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## Mission Statement of Grace Chapel Early Childhood Center:

Christ is the center of Grace Chapel Lutheran School and all subjects are taught in the light of God's word. Students are nurtured to become productive citizens and to strengthen their faith in Jesus Christ.

## Philosophy

Proverbs 22:6 provides the foundation for early Christian education: "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

We believe that parents have the primary responsibility and privilege to provide the first Christian instruction and training for the child. The school, then, as an extension of the church, can strengthen and support the parents in this responsibility by assisting and nurturing the child in his or her spiritual, intellectual, emotional, social, and physical growth.

Grace Chapel has been committed to early childhood education since 1972. In our efforts to meet our responsibility, we cannot separate the spiritual growth of a child from the total growth process. We strive to offer children a caring environment that stresses God's love, and thereby begin fostering a pattern for Christian living.

*Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."  
Matthew 19:14*

## Discrimination Policy

Grace Chapel Early Childhood Center admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

## Worship Services:

King David said, "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the Lord's house.'" (Psalm 122:1) We hope that all preschoolers and their families show the same joy in the Lord and concern for their fellow Christians by regularly attending church and Sunday School or Bible Class.

**Please visit our website <https://www.gracechapelstl.org> for worship times and procedures during the pandemic.**

**If you do not have a church home of your own, you are invited to worship with us here at Grace Chapel. Here is a schedule of our weekend services:**

<b>Grace Lutheran Chapel</b>	
Worship Services Saturday 4:00 PM Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:45 AM	
Sunday School/Bible Class Sunday 9:30 AM	

## Contact Information

<b>Grace Chapel Lutheran School</b>	
10015 Lance Dr. St. Louis, MO 63137 314-867-6564	

Mrs. Lisa Fackler, Early School Director and Toddler teacher 867-6564 ext. 112

Mrs. Amy Brofford, Preschool teacher 867-6564 ext. 115

Miss Heather Herr, Pre-Kindergarten teacher 867-6564 ext. 114

Mr. Eric Brofford, Principal 867-6564 ext. 221

## Enrollment and Ratios

### Toddlers

Children must be two years old on or before July 31. If the child is not toilet trained, parents must provide diapers and wipes. The classroom ratio is 1:8 for this age group. The Grace Chapel Toddler class meets on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Care is also offered on Mondays and Fridays.

### Preschool

Children must be three years old on or before July 31. Children must be toilet trained. The classroom ratio is 1:10 for this age group. Grace Chapel preschoolers meet on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Care is also offered on Mondays and Fridays.

### Pre-Kindergarten

Children must be four years old on or before July 31. The classroom ratio is 1:12 for this age group. Children have choices for this program. Students may attend three core days of Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday or all five days.

## Attendance and Illness

Please refer to the [Early School Back-to-School Plan for procedures during the pandemic](#).

Regular attendance is beneficial to your child's adjustment. We feel it is important that coming to school each day becomes a habit with your child. Also, please make every effort to have your child at school by 8:30 AM so that he/she can experience all of our planned activities! Please call the school office when your child will be absent.

A child with a communicable disease or a contagious skin condition should be kept at home until a doctor indicates that the child may return to school. Children with fevers should also be kept at home until fever free for 24 hours. No medication will be administered to students unless a parent AND physician have both completed their portion of the medical form.

## Drinks, Snack, and Birthday Treats

Snacks will be served in the classroom by a teacher wearing a mask and gloves.

If at all possible, we will celebrate the children's birthdays on their actual birthdate. If the child's birthday does not fall on a school day, we will celebrate it on the closest school day. Children are welcome to bring a store bought snack to share with classmates. We suggest that children bring a snack they really enjoy for their birthday treat. Cupcakes are not recommended. However, if your child truly enjoys them, please send the small, bite sized ones. A note will be sent home to remind you of these expectations and to inform families of the number of students in their child's class.

Children will be served a light snack each day that will often be used as part of the learning process. Milk, water, or juice will be provided to each student. All children are expected to at least try the snack unless parents inform us of a food allergy. The Missouri Department of Health provides healthy suggestions of snacks, therefore Grace Chapel encourages those healthy eating habits at snack and at lunch time.

## School Hours/School Calendar/ School Closings

### Grace Chapel Campus

Extended Care: 7:00-8:15 AM

School Day: 8:15 AM-3:15 PM

Extended Care: 3:30-6:00 PM

### Daycare Days

Daycare days are offered for specific dates as noted on the Early School calendar when the K-8 grades are not in session. Daycare Days are offered on an as needed basis from 8:15 AM to 3:15 PM. Extended care may be available based on need. Children bring a sack lunch and drink. Snacks are provided by the school. To ensure adequate staffing parents will need to **pre-register** and **pay in advance**.

### School Calendars

Grace Chapel Early Childhood Center will send home an Early School calendar at the beginning of the year. Some classrooms also have monthly calendars.

### School Closings

Grace Chapel Early Childhood Center will announce school closings using KMOX radio station and news channels 4 and 5. It will be announced as Grace Chapel Lutheran School. In addition, a phone blast will be sent out.

## Clothing/Dressing Your Child

Please dress your child for active and messy play. Simple and practical fasteners and buttons that encourage self-help are appropriate. Please bring an EXTRA SET OF CLOTHES to be left at school in case of accidents. Pack a season appropriate outfit with socks and underwear in a ziplock bag with your child's name on it. With a change of seasons, you may want to switch the clothes once or twice throughout the year.

An important part of our day includes playing outside. In addition to the health benefits of getting fresh air and exercise, children develop muscle skills by climbing, sliding, riding bikes, running, etc. Your child should wear appropriate shoes for these activities; **sandals are inappropriate.**

We ask that you send appropriate clothing for the weather expected that day. Generally speaking, a child too ill to play outside, is too ill to be at school. If there is a medical exception, please let us know.

## Field Trips

**During the pandemic, unfortunately, field trips will not be scheduled.**

Various field trips will be taken throughout the school year. These trips are planned as an extension of the learning that takes place in the classroom. These hands-on experiences enhance the early learning curriculum.

The field trip permission form must be signed and returned in order for your child to participate. **The form and money MUST be turned in by the due date or your child will not be allowed to attend the trip and you will be responsible for his/her childcare that day.** You will be informed of all field trips before they take place. We will usually ask for parent volunteers to accompany us on our trips. Parents of those in the Toddler class and Preschoolers who are not yet 4 years old will be required to attend some field trips. Please do not bring younger siblings as they distract you from your responsibilities as a chaperone.

**Children 3 years and younger must have a car seat or booster seat for the day of the field trip. Please mark your child's car seat. Children 4 years and older may ride the bus.**

## Communication/ Daily Schedules and Lesson Plans

Informational letters will be sent home from the Early School Director as needed. Classroom teachers will send home notes and/or calendars which will vary by class. Daily schedules and lesson plans are available upon request as they vary from classroom to classroom.

**Fast Direct is a vital form of communication between teachers and parents. Please set up your account and check it often. Early School will use this form of communication extensively this year. If you have difficulties setting up or using your account, please contact Mrs. Sandy Kratzer at (314) 867-6564 ext. 222.**

## Behavior and Discipline

At Grace Chapel we surround the children with God's love and forgiveness. Sometimes, though, it is necessary to follow a disciplinary plan. In the classroom or on the playground, our first step as teachers is to redirect the child by moving him or her or by providing another activity or toy. If the child continues the behavior, then the following consequences will occur. The child will be verbally warned again, and will sit in a chair by himself/herself for 2-5 minutes depending on the child's age. If that behavior or another harmful or disruptive behavior occurs, another warning and attempt to redirect will occur. If the child persists with the behavior, a note will be sent home to the parents and the child will sit out again. The child will always be spoken to about behavior and reassured of the teacher's love and forgiveness. We will also remind him/her about Jesus' love and forgiveness.

Our teachers and staff have also been trained in Conscious Discipline. We are all working on using this training to help our students learn to 1) Stop 2) Take some deep breaths 3) Speak to teachers and other students about why he/she acted in a certain way, tell another student why he/she does not like the behavior shown to him/her, and suggest a different way to act and achieve the desired result. Please contact your child's teacher with any questions or concerns.

***Early School Classroom Rules:***

***Love God and love others.***

***Be safe and healthy.***

***Be kind (respectful).***

## Show and Tell

Show and Tell days will be marked on the monthly calendar. The children are encouraged to bring one item in accordance with the provided theme. Show and Tell helps reinforce the theme for the week and helps children make a connection between home and school. All items are to remain in the children's bags except at Show and Tell time. Please allow your children to help as much as possible in the selection of his /her item.

## Curriculum

Developmentally appropriate curriculum is an essential part of our program. Each area of concentration allows our students an opportunity to explore the world around them in a safe and directed environment. All standards taught are from the Lutheran Elementary School association and can be found by visiting <http://www.lesastl.org/>.

- Toddlers through Pre-Kindergarteners use "One in Christ" Lutheran Education Curriculum
- Toddlers-Preschoolers use teacher created curriculum derived from the standards.
- Pre-Kindergarten students use teacher created curriculums, "Let's Begin with Letter People" for Early Literacy, and "Foundations" to introduce Phonics.

## Parent Involvement

Parents do a great deal to help their children have a successful Early School experience. Here are a few suggestions about how you can get involved in your children's education:

- Treat school as another exciting adventure for your children.
- Prepare them by suggesting some of the activities they might encounter at school.
- Promote the idea of meeting new friends and teachers.
- Show a sincere interest in the projects your children bring home or the stories they share.
- Pick a month to make play dough for the class. We have a recipe.
- Take pictures and help with class scrapbooking or slideshows.
- Help promote classroom recycling.
- Attend family nights at school.
- Chaperone field trips.
- Assist with classroom birthday celebrations or class parties.

Unfortunately, we will be unable to offer some of these opportunities during the pandemic. We pray that COVID-19 will be controlled soon and that we will be able to add these fun experiences back into our curriculum.

Please let your children's teacher know if you have another suggestion or wish to participate in another way.