



**St. Mary Early Childhood Center (SMECC)**

**2024-25 Handbook**

**377 Highland Blvd.**

**Paducah, KY. 42003**

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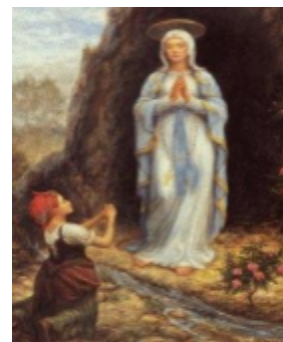
**After School Program (ASP) 270-442-1681 Ext. 293**

**2:45 pm - 5:30 pm M-F**



### **CHILDREN'S PRAYER**

Jesus, I kneel down to say  
Thank you for another day,  
Thank you for the world so sweet  
Thank you for the food we eat,  
Thank you for the birds that sing  
Thank you God for EVERYTHING!  
Amen.



Dear Parents,

Welcome! Preschool is a milestone in your child's life and we are pleased that you have chosen St. Mary for your child's educational experiences. Preschool is not only the beginning of your child's first formal education, it is also the first step toward life-long learning and social participation. We want to partner with you in this lifetime adventure.

New experiences and friends will make the year a special time for you and your child. There are many things that you, as Parents, can do to help your child adjust easily and eagerly to their Preschool experience. Your child has a natural love of learning. Every first-hand experience that he/she has, can teach important skills.

Enjoy this time! Be quick to praise! We're sure that your child is feeling excited but anxious anticipating the new school year. He/she will seek your approval of activities and ideas. Your enthusiasm and involvement will help make the Preschool year a wonderful time for both of you. What an incredible privilege it is to be part of this journey with you and your family.

We realize that you may have many questions about the Preschool program. This handbook will address some of the questions and concerns that you or your child may have. Please take some time to read through the information.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Director or your child's Teacher if you have additional questions. We are looking forward to forming a partnership with you this year and for years to come. Thank you for choosing the St. Mary School System!



## **PHILOSOPHY**

The St. Mary Early Childhood Center (SMECC) provides a unique learning experience for children ages 3 to 5 with no regard to race, creed, religion, or economic level. Our program nurtures the continuing growth of children's knowledge and understanding of themselves and their world. We provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment where learning flourishes. We recognize that children are individuals and every child is unique. We accommodate the broad range of children's needs, addressing the intellectual, emotional, physical, and social aspects of each child as an individual.

The objective of our school is to offer a well-balanced curriculum in a Christian atmosphere. We cherish the opportunity to work with you and your child. The faculty and staff of St. Mary are dedicated to providing a positive, Christ-centered environment to develop growth and learning for your child.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

SMECC faculty and staff follow the Privacy Policy guidelines outlined by the Diocese of Owensboro available on the [owensborodiocese.org](http://owensborodiocese.org) website. By signing this handbook you acknowledge that your child's image may be used on school related websites, social media, Seesaw, email and in the classroom. This excludes marketing purposes for those who previously indicated on your enrollment packet.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

SMECC faculty and staff follow the Code of Conduct guidelines outlined by the Diocese of Owensboro available on the [owensborodiocese.org](http://owensborodiocese.org) website. Employees complete Safe Environment training and background checks prior to employment and there after every 5 years.

## **VISITORS/VOLUNTEERS**

**(including but not limited to: parents, family, friends and/or Experimental Ed Students)**

Visitors/volunteers are appreciated and welcomed at SMECC. Visits/Volunteering in the classroom should be organized with the classroom Teacher and/or room mother for parties, in advance. Visitors/Volunteers are required to sign in at the office and wear a badge/sticker indicating you have been cleared for admittance. Depending on the duration and purpose, visitors/volunteers may be required to take Safe Environment training, be fingerprinted, and/or have a background check completed. **By enrolling your child at St. Mary, you authorize visitors/volunteers in their classrooms as directed by school administration.**

## **LICENSE / ACCREDITATION**

We are licensed by the Cabinet for Human Resources, Division of Licensing and Regulation, of the State of Kentucky to operate as a **TYPE I FACILITY**.

## **CHILD ABUSE/MANDATED REPORTING**

KRS 620.030 (1) states: Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is dependent, neglected or abused shall immediately cause an oral or written report to be made to the County Department for Social Services – 270-575-7105. St Mary Faculty and Staff are mandated to report any suspected child abuse of any kind.

## **OUR GOALS**

**DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Children are provided with experiences to help them learn to value and respect individual contributions as well as cultural identity.

**EMOTIONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT:** Our program seeks to develop a positive self-concept in every child. Children are given opportunities to gain confidence and competence in functioning, both alone and in cooperation with others.

**AESTHETIC AND ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENT:** Children will be given opportunities to interpret their real and imagined world through experiences with the arts. The arts are a natural and essential part of a child's development.

**PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND WELL-BEING:** Children are provided with experiences to help them learn about their growth and development and about their own role in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

**INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT:** The experiences and knowledge which young children bring to school, combined with their natural curiosity and sense of wonder, are the foundation for learning in the early years. Children are provided with opportunities to express their knowledge and thinking in a variety of ways.

**FAITH DEVELOPMENT:** We teach the children that God made the world and our families. We build on the theme that we are special and on the love we have for our family. Children will be encouraged to develop an attitude of kindness, cooperation, courtesy, and help toward others.

**OUR PROGRAM:** Each day the schedule offers a wide variety of activities that include rhythm, music, art, literature, physical education, and creative movement. Our curriculum also includes play. Play belongs to childhood. Through play, a child works his/her way into joy, and into a more mature capable person, ready for the next step in his/her growing development.

### HOURS AND FEES

**HOURS- - - - - 6:45 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**PRIME-TIME LEARNING - - - - - 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

<b>Before School Care (6:45-7:15)</b>	<b>\$2.00/day</b>
<b>Pick up at 11:00 am</b>	<b>\$24.50/day</b>
<b>Pick up between 11:00 am and 2:45 pm</b>	<b>\$28.50/day</b>
<b>Pick up between 2:45 pm and 5:30 pm</b>	<b>\$33.00/day</b>

**LATE FEE - \$15.00 for a pick up after 5:30 p.m., then \$1.00 per minute after 5:45 p.m.**

**REGISTRATION FEE - - - - - \$50.00**  
**(Non-refundable, not transferable)**

### ENROLLMENT AND REGISTRATION

**There are many important steps to enrolling your child in St Mary Early Childhood Center. Please be sure each of the following enrollment requirements are completed prior to the first day of school. To ensure that the St. Mary is in compliance with state regulations, no child will be allowed to attend until the following steps are completed:**

- 1. The Online Enrollment Packet with Medical History/Emergency Medical Care Permission is completed.**
- 2. The Day/Time form is completed (online) and approved by the Director.**
- 3. A copy of your child's birth certificate is required for proof of age. Hospital certificates are not acceptable in place of the state issued birth certificate.**
- 4. A copy of your child's social security card.**
- 5. Medical and immunization records must be completed, up to date, and returned to school before your child may attend class. These include a school physical, immunization record, a dental screening, and an eye exam (screening is not acceptable). These need to be on Kentucky forms.**

### TUITION

**St. Mary School System has partnered with FACTS to service your child's tuition account. To enroll online, please follow the instructions below.**

**See attached Accessing the FACTS Family Portal Directions or follow the steps below:**

1. Access the FACTS Parent Portal via the link within Viking Links on the St Mary School System website, [www.smss.org](http://www.smss.org).
2. District Code is SMSS-KY
3. Login to an existing account or click on the Create New Family Portal Account link.
4. Once logged in, Select Financial from the left navigation pane.
  - Request Financial Assistance
  - Set up a payment plan
  - View payment information

Unexpected closings, including snow days, will not affect your tuition. These days may or may not be made up on alternate days. You will be held responsible for paying for the days/times for which your child has been registered to attend whether or not school is in session or your student is in attendance. Due to Staff/Child ratios (3P-1:12 4P-1:14), we will not be able to accommodate make-up days for your child. You may request to add a temporary day, before or after school care for your student by contacting the office at least 24 hrs in advance. These requests are reviewed and approved/denied on a case by case basis. Charges for additional time will be added to your tuition statement. Permanent changes to your student's schedule may be requested but cannot be guaranteed. Approval for permanent changes is done on a case by case basis if space is available. Once approved a new Day/Time form will be required to notify our Finance department of the permanent change to allow tuition to be updated.

If your child is not scheduled to attend a certain day of the week during a special event, (e.g. class parties, field trips, school pictures, May Play Day, etc.), your child may attend this day (space providing) for an additional charge if your tuition is current. If space is not available, your child may attend with you or your designated person at no charge.

### **AGE REQUIREMENTS**

To qualify for the 3/4 year- old program (3P), a child must have attained the age of three years by August 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of entry. To qualify for the 4/5-year- old program (4P), the child must have attained the age of four years by August 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of entry. Enrollment exceptions may be made, within reason, at the discretion of the Director. However, students may not start attending until they reach the age of three or four based on which program they are enrolled in.

## **ARRIVAL**

Those attending before school care should be dropped at the Library entrance. Preschool students should be signed up to attend before school care prior to the morning of. However, if that is not possible, a form will be sent to you to add the additional time. Before school care is from 6:45 a.m. - 7:15 a.m. Please note that there is a \$2.00/day charge for arrival before 7:15 a.m.

Students arriving between 7:15 a.m. and 7:45 a.m. should be dropped off in the front loop at the Library entrance. Please refer to the preschool dropoff route on the drop off map. This will allow the children to be inside their classrooms ready to begin Prime Time Learning by 8:00 a.m. If a child has an older sibling in Kindergarten-5th grade, the preschooler may be dropped at the gym entrance with his/her sibling(s). An older sibling will then be required to accompany him/her to the Library.

If you arrive for drop off after 7:45 a.m., please park by the front office and walk your child into the main entrance and sign them in. Students arriving after 8:00 am will be marked tardy.

## **DISMISSAL**

Parents should line up in the circular drive/loop for 11:00 a.m. or 2:45 p.m. dismissal. The children leaving at 11:00 a.m. will be dismissed at the front loop by the flagpole. A name card will be given to you at the beginning of the school year. At dismissal time, the parent or those designated by the parent to pick up the child is required to have the name card before we will release the child. Please put your child's name card in the window to expedite dismissal. Please be on time. Your tardiness can cause anxiety in your child when he/she is left waiting for you. In the event that you are late, please park, come to the office and sign in before going to get your child. No child should be removed from the building without teaching staff being made aware of the child's departure. The Director/Teacher must be notified in advance if someone other than the parent will be picking up the child. A person who is not known to the teacher on duty will be required to show a driver's license for identification and must be listed on the child's contact/pick up sheet as being an authorized alternative. No child will be released to an unauthorized adult.

If your child is registered for a full day, they will be picked up at the 2:45 loop along with the Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students.

You may pick your child up anytime during the day. You will need to park, enter the building at the office entrance, and then sign your child out in the office. A staff member will go and get your child from the classroom. Please wait in the office seating area while waiting for your child.



## **CURRICULUM**

The intentional design and balance of developmental and academic skills of our curriculum make it a core Pre-K program designed to inspire big learning and grow early learners into confident Kindergarten ready students. Its focus on foundational skills gives Pre-K learners a strong base across all learning domains which include: gross and fine motor, language, cognitive, social and emotional, self-help and adaptive, morals, and values. The curriculum is delivered through predictable routines and purposeful play that empowers children with confidence to learn new things in math, science, social studies and the language arts. In addition, it delivers a research-based sequence of instruction in bite-sized chunks which provides for multiple opportunities to reinforce concepts and solidify understanding.

## **TESTING**

All children will be tested with a Preschool screening method in the Fall as well as the Spring.

## **CLASSROOM ARRANGEMENTS/DEVELOPMENTAL CENTERS**

All learning takes place through experience. During the course of the day, the children participate in large and small group activities as well as enjoying time working with another child or alone. The classrooms are set up with learning areas called “centers”. Within each center, materials are provided so that the child can manipulate, explore, create, experiment, and discover. The children are free to move from center-to-center as their interests change. This system encourages choice making and responsibility while sharing classroom supplies.



## **DISCIPLINE**

Through positive discipline we correct children's actions without damaging their ever-growing self-esteem. Each classroom teacher is responsible for the discipline approach specific to his/her classroom. Students are always encouraged to make good choices and feel positive about their behavior.

Throughout the day and during before/after school care, students are occasionally sent to the office to discuss their frustrations, behavior, and how to positively transition back into the classroom. If a problem persists, parents will be notified and a conference may be held involving parents, teacher(s)/After Care Coordinator, and the Director. In certain circumstances your child may need to be picked up for the remainder of the day or may receive behavior probation of one day of before and/or after school care. \*We reserve the right to refuse attendance to any child whose behavior is or becomes detrimental to the group experience.\*

## **PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES/COMMUNICATIONS**

Since the role of our school is to complement the parents as the primary teachers of their children, frequent opportunities to communicate with parents are essential. A parent/teacher conference will be held at the end of the first quarter. A second conference will be held in the spring. A Progress Report will be given to you during this conference. Should the need arise, a special conference may be scheduled anytime at the request of either the parents or teachers. Periodic reminders and class notes will also be sent home.

Each week, a calendar will be sent home with classroom happenings, and highlights of the month. Verbal messages to the teacher by a child will not be accepted. Please send all messages by note, email, Seesaw, or talk personally with the teacher. If you have questions or feel disturbed by something your child has told you, please contact the teacher or Director to discuss your concerns. We cannot help with a problem unless we know about it. Please keep communications open so misunderstandings can be corrected before they get out of hand.

Please call or email the teacher to schedule an appointment. We want to help if a problem occurs. The teachers are busy greeting and getting the children settled the first few minutes before class begins; therefore, this would not be an opportune time to bring up a problem. The teachers' focus will be to make each child feel welcome and start each class positively. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

**All information concerning children, their parents, relatives or guardians, shall be kept in strict confidence by the staff, except for sharing information with individuals who are personally or professionally responsible for the well-being of the child.**

### **VITAL INFORMATION**

**All changes of address and/or telephone numbers (home or work numbers) or other information required on the registration and permission forms are to be reported to the teacher and office immediately. In the event of an emergency, we need to have a current phone number to reach you or your designee at all times.**

### **CUSTODIAL/NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS**

**If there is a court order specifying custody, it is the responsibility of the custodial parent to provide the school with a complete official copy of the court order.**

### **TOILET TRAINING**

**Each child enrolled in the SMECC must be toilet trained and capable of demonstrating independent bathroom hygiene skills. Students are given several bathroom breaks throughout the day, before lunch, rest time, and prior to dismissal. Students need to be able to communicate to the teacher/aide/or another adult if they need to use the bathroom at any other time. Two or more potty accidents within five school days may result in a potty probation of one school day. If your child has a potty accident, we will change his or her clothes. If no clothes are available, we will call you to bring a change of clothes. Students are not permitted to wear pull-ups or diapers. Accommodations may be made at the discretion of the Director. —See Accommodations.**

### **REST PERIODS**

**A rest period is required by law for all children attending Preschool. Children are not required to sleep but should rest quietly. After the first thirty minutes, children will be allowed to sit quietly on their mats and look at books. St. Mary provides mats for the rest period; please do not send a mat from home. A crib sheet and a light blanket must be sent to school for your child and will be returned home for weekend washing. Please make sure to label these items with a marker. The sheet and blanket must fit into and be sent in a plastic box with a lid, the lid **MUST** be able to close.**

## **DRESS CODE**

Preschool children do not wear uniforms. We ask that your child's school clothes be comfortable, washable, and easily manipulated by your child, especially for bathroom needs (pull up pants and shorts are ideal). Preschool boys should not wear earrings or have hair past their collars. Preschool girls should wear shorts under their dresses. Please do not dress your child in "dressy" clothes which require them to "be careful" if they play outside. Shoes with wheels, Crocs, flip flops, boots, any open toed shoes, or shoes that will not stay on the feet are not allowed for safety reasons. We strongly suggest tennis shoes with socks.

All articles of clothing which will be removed, especially coats and sweaters, need to be clearly labeled and easily identified by the child.

Children enjoy playing outside, the fresh air and gross motor play are beneficial to them. Please be sure that proper outer clothing is worn during cold weather, since the children may be taken outside.

Any misplaced clothing should be promptly reported to facilitate recovery. However, the school will not be responsible for lost articles of clothing.

## **EXTRA CLOTHING**

The parent will need to provide a change of clothing (pants, shirt, underwear and socks) to be kept on hand for your child. Please send in a plastic container with a lid, mark each article of clothing with your child's name and the outside of the container. These will be used if accidents occur, and soiled clothes will be sent home in a plastic bag. Please send another set of clothes the next school day. Please do not send pull-ups/diapers, as we are not licensed to change or dispose of these without accommodations. All clothing will be returned at the end of the school year.

## **SUNSCREEN AT SCHOOL**

If your student requires sunscreen when playing outside, we suggest that you purchase an eight-hour sunscreen and apply it before leaving home. However, we will apply sunscreen to your student on your behalf in certain situations. State regulations require that you have a pharmacist apply a label to the sunscreen container with the child's name and directions for application on it if you would like the school to apply the sunscreen. The sunscreen will be applied by your student's teacher, support staff or the school nurse. You will be required to provide a signed/dated note requesting that the school apply the sunscreen before the

student goes outside (“apply as needed” is not acceptable). This note is required each day you would like sunscreen to be applied.

### **EMERGENCY CARE**

1. **We will call 911 in the event of a serious accident.** In the case that your child needs to be transported, they will be taken by ambulance to the hospital designated in FACTs during the registration process.
2. **If the parents cannot be reached by telephone,** we will contact the doctor on his/her EMERGENCY FORM. An explanation of what has occurred will be given, and the doctor’s instructions will be followed.

### **MEDICATION AT SCHOOL**

If medication needs to be administered at school, a parent or designated person must come to school to administer the medication. This applies to prescription and over the counter medications.

### **ALLERGIES**

If you indicate on your student’s registration that he/she has a food allergy you will be contacted by the school nurse for additional information . An allergy form will be required, signed by your physician, and put on file for your student. All associated emergency medication will need to be labeled and kept in the nurse’s office. Each teacher, by regulation, must have student allergies posted in the classroom. Updated allergy documentation and medication will be required annually or upon expiration.

### **ABSENCES, ILLNESSES, DISEASES, MINOR INJURY**

If a child is absent for any reason, the school is to be notified before class by calling the elementary school office at 270-442-1681 Ext. 251.

Any child coming to school showing any signs of communicable illness will not be permitted to stay. These include a fever of 100.4 or above, vomiting, diarrhea, conjunctivitis and others. Your child must remain at home until they have been fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication. Your child must also stay home at least 24 hours after vomiting and/or diarrhea subsides without the use of medication. Your child should also remain at home if they exhibit signs of contagious illness such as a rash or redness/drainage from eyes. These practices help us maintain a healthier environment for all children.

In regards to Covid or flu like symptoms, please refer concerns to your pediatrician and then relay to our Director - Mary Smith. The school is following the above procedures for all current illnesses. This is subject to change. Should a child contract a communicable disease (i.e. chicken pox, head lice), please notify the school immediately so that the other parents may be alerted.

If a child becomes ill while at school, they shall be placed in a supervised area isolated from the rest of the children, typically the main office or nurse's office. Parents will be notified immediately to come take the child home. In the event that a parent cannot be reached, those persons indicated on the EMERGENCY SHEET will be contacted to pick up your sick child. The child will need to be 24 hours symptom free prior to returning. This means they will need to miss the following day of school if required to leave due to illness.

If a student obtains an injury at school that is a non-emergency, the school nurse will examine the student and provide appropriate care. Examples of non-emergency injuries include but are not limited to applying a bandaid on scratches or scabs, applying itch spray or ointment to bug bites, removing a tick, wrapping a blister, or applying an ice pack to minor bumps and bruises. In all instances, parents will be notified of the injury and the associated steps to address the injury. In some cases, we may request that you pick up your student to have the injury looked at by a physician.

## **PRESCHOOL ACCOMMODATIONS**

SMECC will offer accommodations for students on a case by case basis. Accommodations are not required of SMECC but may be offered based on the child's need. These accommodations will only be considered if the center has the available resources to rightfully ensure the accommodations can be met while maintaining the safety and well being of our students and staff. For this same reasoning, they may also be discontinued at any time. Documentation from a physician or other medical professional detailing the need for the accommodation and any associated conditions may be requested for our files. If you have an accommodation request or question, please contact the Director.



## **BREAKFAST**

An optional breakfast is served daily between 7:15-7:45 am. Please be sure to inform the adult on duty in the Library at drop off that your child needs to eat breakfast prior to going to class. There will be a juice/milk/water option available with a bread/grain, protein, and/or fruit/vegetable for breakfast. Breakfast is \$2.25 for students.

## **SNACK**

A snack is provided for each child daily. This will be served between 8:30 am and 9:30 am each day in the cafeteria. Snack is included in the daily cost of tuition and is at no additional charge. Snack items include but are not limited to french toast, poptarts, or sausage egg and biscuit..

## **LUNCH**

Lunch is eaten in the classroom each day. Children can purchase a lunch from the school cafeteria or bring a lunch from home. Students that bring a sack lunch will be provided milk from the cafeteria or water depending on preference. By State Regulations, lunches must include Milk/water, Protein, Grain, Fruit and Vegetable or two Vegetables.

**Milk:** In order to meet this requirement, milk must be drinkable, pasteurized, unflavored, low fat 1% or fat free skim milk. (No Chocolate) Water will be offered for any child who does not prefer milk.

**Protein:** Meat or meat alternative which may include: tofu, soy products, cheese(natural & pasteurized processed cheese), eggs, cooked dry beans, peanut butter, or soy nut butter, yogurt (less than 23g of sugar per 6 ounces) plain or flavored, peanuts, soy nuts, or seeds.

**Grain:** Bread or Grain

**Vegetable & Fruit:** 2 different vegetables or 1 vegetable and 1 fruit

If your child's lunch from home does not contain milk/water, protein, bread, fruit and vegetable or two vegetables, they will be provided and charged for a lunch from the cafeteria. We must check their lunches for compliance per state guidelines. All lunches served by the cafeteria contain the state regulated basic food requirements. Lunch is \$3.25 for students.

### My School Bucks/Lunch Money



You may add lunch money to your child's lunch account online through My School Bucks. This can be accessed on the [smss.org](http://smss.org) website under Viking Links. You can also send a check or cash with your child in a clearly labeled envelope with their name, purpose and amount. You may also drop the money by the front office.

### FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH/BREAKFAST

We participate in the free and reduced lunch programs. Application forms are available in the office at the beginning of the school year. Everyone is encouraged to apply. This information is kept confidential by the cafeteria manager.



### BIRTHDAY AND HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

The celebration of a child's birthday is a very special occasion. We invite every child to celebrate his/her birthday at school. For those birthdays occurring during the summer months, we celebrate an "half-birthday". We suggest using your child's 3 ½ or 4 ½ year birthdate for the "half-birthday" celebration.

Birthdays are posted on our classroom calendar at the beginning of each week and are eagerly anticipated by all of the class.

If your child is having a birthday party (outside of school) and you wish to send invitations, we cannot pass these out at school unless the entire class is being invited. If you need a list of students' names and addresses, we will be happy to send this list home with your child. Parents may donate a special snack for this celebration. By State Regulation, we are not allowed to serve homemade items. If you wish to join us, please notify the teacher at the beginning of the birthday month to make arrangements. We only allow snacks prepared without peanuts or peanut oil because of the possibility of peanut allergy.

## **EMERGENCY/WEATHER CLOSING**

When inclement weather or emergencies force the closing of the St. Mary School System, SMECC will also be closed. The St. Mary School System uses an automatic dialing system to notify families of weather emergencies, school cancellations or early dismissals. WPSD-TV station has an email and text alert for school closings, and you may go to their website to sign up for this service. If St. Mary School System closes/dismisses early, SMECC will also close/dismiss early.

## **SAFETY DRILLS AND PROCEDURES**

SMECC and St Mary Elementary conduct fire drills monthly and hazardous weather, earthquake, and intruder drills quarterly to be prepared in case of a true emergency. In case of a tornado warning, the students will be taken to an inside school hall and remain there until the all-clear announcement is made. In case of all emergencies, please DO NOT call the school, this will tie up our phone lines. Listen to the radio, WPSD-TV, or sign up for the email/text alerts from WPSD. The SMECC teachers will contact you if there is a need to do so.

## **HANDBOOK CHANGES**

SMECC retains the right to amend the handbook for just cause. All parties will be notified immediately, in writing, of any changes made.







## St. Mary Early Childhood Center

### School Year: 2025-2026

*The following Kentucky Early Childhood Standards and Benchmarks are met daily and/or weekly within our classrooms. Specific activities used to meet these standards are listed within the lesson plan for the week except for Physical Education. **Physical Education** standards are met each day with gym time, outdoor play, classroom activities, and a variety of fine/large motor skill activities/games.*

#### Arts and Humanities

**Standard 1:** Participates and shows interest in a variety of visual art, dance, music, and drama experiences.

**Benchmark 1.1:** Develops skills in and appreciation of visual arts. **Benchmark 1.2:** Develops skills in and appreciation of dance. **Benchmark 1.3:** Develops skills in and appreciation of music. **Benchmark 1.4:** Develops skills in and appreciation of drama.

#### Health/Mental Wellness

**Standard 1:** Demonstrates health/mental wellness in individual and cooperative social environments.

**Benchmark 1.1:** Demonstrates independent behavior. **Benchmark 1.2:** Shows social cooperation. **Benchmark 1.3:** Applies social problem solving skills. **Benchmark 1.4:** Shows a sense of purpose (future-hopefulness)

#### Language Arts

**Standard 1:** Demonstrates general skills and strategies of the communication process. **Benchmark 1.1:** Uses non-verbal communication for a variety of purposes **Benchmark 1.2:** Uses language (verbal, signed, symbolic) for a variety of purposes. **Benchmark 1.3:** Communicates with increasing clarity and use of conventional grammar. **Standard 2:** Demonstrates general skills and strategies of the listening and observing processes.

**Benchmark 2.1:** Engages in active listening in a variety of situations **Benchmark 2.2:** Observes to gain information and understanding. **Benchmark 3.1:** Listens to and/or responds to reading materials with interest and enjoyment. **Benchmark 3.2:** Shows interest and understanding of the basic concepts and conventions of print. **Benchmark 3.3:** Demonstrates knowledge of the alphabet. **Benchmark 3.4:** Demonstrates emergent phonemic/phonological awareness. **Benchmark 3.5:** Draws meaning from pictures, print, and text. **Benchmark 3.6:** Tells and retells a story. **Benchmark 4.1:** Understands that the purpose of writing is communication. **Benchmark 4.2:** Produces marks, pictures, and symbols that represent print and ideas. **Benchmark 4.3:** Explores the physical aspect of writing.

#### Mathematics

**Standard 1:** Demonstrates general skills and uses concepts of mathematics. **Benchmark 1.1:** Demonstrates an understanding of numbers and counting. **Benchmark 1.2:** Recognizes and describes shapes and spatial

relationships. **Benchmark 1.3:** Uses the attributes of objects for comparison and patterning. **Benchmark 1.4:** Use nonstandard and/or standard units to measure and describe.

### **Physical Education**

**Standard 1:** Demonstrates basic gross and fine motor development. **Benchmark 1.1:** Performs a variety of locomotor skills with control and balance. **Benchmark 1.2:** Performs a variety of non-locomotor skills with control and balance. **Benchmark 1.3:** Combines a sequence of several motor skills with control and balance. **Benchmark 1.4:** Performs fine motor tasks using eye-hand coordination.

### **Religion**

The state of Kentucky and Diocese of Owensboro do not provide specific standards for **Religion** for preschoolers. However, the Stories of God's Love - Preschool Program is utilized in all Early Childhood Center classrooms. Common prayers are taught to the students including Grace before meals and the Our Father, as well as, common worship songs for children and Bible stories. Additional religion lessons are shared in correlation with the liturgical calendar.

### **Science**

**Standard 1:** Demonstrates scientific ways of thinking and working (with wonder and curiosity). **Benchmark 1.1:** Explores features of the environment through manipulation. **Benchmark 1.2:** Investigates simple scientific concepts. **Benchmark 1.3:** Uses a variety of tools to explore the environment. **Benchmark 1.4:** Collects, describes, and/or records information through a variety of means. **Benchmark 1.5:** Makes and verifies predictions based on past experiences.

### **Social Studies**

**Standard 1:** Demonstrates basic understanding of the world in which he/she lives. **Benchmark 1.1:** Differentiates between events that happen in the past, present, and future. **Benchmark 1.2:** Uses environmental clues and tools to understand surroundings. **Benchmark 1.3:** Shows an awareness of fundamental economic concepts. **Benchmark 1.4:** Recognizes and/or follows rules within the home, school, and community. **Benchmark 1.5:** Demonstrates understanding of the roles and relationships within his/her family and/or community. **Benchmark 1.6** knows that diversity exists in the world.