking up please write me a note with the dates and adults name that will picking them up. Please be sure that the adult that is picking up your child has their ID because we will be checking to ensure your child is going home with the correct person.

Snack

Each day we will have snack time. The snack table is an excellent place to promote positive social interactions and appropriate table manners. Please have your child bring in a small snack and drink in their backpack. The more simple the snack the easier for your child and teachers. If any students have severe allergies we will contact parents and snack rules may be more strict.

Allergies

We are continuing to be a Peanut FREE center. All snacks and lunches must be peanut free. Please check labels, we will not allow any snacks that were processed in a plant that also processes peanuts. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Birthday Parties

We would love to celebrate your child's birthday in school. You may bring in a special snack on the day that is set by you and the teacher. If there are any allergies parents will be notified. As a summer birthday girl myself I know that it can be upsetting not to celebrate your birthday in school, we will gladly make arrangements to find another day to celebrate summer birthdays during school time.

Curriculum

Annunciation is completely invested in giving each child the absolute best education possible. They have purchased two new curricula (Handwriting Without Tears and Building Blocks Math) as well as many new developmentally appropriate center and teaching materials from Lakeshore Learning store.

Handwriting Without Tears (HWT) - from <http://www.hwtears.com/gss>

Philosophy & Principles

The Get Set for School readiness curriculum uses a developmental approach that is based on the most relevant research about how young children learn best:

- Break difficult concepts into simple tasks
- Believe that every child can achieve
- Use really cool materials that make children want to learn

What and How We Teach

Pre-K is a time of rapid growth and development. It's a year of preparation for kindergarten and for future success in school and in life. To achieve, children need to be imaginative, independent, and actively involved in their own learning.

Imaginative

Children learn naturally through everyday experiences with people, places, and things. They are born imitators and scientists who thrive on active hands-on interaction with the physical world. They learn through play and through physical and sensory experiences.

We want children to be imaginative explorers, and believe that teachers and parents support curiosity by what they place in a child's environment. Children play with what's there. Including fun, engaging materials throughout the learning space affects how children feel, what they do, and how they learn. Get Set for School materials accommodate both teacher-directed and student-initiated playful learning, because we know that sparking the imagination leads to a lifelong love of learning

Building Blocks Math - taken from

<https://www.mheonline.com/program/view/4/4/2626/0076BB2012/>

Develop mathematical knowledge in early learners with an engaging, research-based program

Building Blocks™ embeds mathematical learning in Pre K students' daily activities—from designated math activities to circle and story time—to relate informal math knowledge to formal concepts. Providing a solid foundation for future math study, *Building Blocks™ Pre K*:

- Offers interactive, high-tech activities and low-tech, hands-on manipulatives.
- Offers real-world exploration through manipulatives, computers, books, and more.
- Engages students in mathematical thinking.
- Emphasizes conceptual thinking and reasoning to improve skill acquisition.
- Develops learning aligned with state and national standards:

- Number and Operations
- Geometry
- Measurement
- Patterns and Algebra
- Data Analysis and Classification
- Provides appropriate and ongoing use of technology.
- Incorporates assessment with learning events.

Language and Literacy

During my time working with the Amherst Central School District I helped to develop a curriculum based on the NYS Standards in language and literacy. You can be assured that each literacy lesson will be developmentally appropriate, and have a clear and concise objective that is based on the standards set forth by New York State. Students will be engaged and be taught lessons that are hands on, thoughtful, and differentiated for each student and their abilities.

Assessment

In place of report cards I use a work sampling method of assessment. I collect examples of student work and then write a cumulative piece that summarizes your students social/emotional, language/literacy and math skills. We will then have a conference and review your student's work and summary. We can discuss any questions or concerns you have as well.

Bathroom Policy

When a child begins PreK-4, he or she must be completely potty trained. The child should be in cloth underwear and not in diapers, pull-ups or training pants. Children are expected to use the toilet and clean

up properly without assistance from teachers. Assistance with hand washing reminders and clothing fastening will be given if necessary.

In order for a child to be admitted into the Pre-K 3 program he/she must be working towards being completely potty trained. The following MUST be met:

- is still in Pull-Ups (only Pull-Ups, no diapers)
- who has less than 5 accidents a day (could possible go the whole morning without an accident)
- can tell the teacher or assistant (verbally or non-verbally) that they need to use the restroom

Extra Pull-Ups must be provided by parent or guardian.

Illness Policy

We will notify parents when certain communicable diseases are present and we ask that you notify the center when your child is out with a communicable disease.

Children with the following illnesses may NOT attend school:

- Chicken Pox
- Conjunctivitis
- Whooping Cough
- Lice
- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Scarlet Fever

Children with the following symptoms may NOT attend school:

- Fever over 100 degree Fahrenheit
- Significant nasal discharge

- Severe Cough
- Difficult or rapid breathing
- Pinkeye tears, redness of eyelid lining, irritation, followed by swelling or discharge
- Unusual spots or rashes
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea (more than one abnormally loose stool)
- Sore throat or trouble swallowing

Children may return to school 24 hours after the disappearance of all symptoms.

Toys from Home

Please do not bring in toys from home, with show and tell being the exception. They can become a distraction to your child and others.

Parent Involvement / Parent Communication

Parent involvement and communication is critical to a student's success. Parents will be informed of classroom information through monthly newsletters, the bulletin board posted outside of the class, and weekly math newsletters. You can always reach me by email (cdattilio.annunciation@gmail.com) and by phone from 7:30-9:00 and 11:30-1:00.

During our spring semester one adult from each family will be allowed to come into our class and spend the day participating in our extremely busy and fun class. We will also ask for parent volunteers to bring in supplies and help in our classroom for class parties and field trips.

In addition, this year, we will be asking for a list of parents/guardians/grandparents that would not mind coming in to

volunteer on short notice to help when one of our teachers is absent. Thank you very much in advance!

Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch will be 11:30 to 12:30 one day a month. If your child attends school that day, they can sign up for Lunch Bunch (3 day a week students may switch and come that day). Students will need to bring a lunch, we do not provide lunch. If a lunch is not brought they will not be allowed to stay. The cost for this program is \$5.

Guidance and Discipline

Teachers and staff strive to help children develop a positive self-image. We hope to encourage students to make positive choices that benefit themselves as well as their friends and the classroom. We provide an environment that focuses on the prevention of unwanted behaviors and encourages positive ones. This is best accomplished by consistently demonstrating appropriate behaviors, close supervision, constant positive reinforcement, and guidance. Below are some strategies that will be implemented in our classroom.

- Provide clear and simple limits.
- Visual Cue of "Giving Me Five": 2 ears listening, 2 eyes watching, and 1 mouth closed.
- Self check and monitoring
- Redirecting students away from inappropriate situations
- Modeling appropriate and respectful behaviors
- Providing the tools and guidance to solve problems with friends independently
- Giving students choices between two appropriate behaviors

If there is a behavior concern our teachers will contact the child's parent or guardian.

I know that this is a lot of information and it may not answer all the questions you have. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.