



Welcome to
Kindergarten!

École St. Paul School

Kindergarten

Welcome Booklet

2023-2024

Bienvenue à la
maternelle!

Dear families,

Bienvenue and welcome to École St. Paul!

I'm sure it's hard to believe. It probably feels like your child was only figuring out how to crawl last week. Time flies and now you're telling friends and family that your kid is starting Kindergarten. We understand and appreciate how special of a milestone this is for your child and your entire family. There may be some big emotions at home, but we hope there is some excitement for the upcoming school year. We are so excited that your child and your family are officially connected to École St. Paul.

École St. Paul is a welcoming community where we nurture faith, encourage excellence in learning and inspire students to serve others, making the world a better place. That statement may sound fluffy and years too early for your child, but all this starts in Kindergarten – sitting cross-legged on the “tapis” listening to stories, waiting for their turns on the playground slides, walking single-file to the library to look for a new book, washing paint off their hands (and arms) at the sink, and engaging in hands-on activities in the classroom. The upcoming Kindergarten year is the cornerstone year where your child will learn and practice what it means to be a good student, a good friend, and a good classmate.

This welcome booklet will provide you with an overview of the Kindergarten program, general school information, an “About Me” page on Mme Deguzman (who is beyond thrilled to meet her new students), as well as provide answers to questions you might have. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Parents and families are a valued and integral part of their child's journey as a learner. We look forward to getting to know you and working alongside you. Thank you for choosing École St. Paul School. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Jean-Nicolas Rapp
Principal
(306) 659-7431



HELLO Bonjour

Bonjour!

My name is Mikaela Deguzman and I am thrilled to be the Kindergarten teacher at École St. Paul School this year! I have been a substitute teacher for the past 2 years and a preschool teacher for 1 year with Petits Pandas Preschool at École St. Gerard. This will be my first year teaching Kindergarten and I am so excited!

Something I love most about working with children is their natural curiosity, creativity, and eagerness to learn and explore. I strive to create a positive and enriching learning environment for all learners through hands-on learning experiences, play, and exploration.

Outside of teaching, I enjoy spending time with my loved ones, cuddling my pet bunny Sven, baking and cake decorating, and travelling whenever I get the chance.

There is so much I am looking forward to this year, especially meeting you all!

À bientôt!



-Mme Deguzman

✉ mideguzman@gscs.ca

Kindergarten Staggered Start

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.

Tuesday, September 5

Come with your child to meet the teacher, drop off supplies,
ask any questions and to do a little family activity.

9:00 – 10:30 Students with last name A-K

10:45 – 12:00 Students with last name L-Z

Thursday, September 7

Full day of Kindergarten for students with last name A-K

Friday, September 8

Full day of Kindergarten for students with last name L-Z

Tuesday, September 12

Full day of school for all Kindergarten students

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

Mme Deguzman
& the École St. Paul School Team



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 provided 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.

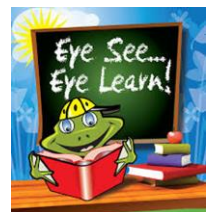
BEFORE YOUR CHILD ATTENDS KINDERGARTEN

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 message teachers through Edsby 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 School Bundle's 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 wellness office 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.

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 start by going outside for 23 minutes. They have a 2-minute transition at which time they enter the school and get ready for lunch. They have 20 minutes to eat which completes the 45-minute noon break.

Question: Are the children supervised at lunchtime?

Answer: Yes, there is adult supervision rotating outside in the schoolyard while the children play, as well as 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, we 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 us.
2. **LUNCH AND SNACKS:** Provide your child with a nutritious lunch and a minimum of two healthy snacks.
3. **ILLNESS:** We are not permitted to give your child medication at school. If your child is very sick, please keep your child at home.
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 absences before 9:00 a.m.. More information on the Edsby app will be provided 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: 306-343-2125.



First Student late bus line is 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 Edsby and the new GSCS website that was launched in June 2021, we will no longer be using Newsletters, but will communicate via posts on Edsby and on our school website.

Birthdays

The K teacher will send information to K Parents by email towards the beginning of the school year regarding 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 2023-2024

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

Phone – (306)659-7430

Teacher – Mme Mikaela Deguzman

Principal – M. Jean-Nicolas Rapp

Vice Principal – Mme Heather Jelinski

Office Coordinator – Mme Camille Matheson

Email – st.paul@gscs.ca

Website – www.gscs.ca/PAU

Kindergarten School Supply List 2023-2024

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 water bottle that your child can open and close independently.
- ✓ 2 changes of clothes in large, labelled 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. **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.
- ✓ 1 family photograph to add to our family photo album.

Additional K School Supplies

\$30 supply fee to be paid in September by cash or by 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.