

# Junior Kindergarten Handbook

## Ms. Harter & Mrs. Stevens

### 2025-2026



#### ***Holy Infant Philosophy***

Holy Infant Catholic School, a co-educational community, is committed to the development of the whole person in an atmosphere of faith, love and respect. We believe that the purpose of Catholic education is to teach children to understand the Christian message and to imitate Christ's life of love and service. Our commitment is founded and best expressed in the following statement

***Be it known to all who enter here that  
Christ is the reason for this school,  
The unseen, but ever-present  
teacher in its classes, the model  
of its faculty, the inspiration  
of its students.***

#### ***Holy Infant Mission***

Holy Infant Catholic School,  
building on a foundation of academic excellence,  
in partnership with parents and the parish community,  
strives to teach as Jesus did - in faith, with love and respect,  
helping each child to achieve his or her  
full spiritual and academic potential.

## Four-Year Old Curriculum

Instruction will include a combination of age-appropriate whole group lessons, hands-on small group academic centers that allow teachers to work with individual students, and play-based free choice centers. Our curriculum will be structured around monthly and weekly themes, including a letter, shape, and color of the week. Our goal is to present information in a memorable and engaging way! It is our goal that your child will have accomplished, but not limited to, the following by the end of the Junior Kindergarten program:

- Separate from parents without difficulty
- Take care of personal belongings
- Recognize their name
- Know and identify body parts
- Understand and follow directions
- Clean up after one's self
- String beads
- Walk a line
- Make the sign of the cross
- Share and cooperate with others
- Print first name
- Print letters
- Name 6 basic shapes
- Write numbers 1-10
- Repeat a simple pattern and sequencing
- Listen when others are speaking
- Show self-discipline in movement
- Choose a variety of play experiences
- Participate in group activities
- Color
- Work with glue
- Hold crayon/pencil correctly
- Work puzzles
- Build a tower of blocks
- Jump on two feet
- Dress without assistance
- Participate in prayers
- Identify the 8 basic colors
- Recognize the alphabet
- Recognize letter sounds
- Rote count to 25
- Work well with others
- Practice good manners
- Take turns
- Show self-discipline in voice

## Junior Kindergarten Procedures

### Extra Change of Clothes

Accidents and messes happen in Junior Kindergarten! Please send in an extra change of clothes including a shirt, shorts/pants, socks and underwear. These items will stay in your child's backpack throughout the school year. We will send

home reminders when it is time to change out the clothing due to changes in weather!

### **Parent/Teacher Communication**

A newsletter will be sent home via email, every Thursday, to let you know what is going on in the classroom. If you ever want to reach me do not hesitate to email me at [charter@holyinfantschool.org](mailto:charter@holyinfantschool.org) or call the school office at (636) 227-0802.

I will get back to you as soon as possible. There will be a parent / teacher conference in the fall.

### **Family Pictures**

Please send in a 4X6 family picture that we can keep here at school. These will be returned at the end of the school year. These pictures will serve as reminders when we pray for our families each day.

### **Show and Tell**

We will be having Show and Tell each week on Thursdays. As homework, we ask that you assist your child in choosing an object from home that begins with the letter of the week (this information will be in the newsletter each week) to present to their class. This is a fun way to practice letter-sound recognition and public speaking. Please make sure the item is not easily broken and labeled with your child's name. We ask that no toys from home be brought to school any other day.

### **Arrival & Dismissal**

Class is held from 7:50-2:55. You may drop off your child any time after 7:30. The main entrance to the school building is on the north side of the building. All traffic enters the school parking lots from New Ballwin Road and joins one of the two single lanes of one way traffic on the lower section or the upper section of the parking lot. All arrival traffic is ONE WAY and exits turning onto Nancy Place. All students enter the building through the doors near the statue of St. Francis.

A parent or older sibling may walk them in but does not have to. Once we have developed an arrival routine, please only walk your child to the front doors of the school if necessary. A smooth transition during drop off really helps get our day off on the right foot! If it is necessary to park during arrival time, please use only the row of parking spaces numbered 132-159 closest to the basketball hoops on the far north side of the lot. When crossing from the upper parking lot please wait at the CROSSWALK for assistance from a member of the Traffic Committee. PLEASE NOTE: The Church lot is reserved for those attending morning Mass.

Please do not use the Church parking lot during arrival time. Students should not be dropped off in the Church parking lot.

### **Dismissal**

Dismissal will take place at 2:55 in the main school parking lot. Please know your parking spot number. Teachers will assist the children in getting to their vehicles. Rows of cars will be dismissed in a certain order by the teacher on duty.

### **Rest Time**

Missouri requires full-day early childhood centers to have 30 minute naptime. We will provide a nap mat for your child. Please send in a fitted crib sheet (labeled with his/her name), and we will send them home occasionally to be washed. You may send in a little stuffed animal and/or small blanket to help your child rest if you choose. It must fit in their backpack and we will send them home each day. This will be a low light, soft music rest period. We know some will sleep and some will not, but all children will be required to lie quietly on their mats during this time.

### **Uniforms**

The children will wear a bright blue Holy Infant shirt as their uniform each day. You will receive one at Meet and Greet and may purchase more for \$5.00 each. In the interest of safety, please make sure your child wears his or her blue shirt each day. These shirts may be worn with any skirt (with shorts under ☺), shorts, or pants. Please send your child in closed toed shoes. Tennis shoes are recommended.

### **Food Allergies**

Please notify me as well as Mrs. Jen Stensland, the school nurse, immediately with any allergies that affect your child. Call Mrs. Stensland at (636) 227-0802 , ext. #1

### **Daily Snack**

Please pack two healthy snacks and a leak-proof water bottle for your child each day. Make sure your child likes the snack and can eat it with ease. **\*\* SNACKS SHOULD BE SEPARATE FROM YOUR CHILD'S LUNCH. (If possible please put your child's snack in his or her backpack pocket).**

## **Lunch**

Junior Kindergarten students will eat lunch at school each day. You may send a lunch with your child each day or your child may purchase plate lunch at school. Students may also purchase milk if desired. You can contact Food Service Consultants to obtain a meal card to avoid sending cash if you would like. If you send a lunch, please make sure snacks are packed separately.

## **Birthdays**

We love celebrating birthdays in Junior Kindergarten! In lieu of bringing treats, your child may dress out of uniform on his or her special day! They may also bring their favorite book to share with the class.

## **Holiday Parties**

We will celebrate many holidays together in Junior Kindergarten! More information to come...

## **Volunteer Help**

There will be many opportunities to help out in the classroom throughout the year. Anyone who wishes to help in the classroom or at school is required by the Archdiocese to take the *Protecting God's Children* class. It is offered many times, at many parishes throughout St. Louis and is always free of charge. There is a list of meeting dates and times on the Archdiocesan website, [archstl.org](http://archstl.org) under the Safe Environment tab.

## **Mystery Reader**

Beginning in October we will have weekly Mystery Readers. More information to come soon.

## **Photo Circle App**

We love taking pictures in Junior Kindergarten! We share the pictures via an app called Photo Circle. I will be sending you an invitation to join the page in the coming weeks. In order for us to take and post your child's picture, we must have a signed authorization form on file.

## **Songs and Prayers**

We will be praying and singing throughout the day, but these are the prayers we will do every day. I encourage you to let your child "teach" them to you and pray them often.

### Morning Prayer

Good Morning Dear Jesus,  
This day is for you.  
So I ask you to bless  
All I think, say and do.

### Snack Prayer

Lord, we thank You  
Lord, we thank You  
For our food  
For our food  
And for all our school friends  
And for all our school friends  
We thank You  
We thank You

### Lunch Prayer

Bless us, Oh Lord,  
and these thy gifts which  
we are about to receive from thy bounty,  
through Christ, Our Lord.  
Amen.

### Good-Bye Song

Goodbye, Goodbye  
To you and you and you!  
Goodbye, Goodbye  
May God watch over you!