



Welcome to
Kindergarten!

École St. Paul School

Kindergarten

Welcome Booklet

2022-2023

Bienvenue à la
maternelle!

École St. Paul School
1527 Alexandra Avenue
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3C1
(306)659-7430
st.paul@gscs.ca
<http://www.gscs.ca/PAU>

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Bienvenue/Welcome to École St. Paul School! Beginning Kindergarten is an exciting time for both child and parent and I would like to sincerely welcome you to the school community. Although we have been experiencing so much uncertainty surrounding Covid-19 during the past few years, one thing that is for sure, we cannot wait to work with you and your little ones.

This welcome booklet will provide you with an overview of the Kindergarten programming as well as provide answers to questions you might have.

École St. Paul School offers a French Immersion experience that provides students with unique experiences and opportunities to develop and to reach their full potential academically, socially, and spiritually. École St. Paul School is a welcoming community where we nurture faith, encourage excellence in learning and inspire students to serve others, making the world a better place.

Parents are an integral part of their child's journey as a learner. We look forward to working with you to make this a most enjoyable and successful educational opportunity for your child. Please feel free to contact me for more information.

Sincerely,

Jean-Nicolas Rapp

Principal

(306) 659-7431



Bonjour kindergarten students!

I hope you have a wonderful summer!

I am looking forward to seeing you when you start kindergarten next year! At our school, we're like a family, where we share our love of God and our love for each other. In our class, we learn how to speak French! Did you know that I started learning French in kindergarten? That's just like you!

This is my 9th year teaching early years, my 3rd year teaching kindergarten and my first year at École St. Paul school. I can't wait to learn all about my new school with you.

Many wonderful things we do at school will be new, and some you will have done before. When you come to school, you'll get to do crafts, write your name, discover, sing songs, hear stories, and learn about God. We'll learn the alphabet, numbers and play outside. I know we will have fun at school and make lots of new friends this year!

On your first day of school, we will see each other for a welcome activity with your family and classmates. The next time you come to school, we will be all practiced up and ready to start our day together as a class!

Remember that if you have any questions before school starts, your parents can contact the school at 306-659-7430 or email me directly at nfox@gscs.ca.

I am so excited to meet you!

Mme Fox



This is me, very excited for your first day of Kindergarten!

Kindergarten Orientation (First Day of School) Schedule

Kindergarten Start – September 1st, 2022

Dear parent(s)/guardian(s),

At École St. Paul School, we like to gently introduce kindergarten students and their families to the school environment together on the first day of school. We find this method to be a good way to familiarize kindergarten children to the school and their classmates. Students are encouraged to bring a family member/s for some morning welcome activities and to explore our classroom together. Families are invited to come and go, or stay for a half day (9:00am -12:00am). This allows families to discover our classroom and the classroom routines together.

Welcome Activity:

The welcome activity starts outdoors at our class meeting spot (our classroom door/the play structure). During this time, I can greet each family as they arrive and the children can begin interacting on the play structure. Once we are all comfortable we can enter the classroom a few families at a time and enjoy an activity. This gives us a chance to experience our classroom and get excited about all the learning and growing we will be doing together.

First Days:

I will be **reaching out to your family by phone the last week of August** to connect before our welcome activity and to help me learn a bit more about our Kindergarten families this year. If you get the chance, please fill out the (short) Kindergarten Google Form at the link below.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSctnoIKtZqvyXGi6jH_cJQpNvvWAUWrtiqPyKz8A6x_cgZDPQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Your child is going to be encouraged to learn to do as much as possible by their selves this year. This includes hanging up their bag, coat, and mittens, putting on shoes by their, returning library books, etc. It is important that you review with your child the skills they need, such as getting dressed, opening/closing lunch kit/boxes/Ziplocks, doing up zippers, buttoning buttons, etc.

Thank you for getting through all this information and helping make sure we have a great start to the school year.

Mme Fox



EDSBY: How we will communicate with each other.

In order to keep you informed as to what is happening in the classroom, our teachers will be using an App called Edsby. Edsby is a next generation K-12 learning management system (LMS) with the broadest set of capabilities available in a single app for K-12. More information will be sent to all École St. Paul School families.

- ✓ **Communicating Your Child's Absence** – Parents/guardians can easily submit an absence for their child using their smartphone and the Edsby app.
- ✓ **Booking Your Three-Way Conference** – When it is time for three-way conferences, parents/guardians will receive the schedule in their Edsby mailbox. Parents/guardians will be able to schedule and easily change or remove bookings.
- ✓ **Viewing Your Child's Progress Report Online** – Once the school has submitted the progress reports online, parents/guardians will have access to view the report within Edsby.

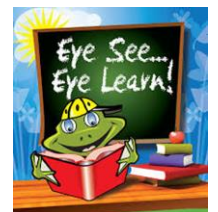
BEFORE YOUR CHILD ATTENDS KINDERGARTEN

To ensure your child can learn to the best of their ability, please have their eyes and hearing tested before they come to school.

Your child's vision plays an important role in how he or she will do at school...

Did you know:

- More than **80%** of all learning is through vision.
- **1 in 4** children have undetected vision problems and if a common condition called lazy eye is not addressed before ages six to ten years, the child is left with irreversible loss of vision.
- Eye Exams are **free** for children under the age of 18! They are covered by the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health one time per year.



To ensure your child has the best chance of succeeding in the classroom, we are inviting families to have their son or daughter's eyes examined by a Doctor of Optometry. Again, there is no charge for any child up until age 18. A list of Optometrists in your area is on the reverse of this letter. Thank you for your help in ensuring you child has equal access to learning opportunities through optimal vision. Further information can be found at <https://optometrists.sk.ca/childrens-vision-esel/>.

Questions You May Have . . .

Question: What is the best way to get in touch with the teacher if the need should arise?

Answer: It is best to email teachers with non-urgent communications. If there is an urgent need to get in touch with the teacher during class hours, please phone the school at (306) 659-7430 and leave a message with the Office Coordinator. The Office Coordinator will be able to contact the teacher in the classroom.

Question: How do I report my child's absence from school?

Answer: Parents/guardians can easily submit an absence for their child using their smartphone and the Edsby app. More information will be shared with all École St. Paul School families.

If there is an unreported absence, parents/guardians will be contacted via the SchoolMessenger Communicate automated notification system. The automated notification system will attempt to contact parents at multiple contact points until a reason is submitted for the absence. If our system is unable to reach the designated contacts, office staff will follow up.

Question: What steps are taken if my child becomes sick while at school?

Answer: The school attempts to first contact the parent/guardian at home or at work, then the child's emergency contact person or babysitter. The child can lie down in the nurse's office (isolation room) until someone can come and get him/her. If we are unable to contact someone and the child must go to the hospital, a staff member will stay with the child until someone is contacted.

Question: If I am planning to take my child out of school for part of the day or for an extended vacation, who should I contact?

Answer: All absences should be communicated to the school through the Edsby app (i.e. late arrivals, medical appointments, leave & returns, early departures, etc.). The school needs to be notified if the child is to be taken out for part of the day or for lunch or recess. For an extended absence, the teacher should also be notified by email.

Question: If I, or someone I designate, is to pick up my child at the end of the day instead of the child going on the bus as usual, who should I notify?

Answer: If your child is not going home as per usual, the school must be notified by phone call to the school at (306) 659-7430. If applicable, the bus company/driver must also be notified.

Question: What time is the lunchtime routine?

Answer: Lunchtime begins at 12:00 noon and the children have 20 minutes to eat lunch. They have a 5-minute transition at which time they can finish eating, pack up their lunch, and get ready to go outside. Then they go outside for 20 minutes to complete the 45-minute noon break.

Question: Are the children supervised at lunchtime?

Answer: Yes, there is adult supervision rotating in the classrooms while the children have their lunch.

How to Help your Child Transition into Kindergarten

1. **ARRIVE ON TIME.** Our first bell rings at 8:55 and, at that time, I ask that all children be seated on the carpet. It is best if your child arrives around 8:45 so they can get settled and have a few minutes to play with their classmates. Arriving late often makes it harder on a student to adjust to our program. If there is a reason that you are habitually arriving late, please inform me.
2. **LUNCH AND SNACKS:** Provide your child with a nutritious lunch and a *minimum* of TWO healthy snacks. I invite the children to eat any time during the day when they feel hungry, except when we are learning at the carpet.
3. **ILLNESS:** Please keep your child home if he/she shows signs of possible illness such as a runny nose, a sore throat, chills, skin rash, coughing, fever, etc. We are not permitted to give your child medication at school.
4. **MEDICAL INFORMATION:** Discuss with the teacher any medical problems your child may have. If your child requires an EPIPEN, please bring one to the Front Office on the first day.
5. **ABSENCES:** Use the Edsby app to report all student absence before 9:00 a.m.. More information on the Edsby app will be emailed to all École St. Paul School families.

Bus - Transportation

A two-way transportation service at no cost to parents is provided to students enrolled in the École St. Paul School French Immersion Program who live within of the school bussing boundaries - Lawson Heights, River Heights, Richmond Heights, City Park, Downtown, Riversdale (to Avenue H), Caswell Hill (to Avenue H), and Mayfair (to Avenue H). Busses drop off and pick up the students on Edward Avenue. Phone: 306-374-5161.



First Student late bus line is [306-343-3300](tel:306-343-3300).

If you are dropping and/or picking up your child at the school, please use the main entrance on Alexandra Avenue so that children do not need to move around the school buses.

Newsletters

With the new GSCS website that was launched in June 2021, we will no longer be using Newsletters, but will communicate via posts on our new school website, by email, or on Edsby.

Birthdays

The K teacher will send information to K Parents by email towards the beginning of the school year in regard to Birthdays.

Nut Alert School



Please note that École St. Paul School is a NUT FREE SCHOOL! Please do not send anything that might cause an allergic reaction. Please note that Nutella falls in the nut category.

Scent Alert School

Please note that École St. Paul School is a SCENT FREE SCHOOL! Please do not wear anything that might cause an allergic reaction.



Reporting

Our formal reporting for Kindergarten consists of 3-Way Conferences (parent-teacher-student) in the fall and spring. There is also a progress report in the spring and at the end of the school year. There will be no progress report for your K child in the fall.

School Day Hours

School Hours - 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

First Bell – 8:55 a.m.

Classes begin – 9:00 a.m.

First Recess – 10:30 to 10:45 a.m.

Noon Recess – 12:00 to 12:25 p.m.

Lunch – 12:25 – 12:45 p.m.

Last Recess – 2:15 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Classes end – 3:30 p.m.

Office Hours – 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

School Contact Information 2022-2023

Address - 1527 Alexandra Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7K 3C1

Phone – (306)659-7430

Teacher – Mme Natasha Fox

Principal – M. Jean-Nicolas Rapp

Vice Principal – Mme Claudette Degagné-Ellis

Office Coordinator – Mme Camille Matheson

Email – st.paul@gscs.ca

Website – <http://www.gscs.ca/PAU>

Kindergarten School Supply List 2022-2023

The following items **MUST BE LABELLED** and can be brought on your child's first day:

- ✓ 1 pair of Velcro running shoes for daily indoor use (**NO LACES PLEASE** even if your child is proficient at tying. These runners will stay at school all year.)
- ✓ 1 easy to clean lunch kit for snacks and lunch (This will go home and to school each day)
- ✓ 1 large backpack.
- ✓ 1 labeled water bottle that your child is able to open and close **independently**
- ✓ 2 changes of clothes in Ziploc bags (underwear, pants, shirt, and 2 pairs of socks) to be kept at school in case of an accident (such as getting wet on the playground, bathroom, food spills, etc.) and a larger bag to store them in.
 - **We get messy!** We are going to be learning through gross-motor and fine-motor sensory experiences. On a daily basis, students will be working with acrylic and water-colour paints, sand, mud, water, shaving cream, food colouring, etc. Clothing will get dirty and stained, so please ensure your child is not dressed in their best clothes.
 - **We spend time outside!** We will be learning through building and experiencing our environment. Expect your child to be spending several hours outside daily. Make sure they are dressed appropriately for extended time outdoors!
- ✓ 1 family photograph (to add to our family photo album).

Additional K School Supplies

\$35 supply fee to be paid in September (cash or cheque made out to École St. Paul School). The K teacher will purchase necessary items, such as glue, pencils, markers, paper, art supplies, etc. This option allows us to purchase items in bulk and purchase items on an as needed basis. If there is extra money, not initially spent in the fall, it will be used throughout the year to purchase additional learning material, items that have worn out, or items that will benefit the Kindergarten learning space. Leftover funds may also be used for field trips.