



Dear Prospective Pre-Kindergarten Family,

February 7, 2017

Hello, I'm Mary Pat Harms, the Pre-Kindergarten teacher at St. Mary's School. I'd like to tell you about our wonderful pre-K program here at St. Mary's and invite you to our complimentary Pre-K/Kindergarten Parent-to-Parent Information Dinner at the school, **Tuesday, February 21st at 6 pm**. We hope you can join us for an evening of delicious food, great fellowship and valuable information about St. Mary's school and our pre-K and Kindergarten programs. Below are some highlights:

We are having a great time educating the children of St. Mary's parish. We are teaching our pre-kindergarten students to have fun in an educational environment. With our all day program, our kids can begin the fundamentals of learning in a school environment with games and a fun twist to their school day. Of course, our children learn not only academics but also how to live a Christ like life of love, giving and sharing.

Our students learn about love and a Catholic lifestyle by living it. We begin each day, and meal, with a prayer and our children begin to learn about God and his love for us through religion class and with their work to help others. They also celebrate the liturgical year learning about Advent and Lent preparing for Christmas and Easter. This is integrated into their day and their lives. They learn to be Catholic.

Our pre-K scholars are involved. Every day the children are assigned to visit two learning stations as they progress in language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. With our approach, they begin to learn the joy of independent learning. This prepares them for the future when they will be deciding what, and how; they study so they are prepared for classes in the upper grades. One of our big milestones is learning how to write our name. It's an exciting thing for our students and their parents. Also, we'll begin an introduction to science as well as Spanish and some computer training.

Our pre-K students are musically and artistically inclined. Music and art are an integral part of our program. This is the precursor education that teaches beginning fine motor skills and prepares our students for the music and art skills they'll need in the future. They will be preparing for the much more challenging art and music learning they'll enjoy in grades K-8.

Our kids are active. Our pre-K athletes enjoy supervised, safe and fun play throughout the day as well as the beginnings of physical education. This includes learning simple games like "balloon toss" to improve their eye hand coordination. This fundamental work is what helps our 4th to 8th grade basketball and volleyball teams excel in sports competitions every year.

This is a tremendous opportunity for your children. They will be attending one of the finest schools in the state of Nebraska. We are AdvancED accredited and have over 1,000 extremely successful graduates that have gone on to universities around the US and the globe. They have successful careers as business people, doctors, lawyers, financial experts, engineers and artists. An education at St. Mary's will truly be a gift that will last a lifetime.

Please come visit us and learn more. At our Parent-to-Parent Information Dinner, we will have other parents of students, Father Lape, Dr. Wallinger our principal and the teachers to provide an overview and answer any questions. Free childcare and a meal will be provided for your children. Please call Cathy Braxton at 402-291-1694 to let us know how many of you will be coming to the dinner. Please include the children's ages. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

Mary Pat Harms
Pre-Kindergarten Teacher

Spirituality • Academics • Service

