



St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
2020-2021
Back-to-School Night Packet
Kindergarten

Included in the Back-to-School Night Packet

- Cover Letter
- Charism, Vision, and Mission
- Online Contact Information
- Grading Policy
- Curriculum Outline
- Kindergarten Information

Hard copies of the following are provided to parents at Back to School Night

- Family Life Letter and Permission Slip
- Back-to-School Night Acknowledgement Form
- Kindergarten Schedule

September 29, 2020

Dear Kindergarten Parents,

Miss Sammy, Mrs. Graham, Miss Boyle and I welcome you to St. Junipero Serra Catholic School and we thank you for joining us at Back-to-School Night. The purpose of this evening is two-fold. First we will provide a curricular overview for your child's academic year including the syllabus, the daily schedule, highlights of the school year, and a chance to meet your child's teacher. Secondly, this evening is provided for you to be able to ask questions, volunteer for service opportunities, and meet fellow grade level parents. Attendance and participation at Back-to-School Night signifies your partnership with the school in meeting the unique learning needs of your child. Thank you for your commitment and your time!

We are so blessed to have four incredibly talented, experienced, and enthusiastic teachers who will provide a wonderful, positive and creative learning environment for your child. Along with our specialty teachers, they will be working as a team to help your child develop skills in all areas of development, religious, academic, emotional, social, and physical. Above all they will be fostering a love for God and love for learning.

We look forward to a great year. Please feel free to contact me throughout the year with any questions, concerns or comments at creiss@serrraschool.org. I pray that you and your family enjoy a blessed year here at St. Junipero Serra Catholic School.

Carol Reiss
Principal, Preschool - Grade 4

St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Charism, Vision and Mission

"Unless our Catholic philosophy and way of life are taught religiously, our civilization will be founded on sand." -- Father Junipero Serra

CHARISM

Inspiring a deep faith, innovative mind, and caring heart through Christ... Siempre Adelante

VISION

St. Junipero Serra Catholic School is valued as a leading Diocesan Catholic Parish Elementary School located in South Orange County, California. Motivated by the teachings of Blessed Junipero Serra, and the persevering spirit of our founding families, we nurture our students to live and model their Catholic faith as servant leaders of Christ. Guided by the Holy Spirit Serra students are encouraged to use their God-given gifts and talents to serve the challenges of this ever-changing world.

MISSION

Rooted in the Catholic faith, evangelical vision, and spirit, the community of St. Junipero Serra Catholic School welcomes families from the parishes of Holy Trinity, San Francisco Solano, Santiago de Compostela, and St. Kilian, and surrounding communities. Inspired by the gospel values and in a Christ-centered environment, we provide a nourishing community for students to develop their seeds of faith and gifts to live as true disciples and servants of Christ. Our academic programs promote student success through a challenging and diverse curriculum meeting the varied learning needs and unique potential of the whole child.

SCHOOL-WIDE STUDENT LEARNING EXPECTATIONS

- A Catholic, Christ-Centered Life That Serves God and Others
- An Engaged and Active Life-Long Learner
- A Respect and Reverence for Human Dignity and Diversity
- A Passion to Share and Lead with One's God-Given Gifts

Contact Information

Administration:

Mr. Tim Toldza – Senior Principal – ttoldza@serraschool.org
Mrs. Carol Reiss, Principal, Preschool-Grade 4 – creiss@serraschool.org
Mrs. Ellen Burrola, Assistant Principal, Preschool - Grade 8 – eburrola@serraschool.org
Mrs. Julie Radzai, Principal, Grades 5-8 - jradzai@serraschool.org
Mrs. Toni Botterill, Assistant to Principal, Preschool - Grade 4 - tbotterill@serraschool.org

Homeroom Teachers:

Miss Sammy, KB – jsammy@serraschool.org
Mrs. Kathy Graham, KC – kgraham@serraschool.org
Miss Julia Boyle, KD – jboyle@serraschool.org

Specialty Teachers:

Mrs. Janess Sifers, Music – jsifers@serraschool.org
Ms. Sheila Rao, Art Teacher – srao@serraschool.org

E-mail is the most effective way to reach us. Please allow a 24 hour response time (weekends excluded). If your question or concern requires a phone call, please call 888-1990 and speak to the Receptionist and state your concern. She will route your call based on the level of importance. Please know that the teachers' primary responsibilities are the safety, supervision, and education of your child during the school day. Checking emails and phone messages may not happen during the school day.

St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Grading Policy

Diocesan Student Learning Assessment Criteria

Subject Area Grading Scale:

S = Successful, 70% and above

E = Emerging, Needs growth in this area, below 69.99%

The Creativity Lab is not graded per Diocesan guidelines. Technology is integrated into all other subjects.

The students will be continually assessed using both formative and summative instruments such as rubrics, classroom activities, and tests. Activities that support learning such as class work will comprise a smaller portion of the student's total grade.

Formative assessment

The goal of formative assessment is to monitor student learning and to provide ongoing feedback that can be used by teachers to improve their teaching, and by students to improve their learning.

More specifically, formative assessments:

- help students identify their strengths and weaknesses as well as target areas that need work.
- help faculty recognize where students are struggling and address problems immediately.

Summative assessment

The goal of summative assessment is to evaluate student learning at the end of an instructional unit by comparing it against standards and/or benchmarks. Examples of summative assessments may include observations, or a chapter or individual oral exam. Information from summative assessments can be used formatively when students or teachers use it to guide their efforts and activities in subsequent courses.

Kindergarten Curriculum

Religion

Text: We Believe- Kindergarten

Publisher: Sadlier, Copyright 2001

ISBN: 978-0-8215-3080-1

Family Life- Kindergarten

Publisher: Benziger, Copyright 2001

ISBN: 978-0-7829-1500-6

Web access: <https://www.sadlierconnect.com>

Catholic Children's Bible Stories

We are using the series *We Believe*. Our religion book offers a number of suggestions for family/home activities and a newsletter for each unit. In your Back to School Night folder we

have provided you with the year-long chapter syllabus. Please remember, you are the primary religious educator of your child and the children learn by your example. The children will be introduced to and memorize a number of prayers. The prayers are: Sign of the Cross, The Glory Be, Our Father, Hail Mary, Guardian Angel and Grace before Meals. We also participate in the school wide Monday Rosary. The Kindergartners will attend Prayer Services here at school. We do not attend the school wide Masses as we believe the Prayer Services are more age appropriate. The students will enjoy many bible stories, religious stories, and songs to enhance our Religion program. Formal uniforms are required on Prayer Service days and any indicated formal uniform days.

Family Life Program

During the second/third trimester the kindergarten students will begin studying the family life component of our religion curriculum. We believe that parents are the primary educators of their children and that the Church and school community serve as partners with the family in that regard. It is the responsibility of the school to educate the students in Catholic morality and in the teachings of the Church. We are truly blessed to have your child as member of the St. Junipero Serra community. Please sign and return the provided Family Life Acknowledgement Form indicating whether your child may participate in this program

English Language Arts/Literacy

Text: Reading Wonders

Publisher: McGraw-Hill, Copyright 2013

The English Language Arts/Literacy series is Wonders by McGraw Hill. English Language Arts/Literacy includes reading, writing, grammar, comprehension, vocabulary, listening, and speaking. Students will be exposed to a variety of both fictional and nonfictional texts. Daily Phonics lessons include letters, letter sounds and songs. Kindergarten students will learn both short and long vowels. Small group activities based on the students' instructional levels will be provided. During our reading group and center time students will learn how to communicate effectively using both oral and written language and how to work both independently and collaboratively with the use of their iPads. Many activities are designed to build listening and comprehension skills. Throughout the year students will be introduced/evaluated on the kindergarten high frequency words and other phonics skills.

Math

Text:Go Math

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin, Copyright 2015

ISBN: 978-0-544-38434-7

Web access for Go Math - Think Central: www-k6.thinkcentral.com

Spatial-Temporal (ST) Math

An instructional software created by MIND Research Institute

Simple Solutions

Publisher: Bright Ideas Press, LLC

Kindergartners are taught math skills through use of the Houghton- Mifflin Harcourt series *GO Math*. Real world applications allow students to use math in their daily lives and give students the foundation for the math needed in the future. The goals of kindergarten will be: numbers to 30, addition and subtraction, measurement, classifying and sorting data and 2 and 3 dimensional shapes. Daily Simple Solutions practice will strengthen problem solving skills and computation. These programs are based on Common Core State Standards.

Social Studies

California standard units will be covered including: seasonal and national holidays of different cultures, family and friends, following classroom and community rules, long ago and today. We do learn about American symbols, leaders, and community helpers. Our Social Studies is embedded in our Reading Wonders program and supported in our Scholastic Weekly Readers.

Science

NGSS - Next Generation Science Standards

Discovery Science, Scholastic Magazine

Hands on Materials

The Kindergarten Next Generation Science Standards program allows the children to explore and discover the wonder of the world around them. We will learn about being healthy, the five senses and growing and changing. We will also study plants and animals, weather, land, air and water. This program is supported by our Scholastic Weekly Readers and is embedded in the Reading Wonders program.

Freckle

An adaptive on-line program in which students work on mastery of standards in all subject areas.

Seesaw

An on-line student portfolio used by students to show accomplishments towards curriculum standards and Student Learning Expectations.

Specialty Classes:

Music: Mrs. Janess Sifers

In Kindergarten, music students are introduced to the basics of music. Students will learn about steady beat, instrument families, and music in our world. Students will learn songs for their monthly prayer services, Kinder Graduation, and songs for the seasons. Students will be assessed by how well they understand and apply music concepts, and participate during instruction. Students will participate in games, hands on instrument activities, and much more music fun!

Music meets for 30 minutes from 12:45-1:15 for one week every 4 weeks.

Art: Ms. Sheela Rao

Required: Art Sketchbook (8.5 x 11 spiral bound)

The St. Junipero Serra Catholic Art Program offers students the opportunity to understand, interpret, and appreciate the visual arts by exploring their creative potential through hands-on art projects. Emphasis is on creative exploration and manipulation of various art mediums. Students will expand their knowledge by developing and building upon their art vocabulary while learning and applying the art elements successfully; to create their own masterpieces. Students will discover that the creative process is a life-long way to express their personal world, ideas, and emotions. Technology is integrated into the art curriculum to view and critique famous masterpieces.

Creativity Lab:

In the Creativity Lab students will discover a “playground for learning”. The Creativity Lab is a 21st century learning lab for students of all interests, ages, and abilities. Creativity Labs put technology and learning resources in the hands of students, engaging learners in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM) while building critical 21st century skills. Young learners will engage in hands-on projects and experiences ranging from computer graphics & digital media arts to circuitry & robotics. Students will be learning and exploring With Zometools, Botley the Coding Robot, Knex, Ozobots, Snap Circuits, Osmo, Makey Makey, and so much more.

Physical Education: Mr. John Rodriguez

Program Goals:

The St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Physical Education Program focuses on two main areas of student development and learning.

1. As part of the School Wide Learning Expectations at St. Junipero Serra Catholic School the students participate in a physical education program that creates “a reverence for one’s own physical being” and “a positive and realistic self-image”.

2. The students will develop the values of sportsmanship and fair play, and be able to transfer those learned skills into their everyday life.

Description:

Students will have PE class twice a week for a total of eight classes per month. Sports will be introduced and played at all levels of skill including, football, basketball, soccer, and various other games as well as working on the student's fine and gross motor skills Health and Nutrition will be discussed and included.

Uniform Policy:

1. The PE Uniform can be worn all day if the student has PE class on that particular day (Formal Dress Day Policy Below).
2. **Shorts must be worn to waist level (especially the boys) and the shorts may not be rolled up at the waist or worn too high (especially the girls)**, all uniform policies and decisions are made at the discretion and judgment of the Physical Education Department and Principal. During the winter months students may wear the designated school sweats or solid-colored navy, white, or black leggings under the PE shorts.
3. **Closed toe athletic shoes that are fit for running, secured on the foot, are required for all PE classes.**
4. The school policy, in regard to PE uniform requirements on Formal Dress Uniform Days is that the students are to wear their Formal Uniform with athletic shoes until after the designated event for the day.
5. Socks may be plain white, navy or black and can only have a small, single color logo on them.

For further detail see the St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Parent/Student Handbook.

Grading Policy:

The majority of the grade in PE is not determined by the God given talents that each individual student has, rather upon many factors within the student's control. The five behavioral factors that, if followed, can produce a grade of high merit are:

1. *Student positive attitude and respect for others.*
2. *Promptness and being on time to class.*
3. *Following uniform guidelines.*
4. *Participation.*
5. *Effort shown in the assigned task.*

Injuries and Sickness:

- As a part of any physical program in school or outside of school, injuries or illnesses that do occur and need to be reported to the teacher.

- During class students must notify the teacher immediately of any injury that occurs during class, even if they are still able to participate.
- **Any condition that requires the student to miss two consecutive days or more of PE will require a medical note from the doctor. The note should specify the injury and specific limitations as well as the specific date your child may resume regular activity in PE class.**
- All notes for injuries or other information must be delivered, or sent via e-mail, to Mr. Rodriguez at jrodriguez@serraschool.org by 7:30 a.m. on the day of the PE class.
- If there is a discipline problem, the student will be given a verbal warning; if the problem persists it will be communicated by the PE teacher via e-mail, phone call or a note in FACTS to the parent.

Class Rules:

*Students will follow the **St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Code of Conduct**, Section 8000 of the Parent Handbook at all times while in physical education class.*

- Students will be on time and ready on your number when the teacher is ready to take roll
- Students will be quiet and respectful during prayer in class.
- Students will not talk while the teacher is talking, or any other teacher or adult visitor
- Students will show proper sportsmanship and respect for all members of the class

Library:

Each class will visit the school library twice a month once COVID-19 regulations are lifted. Students may borrow books. Parents may volunteer to read to the class in the library.

Kindergarten Information

Positive Behavior Program

We encourage the children to put forth their best effort in everything they do. Since lifelong success depends in part on self-discipline, we have developed a behavior program which provides the students with guidance in making good choices. We believe that your child deserves the most positive Catholic educational climate possible for his/her growth in fulfilling the Student Learning Expectations.

Responsible Behavior Goals

- Models Christ-like behavior
- Understands Jesus' wish for us to be of service to others

- Displays cooperative attitude and participates appropriately
- Engages collaboratively and effectively in interpersonal group, or teacher led discussions
- Follows classroom, school, and playground rules and procedures
- Listens to and demonstrates respect for authority figures
- Shows acceptance of others ideas and feelings
- Accepts personal responsibility and correction
- With direction, controls emotions and self-corrects behavior

Personal Success Skills

- Communicates effectively using appropriate vocabulary, volume, and patterns
- Demonstrating basic reasoning skills when solving problems
- Articulates steps taken to reach solutions
- With direction, perseveres to completion of tasks, finding solutions to problems
- Carefully completes tasks while following directions and demonstrating neatness and accuracy
- Maintains needed supplies and uses them appropriately
- With guidance, stays on task and uses time effectively
- Demonstrates basic understanding of technology and uses it effectively

We will be using a bear sticks pocket chart and weekly bear tickets to encourage Christian behavior. Students will be given “Bear Sticks” for good behavior. They will take a trip to the treasure box for every 30 sticks received. Each child will be responsible for following classroom and playground rules.

Classroom Rules

1. Students will keep their hands, feet and all objects to themselves.
2. Students will raise hand to talk during class lesson; not shout out.
3. Students will be kind in words and actions to classmates.
4. Students will be attentive listeners and follow directions.
5. Students will help put away toys and help keep classroom neat and tidy.

Playground Rules

1. No running on or around structure.
2. No swinging or hanging on structure.
3. No throwing sand/putting water in sandbox.
4. No climbing up slides.
5. Help put away toys when asked by supervisor.

6. Listen to all adult supervisors.

Lunch Table Rules

1. No shouting or screaming at tables.
2. No getting up to throw away trash until completely done with snack/lunch.
3. Keep hands and feet to themselves.
4. Be kind to classmates in words and actions.
5. Listen to all adult supervisors.

Positive Praise

At the Kindergarten level we also use lots of positive praise to recognize good behavior. This helps create a positive and realistic self-image of our Kindergarten students. During specialty classes and recess/lunch, if your child is not following the rules, they will bring home a discipline slip which you will need to sign and return.

Illness

If your child has had a fever or the ‘throw-up germ,’ they must not come to school until they are symptom free for 24 hours. The classroom teacher must be informed along with the Health Room of strep throat, pink eye, lice or any other contagious disease as soon as possible. Please review the Health Room policy carefully. Parents are expected to be diligent and follow the Family Health Commitment signed at the beginning of this school year to help mitigate COVID-19.

Absences Due to Medical/Dental Appointments

While we recognize the importance of routine medical check-ups, along with the difficulty of available after school appointment times, absences will affect your child’s academic performance. It is important that you post your child’s schedule in your home and refer to it when you make these appointments.

Weekly Folders

Classwork and artwork will be sent home every Monday in a folder. Please review the work with your child. Keep all papers/work at home, return only the folder on Tuesday.

Arrival/Dismissal

When your child arrives at school, he/she will go to the classroom. After 7:45 a.m., students must go to the School Office with an adult to receive a late slip.

Parents are encouraged to carpool and use the traffic pattern. Please do not park in the Memorial Care parking lot or the neighborhood off of Galisteo Street across from the Primary Education

Building. Students are expected to walk independently to their class. Staff are available and will escort younger students to the classrooms.

TK-2 Dismissal

All students are dismissed at 2:40 p.m., Monday through Friday, with the exception of the first and second Friday of every month (and minimum days) when the students will be dismissed at 12:10 p.m.

Extended Care

The Extended Care hours are from 6:30 to 7:15 a.m. and 2:40 to 6:00 p.m.

Snack Time

Preschool – Grade 4 are PEANUT FREE. If you send something in your child's snack that has peanuts or peanut products, we will send it back home with a reminder for you. If the peanut item is the main course of lunch, a lunch from the school will be given to your child and you will be billed for it.

In Kindergarten we will be having a morning snack break. On Monday through Friday, please have your child bring a small individual snack to be eaten at our recess. We ask that you send a drink such as a small water bottle or juice for them to enjoy along with their snack.

Please do not send in glass containers. Please send your child's snack in a labeled bag/baggie (a reusable snack pouch is fine) each day – not in his/her lunchbox.

Lunch

Lunch boxes or brown bags must be labeled. The Choice Lunch program may be an option later in the school year.

Emergency Contacts

If your child is going home with someone other than usual, please write a note indicating they have your permission or we cannot release the child. In addition, the person must be listed on your emergency card on file in the office

Conferences

We are available to conference with parents concerning their child. Parents are welcome to contact the teacher by sending an email, calling, or writing a note to request an appointment. Our priority is your child's safety, thus we cannot allow "drop by" conferences, nor can we talk with you during supervision of dismissal traffic, recess, or first thing in the morning. Please do not call during class hours. We will respond to the message within 24 hours.

Labeling Items and Lost and Found

All sweatshirts need to be clearly labeled. P.E. uniforms are only to be worn on P.E. days. You will be informed of days when formal uniform is required in the Room Parent Sunday email reminder. Teachers are not responsible for lost items such as sweatshirts, lunch boxes and backpacks. Lost and found items are placed on a rack in the hallway near the Extended Care room in the MEC building, Room C1-103.

Change of Clothes

Please provide your child with a Ziploc bag with an **extra change of clothes** (socks, underwear, shirt and shorts) for any accidents which may occur. These clothes do not have to be the school uniform but preferably school colors.

Personal Belongings

Due to the current times no personal belongings can be brought to school without prior permission from your child's teacher.

Important Note about Parent Volunteers

Due to COVID-19 regulations, we will not be using volunteers until further notice. However, when we do begin using them again, volunteers will be expected to follow these directives: All volunteers must be eligible for supervision of students by completing the fingerprinting requirements of the Diocese of Orange and must have successfully completed the Safe Environment training. Please contact Mrs. Diana McCarron at dmcarron@serraschool.org if you need to determine your eligibility.

Birthdays

Unfortunately due to Covid we will be celebrating in class only. No special visitors, treats, or trinkets will be permitted.

Class work

A stamp/sticker/star indicates the paper has been completed and checked by the teacher. It does not necessarily mean the paper was completed perfectly. Oops! means there was a mistake made. If your child fails to follow directions or takes more than the allotted classroom time completing tasks, this will be indicated on the paper. Please review your child's work with him/her when it is brought home.

Stickers

As you will notice, we use many stickers to grade papers in Kindergarten. **Any donations are greatly appreciated.** Stickers can be seasonal, religious or motivational in theme. Thank you!

Kindergarten Treasure Box

Please help us keep our treasure boxes stocked with little trinkets, such as pencils, erasers, rubber balls, plastic figures, play jewelry, baseball cards or other small, inexpensive items. Big Lots, Dollar Tree, 99¢ Store and the Oriental Trading Catalog are good places to purchase these items.

Make-up Work

Regular school attendance and being on time at the beginning of the school day is very important. If your child must be absent from school, we will compile daily assignments and these must be completed at home and returned to school. *We will send home make-up work once your child has returned to school.* Your child has as many days absent to make up the missed work. For example, a child who has been sick for five days has five days to make up work.

Homework

Kindergartners are not required to have homework. Optional learning activities can be found on your Teacher's Canvas page under Parent Resources.

Friend of the Week

We have a special bulletin board for the "Friend of the Week." All students need to purchase and prepare a poster telling us about them. The poster should be brought to school on Monday or the first day of the assigned week. The purpose of this activity is to build self-esteem. Due to Covid we are unable to have you join us for any activities. We would like to encourage you to share a video recording of you reading your child's favorite story. We would show it during your child's special week. Your child will be allowed to bring in ONE special share during this week only.

**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
Back to School Night – Kindergarten
Parent/Student Acknowledgement Form**

Please return the completed form to your child’s homeroom teacher by Friday, October 2, 2020.

We have read the Kindergarten Back-to-School Night packet in its entirety and we are affixing our signatures to verify that we (parent(s) and student understand its content and will comply with the aforementioned guidelines to the best of our ability.

Teacher Name: _____

Grade/Homeroom: _____

Student Name (printed) _____

Student Signature _____

Parent Name (Printed)

Parent Signature / Date

Parent Name (printed)

Parent Signature /Date

E-mail Contact Information: _____

Best Number to Reach Parents during the School Day:

**St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
Back to School Night – Kindergarten
Family Life Program Participation Acknowledgement**

Please return the completed form to your child’s homeroom teacher by Friday, October 20, 2020.

Student’s Name and Homeroom _____

Please indicate your choice below by marking with an “X”.

_____ I do grant permission for my child to be included in the family life program in their religion class.

_____ I do **not** grant permission for my child to be included in the family life program in their religion class.

Parent Name _____
(Print)

Parent Signature _____

Comments: _____
