



St. Joseph Christian School
Kindergarten
Supplement
to the
Lion Cub Student
Handbook
2018 – 2019

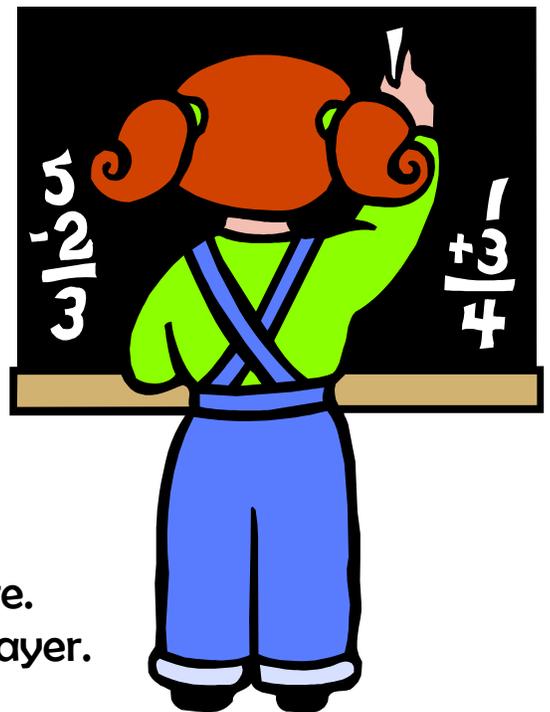
Back to School and Back to Prayer

Nancy Aguilar

Back to school and back to prayer
We give You Lord, our every care.
You know our hearts, You understand.
Please take our children by the hand.

Sometimes it's hard to let them go
Out in the world, and yet we know
That we can pray, and that You hear
Our heartfelt cry, our deepest fear.

Dear Lord, we trust them to Your care.
They're back to school, we're back to prayer.



TRAIN UP A CHILD

Deuteronomy 6:5-8 lays out God's instructions for teaching children. First, as parents and teachers, we are to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and strength. Then God says to impress His commands upon your children. "Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

We take this responsibility seriously and we will endeavor to partner with you to "train up your child in the way he should go so that when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). We will use scripture as the basis for all that we do.

To train means to exercise, to discipline, to teach and form by practice. When a child is "trained" it becomes part of his character. Our desires in kindergarten are to train children to:

1. Obey the first time with a happy heart
2. Apply themselves diligently
3. Do their best
4. Be attentive
5. Learn to work hard
6. Treat others with kindness and respect
7. Submit to authority

We don't expect perfection and recognize that the Holy Spirit must play an integral role in forming godly character. We will partner with you in prayer and watch for progress!

CURRICULUM

Bible "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105 We will study both Old and New Testament figures to learn how to be more like Jesus. Memory verses are recited each Friday. We will make application of Bible truths to our daily lives and begin to develop practices of godly behavior.

Phonics and Reading "When your words came I ate them; they were my joy and my heart's delight." Jeremiah 15:16 The best reason to learn to read is to read, understand, and apply God's word. Through phonemic awareness activities and phonics instruction students will learn the sound of each letter and blend them into words. Through Foundations and Frameworks curriculum, students will practice the beginning stages of reading for understanding using visual tools. Practice, drill, and application will take place in both small and whole group instruction.

Phonemic Awareness - The Basics

Phonological awareness refers to the fact that language is composed of small units of sound called phonemes. When children are phonemically aware, they hear and can manipulate sounds to change words into new words. Rhyming plays a key role in phonemic awareness.



These basic sound units include:

**phonemes within syllables and words

**syllables within words

**words within a sentence

What is a phoneme?

A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound.

P says /p/ not /pu/

N says /n/ not /nu/

What is Phonics?

Phonics is the connection of a sound (phoneme) to the written symbol (letter). "Letter A says /a/ like apple."

SJCS Kindergarten reading program combines phonemic awareness activities with a systematic approach to phonics which results in children learning to read in kindergarten.

See examples of the Stages of Phonemic Writing on the next page.

EXAMPLES OF WRITING AND INVENTIVE SPELLING AS IT PROGRESSES

Scribble:

Scribble-mock writing:

Scribble with letters:

String of letters

Copying words from the environment:

Inventory of known words or letters:

Use of initial consonant to represent the whole word:

(I saw a Cabbage Patch Kid)

Use of initial and final consonant sound to represent the whole word:

(Because I can hear birds.)

(My kitten has grown some fur.)

Science “I will praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Psalm 119:14
We will study animals, seasons, the weather, and our bodies to show the wonders of God’s designs.

Math “But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way.” 1 Corinthians 14:40
We will learn to work with the following number concepts: less than/ more than, before, after, between, smallest, and largest. We will learn to count to 100 by 1’s, 2’s, 5’s, and 10’s. Number families and addition facts to 10 will be covered. Telling time, money, and subtraction concepts will be introduced.

Social Studies “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations.” Matthew 28:19 We will learn how God directs the lives of people in order to accomplish His will. A disciple is someone who wants to follow Jesus. We will learn more about friendship and working within our classroom community in order to please the Lord. We will study many countries with special activities during missions week.

Physical Education “Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit?” 1 Cor. 6:19 We will participate in a weekly P.E. time to develop many motor skills as well as practice Christ-like behavior with peers while participating in games and activities. On the day we have P.E. we do not usually have recess.

Recess “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.” Ecc. 3:1 Young children have an abundance of energy and a short attention span. Recess allows an opportunity to release energy and return to the classroom better able to focus on their work. We will attempt to play outside if at all possible so please dress your child accordingly.

Music “Sing joyfully to the Lord” Psalm 33:1 We will incorporate songs into everything possible in the classroom, from vowel sounds to addition using finger plays, action songs, and rhymes. In addition, students will have a weekly lesson with the music teacher as well as participate in the elementary Christmas program.

Art “For by Him were all things created” 1 Corinthians 1:16 We will have a weekly lesson with the art teacher. Throughout the year we will also do a variety of hands-on projects in the classroom complementing our language arts and other subjects.

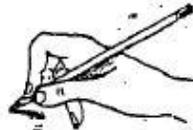
Handwriting “Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.” Ecclesiastes 9:10 Children will learn to write numbers, letters, blends, words and then sentences. Emphasis is placed in working slowly and carefully. Students will have a standard to follow and be encouraged to diligently work to meet it.

Recognized Correct and Incorrect Writing Grips

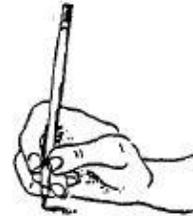
Correct



1. The pencil rests on the first joint of the middle finger with the thumb and index fingers holding the pencil in place.



2. Same as figure 1 except the fingers are closer to the pencil point.



3. Same as figure 1 except the pencil is held perpendicular to table.

Incorrect



4. Thumb and index finger holding pencil, with the index finger overlapping the thumb.



5. Pencil held by tips of fingers. Thumb on one side, middle and index finger on the other.



6. Thumb raps around pencil, with the index and middle fingers pressing pencil to ring finger.



7. Index, middle and ring finger tips hold one side of pencil, the thumb holds the other.



8. Pencil is held between the index and middle fingers, pressing pencil to the thumb.



9. Thumb on one side, index and middle fingers on the other, all pressing the pencil to ring finger.



10. Index finger holds pencil to middle finger, with the thumb overlapping the index finger.

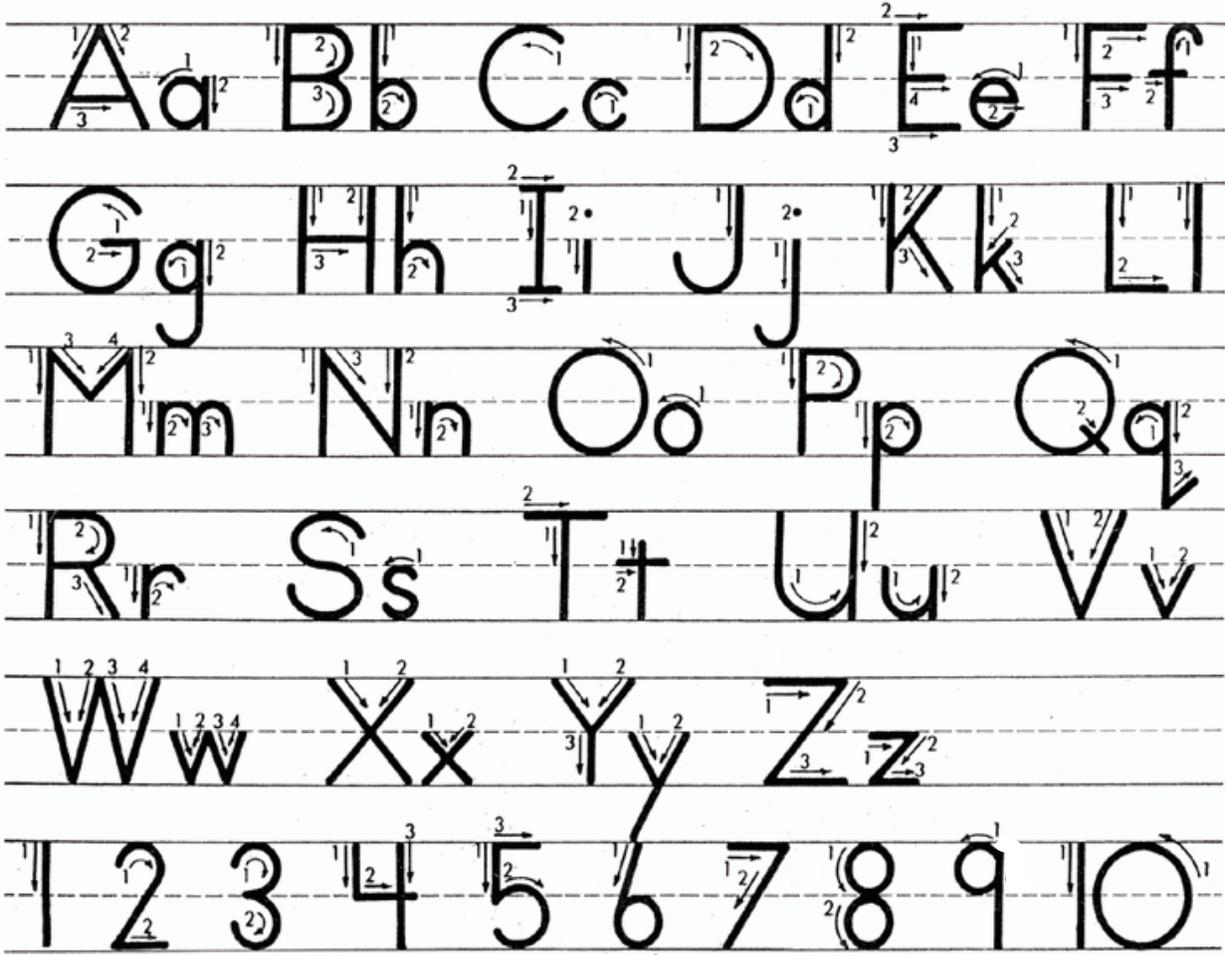


11. The thumb holds the pencil along the first joints of the rest of the fingers.



12. The pencil is grasped in the fist, and held up against the thumb.

Manuscript Writing Formation Guide



BOOK BAGS

Please check these **daily** for notes and work brought home. There will be reading homework on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the second semester. Since each child only has one reader it will be very important to make sure it is returned the next day. When readers are finished there will be a sticker on the front indicating that it is completed and stays at home.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

Discuss questions or fears with your child before the first day of school. If you have a positive attitude and look forward to the first day of school, your child will probably do the same. We ask that parents not visit the classroom the first few weeks of school. This allows your child time to adjust and feel confident in his or her new surroundings. Please keep the teachers informed of changes, such as a move, a newborn sibling, etc. This will help us to understand changes in behavior at school and allow us to pray for your child during the transition process.

ADDITIONAL ARRIVAL/ DISMISSAL PROCEDURES - KINDERGARTEN

FIRST, please read the complete arrival/dismissal procedures earlier in this handbook.

Students may be dropped off as early as 7:40AM and must be picked up no later than 3:10PM. Kindergarten students will gather on the east playground, outside their classroom, or follow instructions given them by their teacher. In case of inclement weather, children will be directed to wait inside. Generally, so that teachers may have time to finish preparation for the day, students will not be allowed to enter classrooms before school. Please make sure that *all* students are here by 7:55 so that classes may begin promptly at 8:00.

All unloading of pre-kindergarten/ kindergarten students and their older siblings will be done on the east parking lot, in the circle drive near the pre-k classrooms. At dismissal, kindergarten students and their older elementary siblings are dismissed from dismissal lines on the east parking lot. *The only exception:* students who leave mid-day for an appointment must be signed out/ in by a parent and leave through the west (office) doors.

If you are running late please call the school so we can reassure your child that you are on your way. We want everything about school to be a positive experience. Children left waiting and wondering often transfer their fear of being left at school to not wanting to come. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in picking up your children promptly. Since the school does not have personnel available to supervise students after dismissal, ***all students left after 3:10 will go to the afterschool care program (ACP).*** See the ACP section of this handbook for details.

Parents must call the office with any change in the ride home, whether planned ahead or last minute. Verbal instructions to your child are easily forgotten! We want to keep your child as safe as possible and will only release them to those for whom we have permission to do so. *This includes going home with a friend from class.* Thank you for your cooperation.

DISCIPLINE

This is most likely a major learning area for all 5 and 6-year-olds. Emphasis will be made on positive behaviors with various rewards and encouragement.

2 Timothy 3:16 says "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. "Discipline issues can find solutions when God's word is applied. Learning to love each other as Christ loves us will be our focus. We will establish rules and routines as we work towards developing habits of orderliness, honesty, obedience, cooperation, perseverance, self-control, attentiveness, confidence, responsibility, endurance, helpfulness, neatness, patience and respect.

Scripture will be applied to help the children:

"Honor others above themselves" Romans 12:10

"Do to others as they would have them do to you" Matthew 7:12

"Speak truthfully to their neighbor." Ephesians 4:25

"Be kind and compassionate." Ephesians 4:32

"Forgiving one another." Colossians 4:13

"Bearing with one another in love." Ephesians 4:2

We will encourage mutual respect by asking your child to:

1. Raise their hand before speaking
2. Asking permission to leave the room and their seat during lessons
3. Respect personal space of others

Proverbs 3:12 says "The Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in." Because the Lord disciplines those he loves, we will too. ☺

After the first week we will implement consequences for misbehavior such as: reminder of rules and correction from teacher, prayer, removal from activity, logical and natural consequences. If misbehavior persists, we will send a note home, conference with parents or visit with the principal to determine the next course of action.

Please pray with and help your child understand Hebrews 12:11, "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

Training Children to be a Disciple of Jesus

- Disciple: One under the authority of another for the purpose of instruction that will produce maturity,
- Sin: An archery term; missing the mark
More than, less than, or different from, not always evil
- Obedience: Gladly submitting to godly restraint, instruction, and authorities.
It is immediate, complete, joyful and wholehearted.

1 Sam. 16:7 "Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

	Facial Expression	Child may be thinking:	Attitudes of their heart:	Outward actions:
Easy to recognize but embarrassing to correct		I don't like it so I'm not going to do it. James 4:17 1 Sam. 15:23	Unwilling to obey	Non-compliant Throw fit Disappear
What we settle for because we're glad we don't have to confront		I might have to do it, but I don't like it. Matt. 15:8 Phil. 2:14	Unwilling to obey	Compliant with rolling of the eyes, sighing; eventual outward rebellion
What we unknowingly accept-their best efforts: SELF		I'm doing my best, I'm not complaining. John 15:5	Willing to follow instruction but steal God's glory	Compliant
What God desires-living by His Spirit within us		My desire is to please you O Lord, so I will obey my authorities.	Willing and cheerfully obey God gets glory	Obedient Ps. 40:8 Col 3:23 Phil. 2:13 Zech. 4:6

"Joy in Jesus...not in the task"

"We don't expect perfection...just a teachable heart."

Taken from ACSI conference Oct. 1998, Carolyn Tobias speaker

SJCS Kindergarten Behavior Rubric

"Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the Lord." Proverbs 16:20
 "A happy heart makes the face cheerful" Proverbs 15:13

Excellent	Good	Fair	Not Acceptable
Very little reminder of rules needed	Some reminder of rules needed	A lot of reminders of rules needed	Constant reminder of rules needed
Obeys the first time cheerfully	Teachable Spirit, responds well to correction	Tests limits after correction	Pouts when corrected
Truthful about misbehavior	Needs prompting to admit misbehavior	Stops misbehavior but doesn't admit wrongdoing	Continues misbehavior
Seeks forgiveness quickly	When prompted, Seeks forgiveness	Reluctantly seeks forgiveness	Refuses to seek forgiveness
Grants forgiveness quickly	When asked, grants forgiveness	Reluctantly grants forgiveness	Refuses to grant forgiveness

Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live! Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it." Hebrews 12:9-11



LUNCH/SNACK

Kindergarten students eat lunch in the classroom (see the *School Lunches* section of the Lion Cub Handbook).

Students who wish to purchase milk for lunchtime must bring money for the week in a sealed envelope marked with "Lunch Milk Money" and student's name.

Please have your child practice opening their lunch containers.

After the first few "settling in" weeks of school, parents are welcome to join us any time for lunch.

We will break daily for a snack. **Please send finger foods only.** No cookies/candy for snack time.

SPECIAL EVENTS

School Parties

We will celebrate Christmas and Valentine's Day with a class party. Details will come home in the newsletter prior to each holiday. Please note: **we do ask that parents not bring younger siblings to classroom parties/activities.** Classroom space is limited, and, more importantly, it is nearly impossible for parents to share this special time with their student if they are supervising younger siblings.

Parents, should be aware that it is very awkward for teachers/room mothers when a parent or two ignore this direction and show up at a class gathering with younger siblings in tow. **Thank you** in advance for making other arrangements for your littler ones during classroom parties.

Grandparents' Day

Grandparents' Day is a delightful time to celebrate family and loving relationships. Grandparents are invited to join us for this special day, as well as any other time they may be visiting with you.

Thanksgiving Tea

This event is held in November for kindergarten parents. We will finish our study on gratefulness with this opportunity to serve you.

Kindergarten Graduation

Kindergarten Graduation is held at 8:30 a.m. as it is the last chapel for elementary school. Kindergartners will present a program highlighting our year together.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell is a time to learn the difference between asking a question and telling information, speaking in complete sentences, and feeling comfortable in front of a group. 1 Peter 3:15 exhorts us to always be ready to give an answer when asked about our hope in Christ. Show and Tell gives early practice in public speaking, hopefully laying the groundwork for one day sharing their personal testimony of what the Lord has done for them.

TEACHERS' WEEKLY LETTER

Communication between school and home is essential to your kindergarten student's success! Parents are strongly encouraged to establish a habit of thoroughly reading the teacher's weekly letter, sent home each Friday, for news about what we have learned, upcoming events, student behavior and Bible memory verse scores. Once you have read the teacher's weekly letter, if you still have questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

We are honored that you have chosen St. Joseph Christian School and we are blessed to teach your child. If you have any questions please feel free to email us.