

## MISSION STATEMENT

Our Mission is  
To respectfully educate,  
To instill dignity, and  
To empower the leaders of  
Tomorrow's Church.



### Program Notes:

- 3 and 4 year old children go to Computer Class, Gym, Music, Art, Spanish, and Religion once a week.
- Children use the gym and playroom for gross motor activities.
- Children attend age appropriate school assemblies.
- Children attend Mass and Prayer Services where appropriate.
- Children participate in an end of year ceremony.
- Daily activities include: Religion, Art, Music, Pre-Reading, Writing and Math skills, as well as an introduction to Science and Social Studies.

### Our Lady of Peace School

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Copied and adapted from  
The Metuchen Diocese  
Early Childhood  
Curriculum Guide

# Pre-K Handbook

## A Parent's Guide



Families and teachers join hearts and hands  
to ensure that the Early Childhood experience  
is a joy-filled one and takes place in  
an environment that places  
"children first".

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## Philosophy

Early Childhood Education should be a journey, not a race. On this journey, children travel at a different pace according to their individual development, background of experience and needs. Education assists in developing the whole person spiritually, physically, socially, and intellectually.

The Early Childhood Programs offer time and space for young children to be children where they are free to play, explore, and imagine. It is designed to lead them from wonder to discovery and from investigation to affirmation. It provides the opportunity for all children to associate pleasure with learning.

Children have a tremendous potential for growth. Their God given imaginations and contemplative minds are eager for stimulation. In a warm, caring, risk-free environment, our teachers manifest Catholic beliefs, values, and attitudes. Young children are encouraged to develop a positive image of themselves and others as they continue to live the Gospel Message.

The Early Childhood Programs at Our Lady of Peace School embrace children of every race, culture, and socio-economic background. The programs provide for children's special needs while capitalizing on, and accentuating, the beauty of their diversity.

## Quality Early Childhood Catholic School

- The Gospel message is clearly taught, manifested and experienced.
- Administration and teachers provide a well managed and monitored program.
- Competent, committed teachers work to provide support and individual attention to children.
- Students are nurtured in a caring and safe learning environment.
- Parents become partners with teachers in their child's education.
- The program is organized around a specific curriculum and set of principles for learning.
- The curriculum reflects current research and practices as to what are both age and developmentally appropriate.
- Administrators and teachers continue their education through professional organizations, in-service training and on-going study.
- The program is regularly assessed to assure that the standards of excellence are being met.

## Things to Know

- Each child's folder is for correspondence. Write notes for any concerns, or with information if the pick up person changes for your child rather than stop the teacher in the morning. At that time, all our attention is on the children and we will forget.
- Please, don't send in extra toys. Children don't always share nicely and we won't want to have anything get lost or broken.
- If your child will not be in school for any reason, please contact the school nurse.
- For the first week or so, please have your child wear a tag with his or her name, nickname, a phone number where you can be reached and who will be picking up your child after school.
- A child must be fever free and/or vomit free for 24 hours before returning to school



## Goals

- To provide experiences to enrich all aspects of a child's life: emotional, physical, social, spiritual and cognitive.
- To provide time, space and experiences for young children to be children and to develop at their own pace.
- To provide an environment that is warm and caring, where children develop a positive image of themselves as a child of a loving God.
- To provide programs that help children accept their own and others' diverse gifts and backgrounds.
- To provide a variety of "hands-on" learning experiences that will enable children to develop at their own pace.
- To provide opportunities for parents (families) to celebrate with and for children.



## Classroom Procedures

**Snack:** Each day, the children have snack time. Provide a nutritious snack, please, like fruit, dry cereal, a small sandwich or crackers and a small drink.

**Attire:** The Early Childhood uniform is an OLP school gym uniform with white sneakers and white crew socks or navy blue pants with the light blue OLP shirt all available at Fertig's. On Gym days, all students must wear the Gym uniform. Children need to use the bathroom independently, so please avoid buttons, fasteners and zippers.

**Forms:** Sign and return forms as soon as possible, please.



**Class Trips:** We take class trips throughout the year. Siblings are not permitted due to busing and insurance issues.

## Supplies

Your child will need a backpack and lunch container. Snack should be in a brown paper bag labeled with the child's name and morning snack.

**At the beginning of the school year, each child will bring in:**

- \* A roll of paper towels
- \* A box of tissues
- \* A container of baby wipes
- \* A paint smock
- \* A complete change of clothing, including socks and underwear, just in case.
- \* A two pocket folder
- \* 4 large glue sticks
- \* 8 color paint set
- \* Box of 8 large crayons
- \* Box of 24 regular crayons
- \* 1 soft pouch for supplies

