

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new year at Faith Lutheran Preschool! For those of you who don't know me, I have been teaching at Faith for 14 years. I have four children. The oldest is my 24-year-old son, David, who graduated from Concordia Wisconsin with a degree in music and was married this summer to a music education major he met there. She has been hired to teach grades 5-12 at a school in NW Wisconsin, so they are moving there as this school year begins. My next oldest is a 23-year-old daughter, Rachel, who graduated from IU with degrees in Informatics and Criminal Justice and is leaving for Valparaiso this August to study for a Master's of Cybersecurity. Anastasia, who many of you already know, is my third child. She works here part time while majoring in Psychology and Human Development and Family Studies at IU. My fourth child, Tatiana, is a senior at Bloomington High School North. She is in band and on the swim team. Once upon a time, they were all students in Faith's Preschool!

Ms. Stinson (soon-to-be Mrs. Myers) and I teach the multi-age preschool class. We spend time both together and separated, so your child will be interacting with both of us. We attempt to individualize each student's education in ways which will optimize each one's growth. Students receive large amounts of individual help to tailor each project to their learning goals. Students don't realize that they are learning different skills. In a single project, one student might be practicing pasting, another cutting, another naming letters, and yet another matching upper and lower case letters. If you are ever confused about the purpose of a project or paper, feel free to ask us. Each project has a purpose, but some are more obvious than others.

I also teach science to the preschool children in our classes, plus Mrs. Faulkner's and Mrs. Ebelhar's. The children have science, music, and gross motor as a special once a week. These areas are also part of their general curriculum. I have a BS from IU's honors Biology program so I love science! I will send out a list of topics when we begin.

The children will also have Chapel time daily in the Sanctuary. Pastors Beck and Edwards each lead chapel along with Mrs. Faulkner and I, so although we spend a full week on each lesson it is approached in different ways by different leaders. To even freshen it up a bit more, we will likely have guest leaders throughout the year! The first semester is Old Testament and the second semester is New Testament.

There are a couple of differences that I would like to address between childcare and preschool classes –one is bringing “sippy” cups or any other cups from home. Please help us keep our refrigerator clean by not bringing them. Even though cups shouldn't leak, they often do, resulting in messes in the refrigerator almost daily. If a drink of any kind is brought from home, it must be brought in the same Zip-lock bag as their lunch and the bag must be able to zip. If you use a plastic see through container it must be able to close securely with the drink in it. We have this rule, because one of the responsibilities we teach the children is to clean up their own lunch, put the garbage in the trash, put the take-home items back in their bag/container and put in the refrigerator. Unlike the childcare classrooms, preschool classes have access to water in the classrooms all of the time. They very much enjoy being able to get their own water. Unless your child has extenuating circumstances this works the best all around. If you have questions regarding this, please feel free to ask me.

The other major change to preschool is that we promote independence in the bathroom. If they need occasional help we will be there to assist them, but we will encourage them to do it on their own first. They are expected by this age to be able tell us they need to use the restroom. We understand that at the beginning of the year things are very new and we will watch for cues from your child that they may need to use the bathroom and encourage them to go before they may actually ask to go. They may be playing with a new toy or friend and not want to leave that situation. We also encourage them to wipe themselves. We give them a lot of privacy and at this age they may be too embarrassed to ask or think they did a good enough job on their own. If you feel your child will need help in this area, please let us know so we can follow up with them when they are done.

One final difference is that if your child is here all day they will have more time outside than they did before preschool. Feel free to leave a jacket, or other outdoor clothes in their locker if they prefer not to wear it in the morning.

Again, I am so happy to have your child in my class, and am looking forward to a wonderful year of learning. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, or concerns. Also, remember to check out the pictures on the Facebook page. We post lots of them and they will give you a great idea of what your child is doing throughout the day. It is also a great tool for having conversations with your child about what they did in preschool.

Blessings,
Mrs. Huss