

ST. MALACHY CATHOLIC PRESCHOOL HANDBOOK



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On behalf of St. Malachy, welcome and thank you for choosing our program. We look forward to a rewarding school year.

Our preschool program started during the 2015-2016 school year. We offer a full academic preschool curriculum, *World of Wonders* for early learners. This curriculum is center based with monthly themes aligned to the foundations of early learning: social-emotional development, alphabet, book time, science and social studies, math, music and movement, art and construction, writing and drawing, and technology. Our Catholic religion is *His Little Way*. This curriculum takes our students on an age appropriate journey through the liturgical year with activities, songs and stories about the Saints.

We strive to meet your family's needs for spiritual, emotional, social, physical, and academic growth in order to prepare your children for academic and social success.

The preschool is staffed with committed Christians who have your child's development as their priority. Please feel free to call us at any time.

St. Malachy Catholic School (317) 852-2242

Saundra Kennison, Principal

Heather Reynolds, Assistant Principal

Lori McFarland, Dean of Students

Father Sean Danda, Pastor

Geoff Derven, Business Manager

Mission Statement

St. Malachy Catholic School forms saints in the doctrine and traditions of the Catholic faith by learning, loving, and living in Christ.

"Today we will be Learning, Loving, and Living in Christ."

Philosophy and Teaching Goals

Our preschool program prepares children as young as 3 years old for school and beyond. This program sets the stage for self-confidence and inspires education and social success. Our goal is to provide quality education that fosters academic excellence, integrates the traditions of the Roman Catholic Faith, and integrates the teachings of the gospel of Jesus into all curricular areas while developing school readiness skills. Each day is centered on the commandment, “Love one another as I have loved you.” (John 15:12)

We will provide children with a variety of activities to help them learn to respect, work, and play with others in a positive Catholic Christian environment. Children will learn skills such as self-help, listening, language, small/large motor skills, dramatic play, creative art, literature, music, and science. These skills will be taught with age appropriate activities designed to be presented to children individually and in small and large groups. It is important for each child to learn at his or her own skill level.

Admissions Policy

Active parishioners of St. Malachy are given priority to enroll their children in our preschool. When openings are available, St. Malachy Catholic School will consider for admission students from other Catholic parishes and students of other faiths. When a classroom has been filled, a waiting list will be established and maintained throughout the school year.

Policy order for acceptance:

1. Current preschool students of the school
2. Catholic children of participating parishioners who are siblings of current students
3. Children of staff members
4. Catholic children of participating parishioners
5. Catholic children of non-participating parishioners who are siblings or current students
6. Catholic children of non-participating parishioners
7. Catholic non-parishioners
8. Non-Catholics

Registrations

A non-refundable family registration fee of \$100 is required to reserve your child(ren)'s preschool placement. If we are unable to provide a spot for your child due to classroom size being met, your registration fee will be returned.

We must have all of the items below in order for the application process to be complete.

- The non-refundable registration fee
- Applicant's birth certificate
- Applicant's immunization records
- Applicant's immunization CHIRP release form
- All other new family forms

Preschoolers can attend the school's Extended Day program from 3:00PM (2:30 dismissal on Wednesday)-6:00PM for \$5.00 per hour.

They may also attend morning care from 6:45AM-7:20AM for \$1.00 per day, payment expected at time of service.

Preschool Class Categories

Children **must be fully potty trained** to attend Clovers and/or Preschool. The student to teacher ratio of 1:10 allows for individual attention. Students are welcomed into a community of faith and will learn about character building and caring for others.

Clovers

Age 3 by August 1st of the applying school year and fully potty trained. Fully potty trained means the child communicates the need to urinate and/or have bowel movements.

- M/W/F 7:50AM-10:30AM
- M/W/F 7:50AM-3PM (dismissal at 2:30PM on Wednesdays)
- T/TH 7:50AM-10:30AM
- T/TH 7:50AM-3PM
- 5 days all day 7:50AM-3PM (dismissal at 2:30 on Wednesdays)

Pre-Kindergarten

Age 4 by August 1st of the applying school year

- M/W/F 7:50AM-10:30AM
- M/W/F 7:50AM-3PM (dismissal at 2:30 on Wednesdays)
- T/TH 7:50AM-10:30AM
- T/TH 7:50AM-3PM
- 5 days all day 7:50AM-3PM (dismissal at 2:30 on Wednesdays)

Bathroom Policy

The preschool staff will work together as partners with the parents in helping each child achieve the skills that are necessary for independent toileting and hygiene. Clover students go to the bathroom every hour and/or when they communicate the need to go potty. However, if a child has two accidents in one day, the family will be notified to come and pick up the child for the remainder of that day. If the child continues to have multiple accidents on a daily basis, the preschool staff may consider asking the family to terminate the child from preschool enrollment until complete toilet training is achieved. See appendix for additional information.

Financial Information

FACTS Enrollment Management Company

St. Malachy Catholic School has contracted with FACTS Management Company to manage our tuition payments. You will be receiving a Tuition Account Billing Statement from FACTS management in June. It will list your total tuition & fees balance due to the school for the upcoming school year along with instructions on how to enroll in a payment plan online.

Enrollment in FACTS must be completed by June 1st. There is a separate enrollment fee to utilize the FACTS withdrawal system. This fee is applied to your FACTS account when you enroll. Only those that are making a full payment may pay the school directly. A late fee of \$15.00 will be assessed if a monthly payment is received

10 days past the due date. A 3-5 day notice must be made prior to a scheduled withdrawal date if a change in date is necessary.

*Tuition payments are not subject to adjustments due to illness, vacation, absences, weather closings, etc.

* Failure to meet financial obligations will result in assessment of late fees and/or dismissal of students.

Withdrawals

If it is necessary to withdraw your child from our preschool program, please do your best to give our administration a 2 week notice.

Discipline Policy

St. Malachy Catholic School strives to educate students in Catholic beliefs and to provide a learning environment that will assist the student in developing intellectually, spiritually, emotionally, physically, and socially. Discipline is a necessary element of this mission. We believe that the school must help each student attain the self-discipline necessary for self-reliance and successful learning. Until a student exhibits the ability to be self-disciplined, guidance must and will be provided.

We expect students at St. Malachy Catholic School to exemplify attitudes and actions that reflect Catholic values. Values such as respect, honesty, caring, responsibility, justice, and generosity are the goals toward which all students must strive. Both students and staff must expend constant effort in growth and development toward this end.

Disciplinary action is intended to be instructional and corrective. Discipline will be administered with respect for Catholic values. When necessary, consequences will be administered in a manner that is consistent, fair, firm, and appropriate for each situation.

Preschool rules mimic the school-wide rules for behavior, otherwise known as “The Shamrock Way”.

1. Pray everyday
2. Honor and respect everyone.
3. Always give your best effort.
4. Keep your hands, feet and unwanted comments to yourself.
5. Serve others.

We utilize many different methods for achieving good behavior in preschool. One system does not work for every child. We use redirection, positive reinforcement, and Conscious Discipline among many others.

Parents will be contacted on a case by case basis, if behavior is an issue.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

*see attached maps for arrival and departure routes

Students can arrive between 7:20-7:50 to proceed to their classroom. Please allow enough time for your child to enter the building and walk to their classroom before the 7:50 tardy bell rings. Follow the departure map for pick up. Please note where you park at pick up is based on what road you would like to exit.

Snacks and Lunch

Parents are responsible for providing a healthy, PEANUT-FREE daily snack for their child (See appendix for guidelines on healthy snacks). Preschoolers who will be here all day will eat lunch in the cafeteria daily at 10:30 am. Hot lunch can be purchased for \$2.90. Lunches brought to school do not need to be peanut free. There is a designated peanut free table in the cafeteria for children with food allergies. A list of healthy snacks is included in the appendix.

Child Custody and Parental Rights

St. Malachy Catholic School will require a court document to be on file which indicates child custody in cases where parents are in dispute. Direct contact will be made with the primary custodial parent for daily information, parent conferences, and school mailings. The non-custodial parent may have access to any student records and general information regarding the program. If there is a court order indicating the non-custodial parent should not have access to the child or his/her records, this needs to be on file in order for the preschool to be in compliance. Any parents who are unable to settle their differences between themselves and continue to harass the preschool staff may be asked to remove their child from the program. This also applies to disputes regarding tuition payments.

Visitors-Alumni

We invite visitors to St. Malachy Catholic School, especially parents, alumni, and interested friends. Please call ahead to arrange a convenient time for your visit. We utilize Safe Visitor to screen all visitors. Therefore, all visitors must report to the

school office upon arriving to scan their driver's license and pick up a visitor's badge. All volunteers must complete Safe Parish online before volunteering in the classroom. <https://www.archindysafeparish.org/>. Code is archindy2021

Conferences

Parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled every October.

Medication at School

In order to protect the health and welfare of the students and staff members, Indiana laws require that school personnel observe certain safeguards in administering prescription medication or over the counter medication to students. If we are to administer medications to your student during school or program hours, the following procedures will be observed:

- All prescription or over the counter medications must be delivered to the school administration by the parent/guardian or another adult designated by the parent/guardian.
- All prescription and over the counter medications must be provided by the parent/guardian in the original packaging.
- All prescription and over the counter medications must be stored in the school office.
- Parents must complete the Administration of Medication Form to have medication administered. This will provide the school nurse details regarding the dosage of medication for the student. Dosage information can be obtained from the label of the original container. The form is available in the school office and on the school nurse's blog site.
- It is the parent's/guardian's responsibility to pick up any unused medication prior to the last day of school. It cannot be sent home with the child. If it is not picked up, it will be properly disposed of.

We cannot assume responsibility for medication unless these provisions are followed.

Illness/Injury

If a student becomes ill in school, a parent or person authorized by the parent will be notified. The Family Emergency Information Sheet, which is kept on file in the office, lists names of persons to contact in the event that a parent is not available. Parents

should be certain that the person who is listed on the sheet is available. Parents and other contacts should be able to pick up an ill child within 30 minutes. Please keep this emergency sheet up to date. A student who has a temperature of 100 degrees, is injured seriously, or becomes sick to his/her stomach may not remain at school.

A student needs to be fever free 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medication, have not vomited or had a case of diarrhea within this time period prior to returning to school.

Dress Code

Preschool students follow the same dress code as students in grades K-8th; however, some requirements are different for preschool to allow for ease of dressing. These differences are no belts, pants can have an elastic waistband, no split-skorts for girls. Schoolbelles is the chosen school uniform store for SMS polos. Uniforms can be ordered online through their website: www.schoolbelles.com or bought at their store located in Indianapolis. Our school code is S1422. Uniform shirts and spirit wear can also be purchased at Rose Promotions online <https://www.rosepromos.com/collections/st-malachy> or in their store located in Brownsburg.

Uniform pants can be purchased from Schoolbelles, Old Navy, or any store that sells the French Toast brand. Pants must be plain khaki (tan) slacks (no jean material) and must be in good condition (no holes or frayed ends). The pants may not have open outside pockets, designs, embroidery, or appliques on them.

Uniform shirts are the monogrammed (SMS) Schoolbelles polo shirts in navy or green in long or short sleeves. Plain white shirts (turtlenecks, long or short sleeved t-shirts) may be worn under the polo shirts during colder weather.

Plaid skirts, plaid jumpers or the navy or green romper that are approved at Schoolbelles may be worn at lengths that will not exceed 3 inches from the middle of the knee. Shorts can be worn underneath skirts, or jumpers as well as footed tights or ankle length leggings which must be solid black. If leggings are worn, socks should be long enough to cover the bottom of the leggings, such that no skin is shown.

Uniform style shorts are proper-fitting, khaki colored. The shorts may not have any designs, embroidery or appliques on them. Jeans, cargo shorts or capris are not permitted. No rayon or nylon windbreaker material allowed.

Sweatshirt/sweater-SMS crewneck logo sweatshirts in green or navy. The collar must be visible. Only 8th graders are permitted to wear hoodies through the day that have been designed by the 8th grade class.

Socks are to be solid white or black and are to be worn and visible at all times in sturdy shoes with backs. Ankle and knee socks for girls are acceptable in the above listed colors. St. Malachy socks from Sock Religious are permitted; however other multi-colored colors are not allowed. Socks with a logo such as Nike or Adidas are permitted.

Shoes are to be rubber soled. No slippers or moccasin type shoes. Due to safety, all students will be required to wear athletic shoes. Footwear that is NOT permitted include but is not limited to **light-up shoes**, canvas loafers, boots, slip-ons, Crocs, sandals or open-toed shoes.

Accessories: No temporary tattoos. Earrings are to only be worn by female students. One bracelet, but no rubber band bracelets can be worn. Religious pins are only allowed. No scarfs are to be worn. Any items that disrupt the learning process will be confiscated such as blinking pins, rings, earrings etc.

Mass Days: Khaki bottoms, plaid skirts, plaid jumpers, or navy or green romper must be worn on Mass and Holy Days. **Shorts may not be worn on Mass days.**

Spirit Day and Pro-life Day: There will be one Pro-Life shirt day (with jeans) and one spirit wear day (with jeans) per month. Administration will communicate these dates through the school calendar.

Special Themed Casual Days Guidelines: Clothing must be neat, decent and free of rips and tears. Running shorts are **NOT** acceptable and all shorts cannot exceed three inches above the knee. Preschool girl's yoga pants are acceptable attire; however, middle school girls may not wear yoga pants/leggings at any time at school or school events. Girl's leggings may be worn under casual skirts, skorts, dresses, or a long shirt that is at an appropriate length. An appropriate length is defined as covering the entire bottom and stomach area on Casual Days. Hats are not permitted on Casual Days unless it is designated as "Hat Day" or "Crazy Hair Day". Open-toed shoes are **NOT** permitted on Casual Days. Casual shoes must be worn with socks and should have a closed heel.

Personal Appearance: The student's personal appearance is to be neat and clean. Hair is to be above the eyes and above the collars for boys and out of the eyes for girls. Colored hair is not permitted. Mohawks or shaved designs are not allowed. For all

school events, during and after school, if a tank top, spaghetti strap or shirt/dress where any part of the shoulder is seen, a cover up must be worn at all times. Girls' hair accessories should be minimal and not distract from the educational process.

Family Service Hours Requirement

The service requirement is based on the example of Jesus, who stated that He came among us “not to be served but to service” (Matthew 20:26). Volunteering and serving on campus is a great way to lead by example, collaborate with other families, and to use your time, talent, and treasure to support, enrich and strengthen St. Malachy. Each family is required to complete 20 hours of service to our parish/school. The \$400 deposit will be refunded or reapplied once the service hours are completed. This deposit needs to be paid in full before August 1st. **Donated items are welcomed, but do not count toward service hours.**

Attendance Policy

In case of absence, the school office needs to be informed if a student will not be attending. Please call the school office at 317-852-2242 or email, schooloffice@stmalachy.org.

When reporting an absence, the parent/guardian should provide the following:

Name of the student

Class (Clover or Pre-K)

Reason for the absence

Emergency Closing

When in doubt as to whether school will be open due to severe weather conditions, please watch local TV stations. Effort is made to notify the media by 6:00AM. As a general rule, St. Malachy Catholic School follows the decision of Brownsburg Community Schools. If the weather temperatures are forecast to be less than -5 with or without the wind chill, the principal will make the decision based on the best interest of our students, staff, and parents. Parents will be notified in writing if there is any other closing not listed on the school calendar. Sometimes it may be necessary to close

early, once students are in school. For these rare occasions, the school has compiled an emergency contact list for emailing parents. Your student should have an emergency plan.

Sample Schedules

Sample PreK Schedule

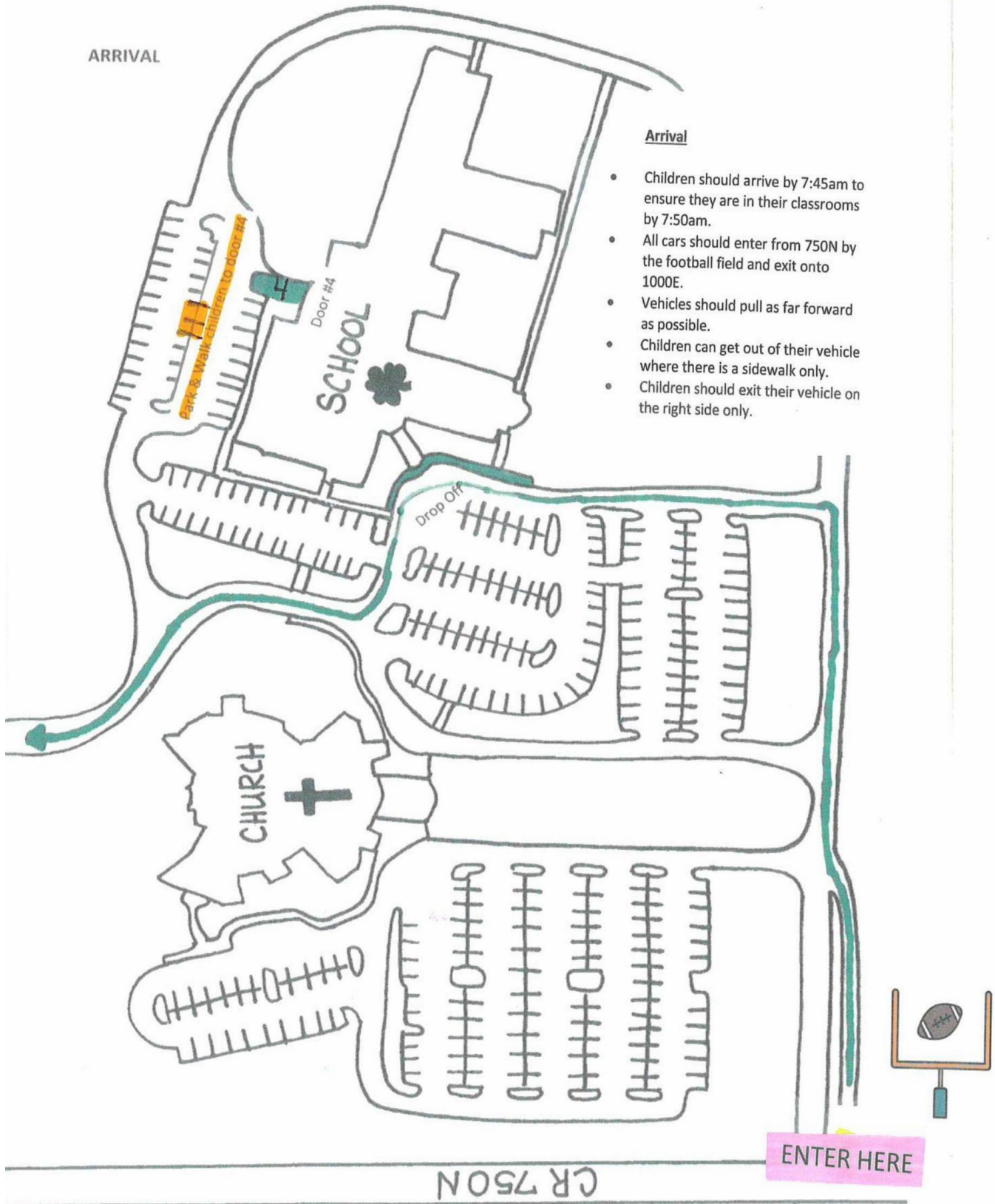
7:20-7:50 AM- Table Time (Name writing practice then math and alphabet toys)
 7:50-8:00 AM- Prayer/Pledge/Clean-up
 8:00-8:15 AM- Hello Song/Attendance/Lunch count/Storytime)/Message
 8:15-8:35 AM-Alphabet Time
 8:35-8:45 AM- Circle Time-Lesson relating to the curriculum: monthly unit theme (includes math, social studies, and social-emotional). Catholic Religion lessons are weekly.
 8:45-9:30 AM- Center Time/Teacher Table (individual choice dramatic play, preschool library, alphabet, math, science/social studies, art and sensory table).
 9:30-10:00 AM- Specials (Music, Library, and PE)
 10:00-10:25AM-Morning recess
 10:30-11:05AM- Lunch
 11:05-11:30AM- Recess
 11:30AM-Noon- Nap/rest time
 Noon - 12:30 PM - Table Time (Engineering, Math Toys)
 12:30 - 1 PM - Circle Time- discuss science topic for the month
 1:00 - 2:00 PM - Centers (Individual choice math, science, engineering activities)
 2:00 - 2:30 PM - Recess
 2:30 - 2:50 pm - Story time & Pack up
 2:54 PM Announcements, Prayer, and Dismissal

Sample Clover Schedule

7:20	Arrival/ Hand Washing /Morning Work
7:50	Prayer/Pledge/Announcements
8:05	Morning Starters
8:15	Circle Time
8:20	Religion Lesson & Wiggle Worship (Music and Movement)
8:30	Social and Emotional Lesson

	Brain Break
8:40	English Language Arts/Science/Social Studies Lesson
	Brain Break
8:55	Literacy Centers
9:25	Clean Up
9:30	<i>Special-Library, PE, or Technology</i>
9:55	Clean Up
10:00	Morning Recess
10:25	Get Ready for Lunch, AM Only Students get ready to go home.
10:30	Lunch Time
11:00	Lunch Recess
11:20	Restroom before Rest Time & Say Nap Time Prayer
11:30	Rest Time
12:15	Wake up/Clean up (wipe mats)
12:20	Quiet Time Building
12:40	Clean Up
12:45	Bathroom Break
12:50	Curriculum Reinforcement Circle Time & Brain Break Music and Movement
1:00	Literacy with STEM Centers
1:45	Clean Up with clean up song
2:00	Recess
2:25	Wash Hands/ Say Prayer before snack
2:30	Snack
2:45	Clean up/ Pack Up End of day reflection
2:55	Afternoon Announcements and Prayer
3:00	Dismissal

ARRIVAL



Appendix

Healthy Snacks

If your preschooler will be attending school all day, they will need to have a healthy tree nut and peanut free snack.

St. Malachy Catholic Preschool encourages healthy, natural snacks for the children and encourages families to avoid unhealthy foods when making snack choices. The snack list below includes nut-free, healthy suggestions.

**Please note that due to allergies and sensitivities, birthday treats to distribute are not allowed at school. However, students will be allowed to bring in a special, peanut/tree-nut free birthday treat for themselves on their birthday. (For example- a doughnut, cookies, cupcake, a small piece of candy to go with the snack.)*

-We ask that you please pack the snack separately (but may be stored in the lunch box if needed) and your child knows where to locate it.

-Please make sure that it is something that can be eaten within a 5 minute time period. Snacks are not to be shared with others. Snacks must be healthy-NO PEANUTS, NUTS, OR PEANUT OIL PLEASE, not high in sugar and candy, desserts, chips are not allowed.

Please be aware of the amount of sugar per serving. 4 grams of sugar equals 1 teaspoon of sugar, (32 grams of sugar=8 teaspoons of sugar!)

Please have bananas, oranges, or anything type of food with a peel (string cheese, babybel cheese wax) pre-peeled and certain snacks already open and placed in a baggie.

Snack List

- *Fruits and vegetables. Please have all produce washed, cut, and/or peeled ahead of time.*
- *Any dried fruit: raisins, cherries, pineapple, apples, papaya.*
- *Any pre-packaged fruits or vegetables: carrots, celery sticks, fresh fruit, broccoli, cauliflower, snap peas, etc.*

Other Snack Suggestions

- *Applesauce. Easy to use pouches work best!*
- *Cereal: Cheerios (plain), Purely Os by Cascadian Farms.*
- *Pretzels: Goldfish Pretzels, Rold Gold, Utz.*
- *Popcorn: Smartfood, Utz Popcorn (no caramel or sugary flavored popcorn please.)*
- *Graham Crackers: Nabisco, Goldfish, Keebler, Teddy Grahams, Annie's.*
- *Crackers: Cheese-Its, Cheese Nips, Goldfish, Keebler, Kraft Handi-Snack, Ritz, Town House, Triscuits, Wheat Thins, Annie's, Back to Nature.*
- *Yogurt: Gogurt or Dannimal smoothies(only if kept cold) or yogurt pouches. (no yogurt with toppings please. ie: YoCrunch)*
- *Meat and cheese (only if kept cold): Turkey snack sticks, pepperoni, salami, string cheese, cheese cubes Babybel.*

We ask that you please not send in juice boxes for snacks. Preschoolers will drink water from their daily water bottles brought to school-no additional drinks are needed. Please send in a full, flip-top refillable water bottle daily. If your child's snack requires a spoon or a fork, you are responsible for providing one for them.

Bathroom/Potty Training Resources

St. Malachy Catholic Preschool is considered a preschool therefore we are not equipped for potty-training. Children must be completely potty-trained, this includes both urine and BM.

Children must be in underwear and not in diapers, training pants or pull-ups. Independence in toileting includes the following:

- 1. Ability to control bladder and bowel.*
- 2. Managing their own clothes, avoid overalls and jeans/pants with zippers or snaps, and belts.*
- 3. Ability to walk to the toilet independently.*
- 4. Seat self on the toilet. Toilet independently including wiping.*

If a child has two accidents in one day, the family will be notified to come and pick up the child for the remainder of that day. In the event that a child is found not fully potty-trained at the end of the first two weeks of enrollment, the parents will be notified that they will need to make other arrangements for preschool. The child may only return to St. Malachy Catholic Preschool upon completion of potty-training if space is available.