



St. Francis Xavier Preschool

Preschool Handbook

2024-2025

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Mission

Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Jesuit School is a welcoming community dedicated to pursuing educational excellence, living our faith through action, and nurturing compassionate difference-makers while forming kids for others.

Statement of Rights

St. Francis Xavier School reserves the right to change, modify, delete, or alter any of the policies and practices contained in this handbook without advanced notice. However, parents will be given prompt notification if changes are made.

Licensure

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Preschool is licensed and regulated by the Arizona Department of Health Services, License # CDC15670. Annual inspections are conducted and reports are available for viewing upon request.

Arizona Department of Health Services

150 N. 18th Ave. Suite 400

Phoenix, Az 85007-3244, 602-364-2539

Expiration: December 31, 2025

Insurance Coverage

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Preschool is insured by the Catholic Mutual Relief, Society of America, 10843 Old Mill Rd, Omaha, NE 68154.

Pesticide Application

Prior notice of pesticide application will be posted 72 hours in advance. Generally pesticide application happens over a holiday weekend.

Preschool Tuition & Fees/Enrollment & Disenrollment Procedures

Enrollment is based on a first come first serve basis, with preference being given to returning families, school families and parish families. Upon enrollment, each preschool family must pay a \$100 Registration Fee which is non-refundable.

Standard tuition rate for active in-parish families is payable in 11 month installments. Current tuition rates can be found on our [school website](#). Tuition and other incidental fees are paid through FACTS Tuition Management. Tuition payments are scheduled from July through May. Tuition is for the academic year. Should a circumstance occur which causes a student to withdraw from SFX, tuition will be prorated by month of attendance and a partial refund will be issued only if the opening can be filled.

Preschool Programs

Preschool 3's: Must be three years of age and completely toilet trained by June 1st. We offer a full week option only (Monday-Friday).

Preschool 4's: Students must be four years old by September 1st. This is an academic program to develop readiness skills needed for Kindergarten.

Preschool 5's: Designed for older four year olds and young five year olds. This is an academic program to develop readiness skills needed for Kindergarten.

Faculty, Staff, and Administration

Principal	Ryan Watson
Preschool Director	Chris Sheedy / Kim Wilmer
PSC (5 year olds)	Chris Sheedy Ilda Xhavo
PSB (4 year olds)	Beth Scarbrough Dacia Rolando
PSA (3 year olds)	Sherri Johnson Mary Lespron Maggie Kamps
School Nurse	Susan Kaiser Francis Villamil

Hours of Operation for Preschool

7:50 am – 2:50 pm Monday - Thursday

7:50 am – 12:50 pm Fridays

Communication

Daily folders will be sent home with students. In these folders, there will be communication from the school and classroom. In addition to the folders teachers will send out a weekly newsletter.

Parents will have the opportunity to conference with their child's teachers once a year. Should you need to speak with the preschool staff about questions or concerns outside of these scheduled conference days, please make an appointment.

Philosophy

St. Francis Xavier School fosters a learning environment whose community members appreciate God's presence in the world and respond generously in action to God's love. In the

Ignatian tradition, St. Francis Xavier School sees spiritual formation as integrally connected to the academic, social, emotional, and physical development of the whole child. The excellent educational traditions of St. Francis Xavier School are strongly supported by the families in the community, many of whose roots at the school go back three generations. St. Francis Xavier School challenges students to embark on a lifelong journey of discovery of their God Given gifts and to share these gifts in service to God.

Curriculum

Curriculum is defined by the Diocesan Schools Office Early Childhood Standards/Curriculums and by the State of Arizona. Our classrooms are designed to promote learning through personal interest and exploration. Our curriculum provides opportunities for continuing age and developmentally appropriate instruction that view learning on a continuum.

Religion: The "Stories of God's Love" curriculum for preschool introduces young children to key biblical stories and teachings, helping them understand God's love in a simple and engaging way. Through age-appropriate activities, songs, and interactive lessons, it fosters a sense of faith and connection to God's presence in their everyday lives. The curriculum also encourages values like kindness, sharing, and gratitude, laying a spiritual foundation for young learners

The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program in preschool introduces children to the teachings of the Catholic faith through hands-on activities. Central to the program is the "atrium," a carefully prepared space where children can engage with religious materials, fostering a deeper understanding of scripture, liturgy, and the life of Christ. Through quiet reflection and guided interaction, children develop a personal relationship with God, growing in their faith at their own pace.

Language: Our Amplify ELA Preschool Program offers young learners an engaging and comprehensive introduction to early language arts. Focusing on foundational literacy skills, this program fosters a love for reading and storytelling through interactive lessons, phonemic awareness, vocabulary development, and early writing activities. Designed to meet children where they are, the curriculum encourages creativity, critical thinking, and communication, laying the groundwork for future academic success. Through essential play and guided instruction, preschoolers develop the necessary skills for confident, lifelong reading and learning.

Math: Eureka Math² for Pre-K is designed to lay a strong foundation in math for young learners. It focuses on building number sense, recognizing patterns, and understanding basic shapes through engaging activities and hands-on learning. The curriculum is aligned with developmental milestones, ensuring that children develop a deep understanding of early math concepts in a playful and supportive environment. With an emphasis on exploration and discovery, Eureka Math² helps Pre-K students develop a love for learning while preparing them for future mathematical success.

Science: Amplify Science in preschool introduces young children to foundational science concepts through hands-on, interactive learning. It encourages curiosity by allowing children to explore topics like plants, animals, and weather through age-appropriate activities. The program integrates storytelling and play, helping preschoolers make real-world connections to scientific ideas. This early exposure builds critical thinking skills and fosters a love for learning about the world around them.

Art: Art in preschool classrooms fosters creativity and self-expression, allowing children to explore different materials and techniques. It enhances fine motor skills as children practice cutting, drawing, and painting, while also improving hand-eye coordination. Additionally, art activities encourage cognitive development by promoting problem-solving and critical thinking as children make decisions about colors, shapes, and design.

Social Studies: Amplify Social Studies in preschool provides young children with engaging, age-appropriate lessons that introduce basic social studies concepts. Through interactive stories, songs, and hands-on activities, children learn about community, cultures, and history. The curriculum fosters curiosity and helps develop critical thinking and social skills. It is designed to build foundational knowledge while encouraging collaboration and exploration.

Dress Code

All students must wear a St. Francis Xavier Preschool uniform daily.

Girls:

- Khaki shorts, pants, or skirt (plaid option too)
- Preschool t-shirt
- Small earrings are fine (no hoops)
- Fingernail polish is not allowed
- Hair should be neat, clean, and well groomed
- Athletic shoes with either laces or Velcro (NO light up shoes), sandals are not permitted
- Socks: Plain white, gray, black or navy
- Outerwear: Sweatshirts, fleece jacket, or sweater with St. Francis Xavier logo

Boys:

- Khaki shorts or pants
- Preschool t-shirt
- NO earrings of any kind
- Hair should be neat and clean. Hair must be conservative in style, short above the eyes and collar of the t-shirt.
- Athletic shoes with either laces or Velcro (NO light up shoes), sandals are not permitted
- Socks: Plain white, gray, black or navy
- Outerwear: Sweatshirts, fleece jacket, or sweater with St. Francis Xavier logo

Free Dress Days:

- Jeans, slacks, shorts, capri pants and dresses must be clean and with no holes
- All shorts and dresses must conform to uniform length
- No biker shorts, cut-offs/frayed edge clothing, clothing with inappropriate slogans, tank tops, midriff shirts, spaghetti strap tops, tube tops, and no sandals. **Athletic shoes are to be worn always.**

School spirit shirts may be worn on Fridays.

Toys/Items from Home

We ask the students to refrain from bringing toys or other items to school. These items might get

misplaced or broken and feelings get hurt.

We may offer times when students are allowed to bring in items for either 'show and tell' or for a special event. This will be communicated to parents in advance.

Snack/Lunches

Each student is asked to bring a morning snack and a healthy lunch. Due to our Wellness Policy, please DO NOT send candy for snacks or lunches. Please DO NOT send or bring in 'fast food' lunches for your child. Lunches cannot be refrigerated or heated up in a microwave. Due to severe peanut and tree nut allergies, please DO NOT send items containing peanuts or tree nuts (ie: almonds, walnuts) in your child's snack or lunch.

Hot lunches may be purchased from our lunch program, [The Hungry Wolf Cafe](#).

Birthdays

Students may celebrate their birthday at school by wearing free dress for that day. Because of the Wellness Policy, students are not allowed to bring class treats to pass out at school.

Field Trips

We will ask each family to sign a permission slip at the beginning of the school year for any off campus field trip and all on-campus field trips (ie. attending Atrium, St. Francis Xavier Church, Brophy Chapel, Xavier College Prep, school gym or athletic fields, Library, school courtyard and etc.)

Transportation

Transportation is not provided by the preschool.

Emergency Procedures

All students will be participating in practice fire drills and lock-down drills on a regular basis. In case of actual school or classroom emergencies parents will be notified by school staff.

Illnesses Policy

The purpose of our illness policy is to reduce the spread of illness among children and to encourage full recuperation of sick children before they return to school. We depend on parents to assist us in maintaining a safe and healthy environment for all our children.

We reserve the right to send home any student who shows signs of illness at school. A parent or designated person must pick up the ill child within one hour of notification. Once a child has been dismissed due to illness the child may not return to school the same day.

A sick child must stay home where he/she is most relaxed and comfortable. Children may be sent home if they have any specific symptoms as listed below. In addition, a child **must be free** of all of these symptoms for **at least 24 hours** before he/she can return to school. These

symptoms are as follows:

- A fever of 100 degrees or more
- Vomiting within the previous 24 hours
- Diarrhea within the previous 24 hour period (including recurring episodes of diarrhea at school)
- A constant cough or sore throat
- A heavy nasal discharge indicative of infection
- Head lice
- Symptoms of a communicable disease

Medication

Any medication including Tylenol, cough drops, Tums, etc. must be supplied in the original container with the student's name on the label if you want it available for your child.

All medication must be given to the school nurse first thing in the morning with instructions.

Sun Safety Policy

At St. Francis Xavier Preschool we are committed to protecting the health and safety of students and staff. While we like to provide opportunities for outdoor physical activity, we also want to make it sun-safe. We adhere to the following precautions for all outdoor activities:

- Encourage parents to apply sunscreen before sending children to school and provide a hat and sunglasses if needed.
- Provide shade during outdoor activities.
- Limit outdoor activities between the hours of 10:00 am and 4:00 pm, when the UV rays are at the highest level.
- Regularly check the UV Index for the intensity of the sun's rays and plan for outdoor activities accordingly.

Emergency Card/Immunizations

A child will not be admitted unless an emergency card (EIIR) is on file. Parents are asked to call the Director's office immediately if an address or telephone number on the emergency card changes. All immunization records must be on file prior to the child attending school.

Absences/Tardy

Please notify your child's teacher and the school nurse if your child will be absent. Please specify the reason for the absence and the expected duration. If your child arrives after 8:05 am, please enter campus through the Front Office.

Drop Off/Pick Up of Preschool Students

All preschool students must be signed in and out each day. An ADULT must accompany the student to his/her classroom in the morning and sign them in. Likewise, an ADULT must pick up

the student from the classroom at the end of the school day and sign them out.

If a student is to attend after care, the preschool staff will accompany them to after care. If you are late to dismissal and your child is enrolled in the after care program, you will be charged the drop-in fee for after care that day. If you are late to dismissal and your child is NOT enrolled for the after care program, you will need to pick up your student from their classroom by entering through the preschool gate.

If you are dropping your child off at early care in the morning, you will need to sign them in through the preschool gate. If your child needs to leave school early, please enter through the front office. A staff member will escort you to the preschool classrooms, where you will be required to sign your child out.

After Care

St. Francis Xavier School partners with Licensed Innovation Learning to meet the after care needs of our students ages three through fourteen. As a precaution, every SFX family is required to register with this organization. Online registration is available via a link on the school website. After care services are available during the following times:

- Regular School Days 2:50 pm to 6:00 pm
- Early Dismissal Days 12:50 pm to 6:00 pm - no lunch service available, send sack lunch with your student.

Please refer to the [After Care](#) webpage for further details or contact Innovation Learning Director: Traci Manoguerra 520-252-9125 for specific information about the program.

Parent Responsibilities

1. To nourish their child's faith life.
2. To help their child succeed in school.
3. To promote personal responsibility in their child.
4. To support and respect administration, faculty, staff, and the guidelines set forth in the handbook.
5. To become involved in their child's education.
6. To be supportive of decisions made by the administration, intervention team, and teachers concerning student's behavior and academic performance.

Parent Participation

There are various opportunities for parents to volunteer throughout the school year. During the school day, please sign-in at the front office prior to entering the preschool campus.

Each family is asked to participate in a minimum of 30 hours of service to the St. Francis Xavier community. Many opportunities are available.

Classroom/Campus Visitation and Volunteering

All parents/visitors visiting the classroom must be checked in through the Front Office and

receive a visitor pass. All school and classroom volunteers must be Safe Environment certified. Due to Diocesan policy, only children enrolled in the school will be allowed to stay in the classroom. Parents have access to the school facility at all times where their child is receiving child care services.

Safe Environment

All schools in the Diocese of Phoenix are required to train staff and parents who volunteer in Safe Environment training. You must complete this requirement before volunteering on campus in any capacity. Date, time and location of training will be communicated at the beginning of the school year.

Discipline Policy

St. Francis Xavier Preschool uses the "Discipline with Purpose" or DWP program. This program uses a system of helping students become self-disciplined. Students are taught basic skills in Listening, Following Instructions, Asking Questions, Sharing, and Exhibiting Social Skills.

We believe that when the curriculum is exciting, the environment stimulating and the structure organized; there is usually little need for disciplinary action. However, some intervention may be needed in order for a child to obtain maximum benefit from the program.

A behavior chart and log are used as tools to communicate with parents a child's daily behavior. The goal is a green color day. Yellow indicates misbehavior or not following DWP skills. Red indicates misbehavior, not following DWP skills and disruption to the learning environment. Once a child knows the expectations and consequences, he or she is free to grow academically and spiritually. Teachers will alert parents to any behavior issues as necessary.

In the event of continued aggressive behavior on a particular day, you may be asked to pick up your child from school and keep them home for the remainder of the day. The school reserves the right to ask parents to withdraw children who continue to misbehave and disrupt the learning environment after the above behavior management techniques have been applied consistently.

Potty Training Policy

In the best interest of the children, the preschool has adopted a policy regarding bathroom accidents and children being fully potty trained. Students must be **fully** potty trained to attend St. Francis Xavier Preschool. Fully potty trained means not having consistent accidents.

Children become frustrated and challenged with usage of the bathroom. Sometimes the children are just not emotionally or physically mature in regards to the bathroom. With the implementation of this policy the preschool staff wants to alleviate bathroom accidents and have outlined the following expectations:

Expectations of the Child

- The ability to tell a teacher when they need to use the bathroom.
- The ability to pull their underwear and other clothing up and down when using the bathroom.
- The ability to wipe themselves.

- The ability to tell a teacher when they have an accident.

The preschool expects the parent's cooperation with their child's bathroom readiness. Pull-ups are not allowed at the preschool.

In the event of a student having 4 or more accidents within a 30 day period, an action plan will be implemented that will include a time period for the child to stay at home to work on bathroom usage. If a child continues to have consistent accidents after the action plan has been implemented, they may be withdrawn from the program.

Right to Amend

St. Francis Xavier Preschool retains the right to amend this handbook at any time.

St. Francis Xavier Preschool Statement of Understanding

The directives noted within are such that they will ensure a positive, healthy environment where educational growth can occur with freedom and order. For this reason parents or guardians are required to read and verify in writing "that they have read and agree to adhere to the policies and regulations herein" (Diocesan Handbook 4.01C). This handbook serves as a contract between St. Francis Xavier Preschool and the community. The administration reserves the right to impose restrictions and consequences it may deem necessary for good order and for the welfare of the individual student and the entire St. Francis Xavier Community.

Printed Name of Parent/Guardian

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date