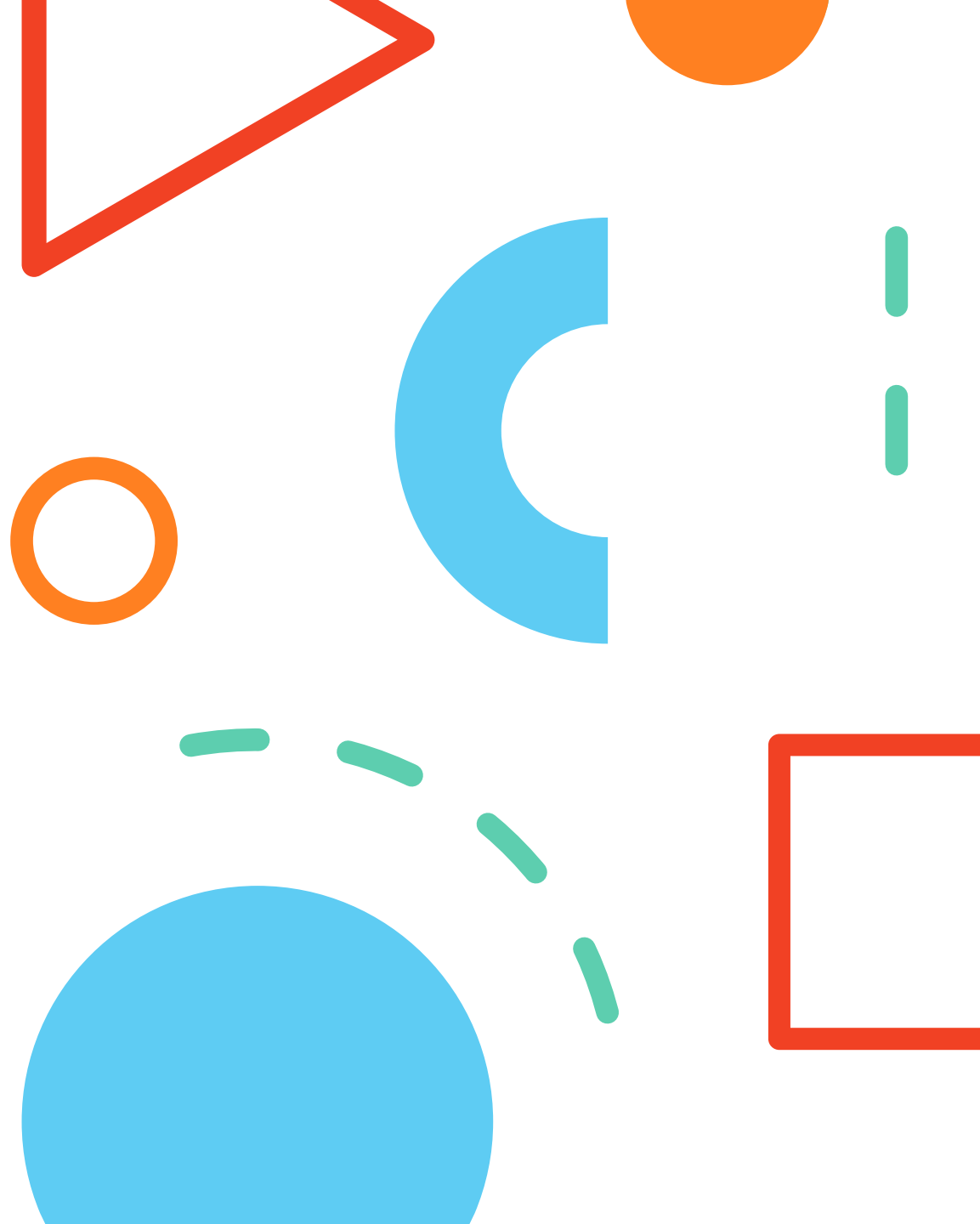


Welcome to Kindergarten at St. Helen!



Mission Statement

To provide a nurturing environment in which children will grow intellectually, spiritually, physically and socially.

Philosophy

St. Helen kindergarten is a child centered program designed to meet the needs of five and six year old children. The curriculum consists of a balanced literacy program, a balanced math program, science and social studies supplemented through a weekly theme and learning through play. The approach to learning is hands on with significant learning time spent in small groups. The children are enriched and challenged in a safe and nurturing environment. As a unique creation of God each child will be applauded for their own talents.



A Typical Day in Kindergarten...

What are we up to all day?

- Math and Calendar
- Literacy (Whole Group and Centers)
 - Centers are individualized so that we can meet students at their academic level.
- Science and social studies themes are used to incorporate additional math and literacy.
- Recess
- Daily prayers, weekly Bible stories and activities, and attending school mass.
- Learning through play!
- Specials Classes- Music, Spanish, PE, and Technology





Covid-19 and the kindergarten classroom...

What changes are we making?

- Small groups of 2-3 children in the classroom
- Recess will be outside, with no masks, and social distancing. We will have our own outdoor class toys.
- Social distancing during snack and lunch time.
- When masks are not being worn they will be stored in an individual brown paper lunch bag.
- Individualized items as much as possible.
- Social distancing as much as possible.
- Working at our assigned seats but using our creativity to keep moving and make our learning fun!
- Assessing our plan daily and making changes as needed.
- **Cleaning, cleaning, cleaning!**

Communication is key!



How can you keep up with us?

- Please communicate with us via our St. Helen email khoffman@sthelenchicago.org & (email info coming)
- We will be using Seesaw as one of our main tools of communication.
- Weekly newsletters with class updates will be sent on Friday as well.
- **Please note:** Each teacher will communicate things that are specific to their classroom.

The kindergarten handbook is currently being edited and will be shared with you soon.



Extra things to note...

Snack Policy

- Each child will bring their own and place it in a special spot. Please make sure the snack is labeled and not in your child's lunch box.

***Pretzels, crackers, fruit/veggies, veggie straws and applesauce pouches only**

Rest time

- Travel size pillows and small blankets only. This will be strictly enforced for safety reasons. Rest items will be sent every Friday to be washed and returned.

Supply List

A few items have been added to the supply list-

- Reusable bag to send home pillow/blanket, an extra 1 in. binder, small rest blanket/pillow, large shirt to cover uniform for art projects, a change of clothes, a small 2 oz. individual hand sanitizer & a pack of thin black expo markers.

Outdoor Meet and Greet

- Please bring a family picture so we can have it displayed for your child to see every morning!



Preparing for kindergarten with Covid-19 in mind...

- **Masks:** Have your child practice wearing them in your home. **Please make sure an extra is packed each day.** Please label the mask with your child's name.
- **Lunch:** Have your child practice opening their lunch and snack at home. We are unable to assist them during this time. Even starting to open the bag a little will be helpful if they are struggling.
- **Shoes:** Velcro or slip-on shoes are permitted. Please no tie shoes unless they can do it on their own!
- **Practice makes perfect!** Practice buttons, zippers, etc. Please make sure they can manage their clothes on their own.

*Talk to your child about their day and feelings. Even though school is going to look a little different this year please reassure them **we will have a great time in kindergarten!***

Please reach out with any questions you may have!





Questions for
us...