

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

Enclosed

:

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

Copies of the following are provided to parents at Back to School Night:

- Back-to-School Night Acknowledgement Form
- Transitional Kindergarten Schedule

Dear Transitional Kindergarten
Parents,

Mrs. Castro 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 hope to 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 follow 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 two incredibly talented, experienced and enthusiastic teachers who will provide a wonderful, positive, and creative learning environment for your child. Mrs. Castro is assisted by Mrs. Monica McLean. This team will provide the experiences for the students to develop skills in all areas of development needed for a smooth transition to kindergarten next school year. 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@serraschool.org. I pray that you and your family enjoy a blessed school year here at St. Junipero Serra Catholic School.

Mrs. 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

Online Contact Information

Administration:

Mr. Tim Tolzda, Lead Principal/Administrator– Ttolzda@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 Teacher:

Mrs. Angela Castro, Transitional Kindergarten Teacher, TK-A - acastro@serraschool.org

Specialty Teachers:

Mrs. Janess Sifers, Music Teacher jsifers@serraschool.org

Mr. John Rodriguez, Physical Education Teacher – jrodriguez@serraschool.org
Creativity Lab Facilitator – TBD

Mrs. Sheela Rao, Art Teacher – srao@serraschool.org

Email is the most effective way to reach us. Please allow a 24 hour response time. If your question or concern requires a phone call, please call (949) 888-1990 and speak to the receptionist. State your name and your child's name and 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 because the teacher's primary responsibility is student supervision.

St. Junipero Serra Catholic School Grading Policy for TK

At the end of each trimester, parents will receive a TK Diocesan Student Learning Assessment for your child.

Subject Area Grading Scale: S = Successful,
70% and above N = Needs growth in this
area, below 69.99%

The students will be continually assessed using both formative and summative instruments such as rubrics, classroom activities, and oral assessments. 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 teachers 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.

The summative assessments for TK students are:

- Individual observations
- Review of students work samples

Transitional Kindergarten Curriculum

Religion Text: Who Am I? Image of God Series, 2nd Edition (Publisher: Ignatius Press) Website: www.ipreligioioused.com

The “Who Am I?” curriculum has as its emphasis two key truths of the faith: God and creation. These key truths form the unifying element of the lessons revolving around the fundamentals of our faith stated in terms the children can understand and remember. The program includes worksheets that will be completed by your child or you will be directed to complete with your child at home.

Language Arts/Literacy Text: Superkids: Meet the Superkids and Superkids Club (Publisher: Zaner-Bloser) Website: www.zaner-bloser.com

The Superkids Program provides a guide for teachers to integrate the teaching of the Catholic faith into Language Arts/Literacy.

Each student will also have a personal Journal to further develop their communication skills through drawing, writing, and dictation.

Through these literacy programs, the students will develop:

Print Awareness

- Demonstrates the proper way to read a book (e.g., right side up) and where to begin reading
- Identifies the front cover, back cover, and title page of a book
- Begins to identify the title and author of the book
- Follows the words from the top to bottom and left to right when reading
- Recognizes and names all of the capital and lowercase letters
- Understands that a sentence is made up of separate words
- Distinguish letters from words
- Identifies periods, question marks, and exclamation points

Phonological/Phonemic
Awareness

- Understands that individual letters have sounds
- Matches each consonant or short vowel sound to the corresponding letter
- Identifies and creates simple rhyming pairs (e.g., cat/hat)
- Identifies beginning sounds in words (e.g., /h/ in hat)
- Begins to identify ending sounds in words (e.g., /t/ in hat)
- Identifies when two words share the same beginning sound (e.g., hat and hammer)
- Attempts to blend phonemes into simple words (e.g., /h/ /a/ /t/ = hat)
- Attempts to segment phonemes of words (e.g., hat = /h/ /a/ /t/)

Reading

Comprehension

- Utilizes new vocabulary when speaking and writing and/or dictating
- Uses picture cues and text to make predictions prior to reading
- Retells or acts out a story in accurate sequential order (beginning, middle, end)
- Uses picture cues to talk about what is happening in the story
- Answers simple questions about the main characters, setting, and events in a story
- Distinguishes between fiction and nonfiction
- Recognizes and understands environmental print such as school and classroom labels
- Begins to recognize high-frequency words (e.g., and, the, you, etc.)

Writing/Spelling/Handwriting

- Dictates stories about events and/or experiences for others to write
- Participate in a variety of writing opportunities (e.g., journal writing, Superkids Student Book pages)
- Uses classroom resources such as a word wall to support the writing process
- Shares own writing with other children. Teacher, and/or parents
- Writes own first name
- Prints all capital and lowercase letters

Listening and

Speaking

- Expresses feelings, ideas, and needs in complete sentences
- Follows one- and two-step directions
- Listens attentively to stories and poem
- Takes turns during conversations and responds appropriately

Mathematic

s

Text: My Math Grade K (Publisher McGraw-Hill Education)

Transitional Kindergartners are taught math skills through use of the McGraw-Hill My Math series. The goals of kindergarten will be: numbers to 20, addition and subtraction within 5, measurement, classifying and sorting data and 2 and 3 dimensional shapes.

Spatial-Temporal (ST) Math: Transitional Kindergarten (Supplemental)
(www.mindresearch.org)

The ST Math: Transitional Kindergarten program includes:

- ST Math software featuring JiJi the penguin in visually-based animated puzzles on the iPad
- Teacher-guided activities
- Posters featuring mathematical chants and songs
- Manipulatives and work mats

The ST Math: Transitional Kindergarten curriculum combines multiple modes of learning that work together to reinforce key mathematical concepts. Using the ST Math: Transitional Kindergarten curriculum, learning happens through computer games done on the iPad, teacher-guided interaction, and hands-on exploration. A home-school connection is provided to enrich your child's learning experience in ST Math. Through this math curriculum, the students will develop foundational skills in the following math concept:

- Algebraic Thinking
- Geometry
- Numbers & Operations
- Counting & Cardinality
- Measurement & Data

Science Discovery Science, Scholastic
Magazine Discovery Science Techbook
Hands on Materials

Through the science curriculum the students will develop:

Science Process and Physical Science

Concepts

- Observes, describes, classifies, and sorts real objects according to common characteristics
- Uses the five senses to make observations and gather information
- Ask questions, makes predictions, and shares observations both orally and in drawings
- Compares and describes the properties of some types of materials (e.g., magnetic-nonmagnetic, float-sink, solid-liquid, etc.)

Life Science and Health

Concepts

- Observes and describes what living creatures (plants and animals) need in order to live
- Describes the life cycles and changes plants and animals go through during their life (e.g., egg to chick, seed to plant)
- Understands the importance of daily physical activities
- Identifies and practices personal health habits (e.g., washing hands, using a tissue, etc.)
- Identifies types of food that help the body grow and stay healthy

Earth and Space and Science Concepts

- Describing the properties of common earth materials (e.g., rocks, soil, water)
- Describing the properties of common earth materials (e.g., rocks, soil, water)
 - Understands that weather changes from day to day and over four seasons
- Describes simple conservation measures used to protect the environment (e.g., recycling)
- Understands that the night sky reveals the moon, stars, and planets
- Names some of the animals that live in the ocean

Social Studies Through the social studies program, the students will develop: Civics and Government Concepts

- Works and plays cooperatively in a variety of situations (one-on-one, small groups, etc.)
- Understands and identifies the importance of school and classroom rules
- Identifies community workers and their roles (e.g., postal worker, police officer, etc.)
- Identifies the American flag as a symbol of our country

Geography Concepts

- Identifies a globe as a representation of Earth
- Knows terms that describe location (e.g., near, far, left, right, behind, etc.)
- Understands how different modes of transportation move people and goods from place to

place

- Understands that a map is a representational drawing of a location
- Understands how children within a community and around the world have common needs (e.g., food, shelter, clothing)
- Understands how children within the local community and around the world are different (e.g., language, customs, etc.)

History Concepts

- Shows interest in stories and past events and important Americans (e.g., George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, etc.)
- Understands the significance of commemorative holidays (e.g., Presidents' Day, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, etc.)

Economic Concepts

- Understands that money is used to purchase goods and services
- Begins to understand the difference between wants and needs
- Understands that people must work in order to earn money

The Arts

Through this program, the students will develop skills and concepts in the areas of:
Visual Arts

- Creates artwork using a variety of colors, forms, and lines
- Develops manipulative skills when drawing, painting, and constructing artwork
- Explores a variety of different art methods such as drawing, painting, sculpting, etc.

Music

- Participates in music through singing or playing instruments
- Responds to the beat or rhythm in music by clapping, tapping, or playing classroom instruments.

Creative Dramatics

- Uses props to participate in dramatic play
 - Works cooperatively with others during dramatic

play

- Fine Motor Development

Through this program, the students will develop skills in the areas of:

- Holds writing instruments between thumb and fingers
- Cuts on a line most of the time
- Uses glue with control

Gross Motor Development

- Demonstrates basic locomotor movements (e.g., galloping, hopping, running, skipping)
- Demonstrates non-locomotor movements (e.g., bending, swaying, twisting)

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 Students are introduced to the basics of music. They will learn about steady beat, instrument families and music in our world. Students learn songs for their prayer services and Christmas production. Students will participate in games, hands on instrument activities, and much more music fun!

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: TBD 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 Serra Catholic School Physical Education Program focuses on three main areas of student development and learning. 1. As part of the School Wide Learning Expectations at Serra 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. 3. The students will work throughout the year to increase their total fitness level and evaluate their improvement through the Fitness Gram Program.

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), in accordance with the Serra Catholic School Uniform policy. During the winter months students may wear the designated school sweats or solid-colored navy, white, or black leggings under their 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 Day is that the students are to wear their Formal Uniform with athletic shoes until after the designated event for the day. 5. For further details see the 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, but 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 Illness

- If your child is sick or has a condition which limits the ability to participate in physical education class please be sure to notify your child’s homeroom teacher and PE teacher via email.
- 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 Coach Rodriguez at jrodriquez@serraschool.org by 7:45 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 a merit infraction slip will be given to the homeroom teacher to be sent home.

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

Transitional Kindergarten Information

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.

Expected Behavior Rules Personal Success Skills

1. Respects the rights and feelings of others
1. Completes tasks
2. Demonstrates self-control
2. Follows assignment direction
3. Follows class and school rules
3. Seeks help appropriately
4. Follows playground rules
4. Listens attentively
5. Displays proper grooming and appearance
5. Works independently and to ability
6. Respects authority
7. Shows reverence during prayer and liturgy
8. Practices digital citizenship

Parents will be notified if behavior becomes a problem.

Stickers Stickers will be used as rewards and recognition for good behavior. Students will be given stickers at the discretion of the teacher and instructional assistants as a reward for exceptional behavior or extra effort on classroom work. These stickers may be taken home or placed on the pencil boxes or on the daily folders. Any donations of stickers are greatly appreciated. Stickers can be seasonal, religious or motivational in theme. Thank you!

“Star Chart” Students will begin the day with a behavioral clip on “Ready to Shine” Behavioral clip will move up if consistently focused and on task exceeding expectations. Behavioral clip will move down if not following classroom rules. When a student reaches the top of the star chart, a coupon for a special privilege is given.

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.

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.

Daily Folder Classwork and artwork will be sent home daily in a folder. Please review the work with your child. Keep all papers/work at home. You do not need to return your child’s work the next day, only the folder. This information will assist parents in monitoring their child’s progress. If you have a note or forms for your child’s teacher, please send it to school in the Daily Folder.

Arrival/Dismissal

Your child should arrive at school between 7:10 and 7:40 a.m. Optional: Parents may use emergency flashers when arriving on campus and will be directed to the Preschool/TK drop off area. From there TK students will be escorted to class. Students may enter TK at 7:10 a.m. where their teachers and instructional assistants will provide enjoyable activities for them to do while waiting for the start of school at 7:40 a.m. After the gate is closed on Banderas and students arrive late, parents must accompany TK students to the School Office 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.

TK-2 Dismissal All TK – 2nd grade students are dismissed at 2:40 p.m., Monday through Friday. With exception of the first and second Friday of every month (and minimum days) when the students will be dismissed at 12:10. Students are to be picked up promptly.

Extended Care If your child has a change in schedule, please inform the classroom teacher in writing as soon as possible. We want to make sure that we know where your child needs to be for his/her safety. The Extended Care hours are from 6:30 to 7:10 a.m. and 2:40 to 6:00 p.m.

Snack Time In TK we will be having a morning snack and an afternoon snack break. On Monday through Friday, please have your child bring a small individual snack to be eaten at our recesses. 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. The snack bar is not available to TK students.

Lunch Lunch boxes or brown bags must be labeled.

*PEANUT FREE ENVIRONMENT - Grades Preschool through 4th Grade are peanut free. Please do not include foods with peanuts or peanut butter in your child's snack or lunch.

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. Due to traffic, please do not arrive for the afternoon carpool until 2:15 p.m. Please – no cell phone use during dismissal traffic times.

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, 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 or as soon as possible. This year formal parent-teacher conferences will be held in October.

Dress Code Please review the Serra Catholic School Dress Code policy carefully which can be found in the Parent Handbook on the Serra Catholic School website. If your child has not met the requirements for the uniform dress code, a reminder will be sent home. 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 TK classroom.

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 in school colors.

Personal Belongings Due to space limitations, students may not bring wheeled backpacks to class. Trading cards, small toys, and excessive jewelry and non-school related accessories should not be brought to school.

Important Note about Parent Volunteers Due to COVID-19 regulations, we are not using parent volunteers until further notice. 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 ppinto@serraschool.org if you need to determine your eligibility.

Birthdays In honor of your child's birthday they may wear non-uniform dress, except for if your child's birthday falls on a designated formal uniform day. No treats or trinkets are to be given out this year but we will be celebrating in class. You may also choose to purchase a book for our school library in honor of your child's birthday. Summer birthdays will be celebrated on a child's half-birthday. If a birthday falls on a weekend or holiday, a child's special day may be arranged with the teacher.

Birthday Party Invitations If every child in the classroom or all the boys or all the girls are invited to a party, invitations can be passed out in the classroom. If your guest list is limited, please handle invitations by mail only!

Best wishes to you and your child for a successful year; together we are partners in their success

St. Junipero Serra Catholic School
Back to School Night – Transitional 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 TK Back-to-School Night packet in its entirety and we are signing the document 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)

_____ 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:
