



## WELCOME TO PRESCHOOL!

### About Me

Hi all! My name is Ms. Elaina Skiouris and I am excited to be working in Preschool here at St. Barbara's School this year. I expect this year to be a great one along with Mrs. Cathy Whitehouse and Mrs. Kathy Gortowski, our Classroom aides!

I am from Barrington, Illinois and currently live downtown! I have a big family with three brothers and one sister. After I graduated high school, I followed my older brother's footsteps and went to Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. During my time there I joined Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, played intramural field hockey, started a baking club, and volunteered to tutor at different elementary schools in the area. I student taught in 3rd grade and absolutely loved it. I graduated with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education, and began working as a lead kindergarten teacher at a school in Lake in the Hills. After teaching kindergarten, I moved to the city and began teaching at Francis W. Parker School. While there, I worked with first and second grade, respectively.

I love spending time with my family! My older siblings now have kids, so I have three nephews and one niece! They are so sweet and we love to play hide-and-go-seek together. In my free time I like to read, garden, bake, travel, visit friends, hike, and workout!

This summer I worked at a summer camp with 5 year olds and had so much fun! I hope you all had a wonderful summer spent with family and friends and I am looking forward to a wonderful year here at St. Barbara School! Hooray for Preschool!



## THE DETAILS

### Contact Information

Ms. Skiouris: Preschool Teacher

Email: [eskiouris@stbarbarachicago.org](mailto:eskiouris@stbarbarachicago.org) Phone: (312) 326-9335

Website: [www.stbarbaraschool.org](http://www.stbarbaraschool.org). The weekly newsletter will be sent home every Friday. Please look at the newsletter for upcoming events and what we are learning in our classroom! If you would like to discuss your child's progress, please contact me to schedule a meeting.

### Drop off and Pick-Up

Preschool drop off is at 8:15am.

Dismissal for half-day preschool is 11:15am.

Full day dismissal is at 2:30pm.

If someone other than the child's parent or guardian is picking up your child, we will need a note or a phone call to the office (312) 326-6243 with the name of the person. We will release the child to that person after checking their I.D.

### Snack and Water

Every morning your child will be eating snack around 9:20am. Your child will need to bring their own snack. Please pack a small, healthy, **NOT FREE** snack for your child to enjoy. Please have your child bring a filled water bottle to school everyday with their name on it.

### Rest time

Full day students will have a rest time everyday. Every Monday your child will bring an appropriate sized blanket to school and it will be kept here for the week. It will be sent home every Friday to be washed and returned again on Monday. Students will be allowed to bring ONE stuffed animal to have at rest time.

### Curriculum

Our preschool program is designed to meet the needs of all students. The curriculum includes individual and teacher directed activities. The children will be learning math through the University of Chicago's Math Program, "Everyday Math". The students will be using "Zoo-phonics" to learn phonemic awareness, sound blending and pre-writing skills. The Rowland Reading Program will be exclusively taught to the four year olds. Our religion program is called "The Stories of God's Love". Using these programs, students will learn through small and large group activities.



## SAMPLE SCHEDULE

8:15am- Arrival

8:30am- Circle Time and Large group Instruction

9:20am- Snack

9:40am- Specials (Art, P.E., Music, or Library)

10:20am- Table work and Centers

10:40am- Gross Motor Play

11:15am- Half day dismissal

11:30am- Lunch

12:00pm- Rest time

1:00pm- Learning centers

1:30pm- Gross Motor Play/ Play centers

2:15pm- Pack up for dismissal

2:30pm- Dismissal

\*\*Please note that P.E. is on Monday and Wednesday, so please be sure your child is wearing gym shoes!



Please help your child learn our Classroom prayers and rules!

### Prayers

Morning Prayer: "Thank you God for this new day. In my school to work and play. Please be with me all day long. In every story game and song. Amen."

Snack Prayer: "God is great, God is good. Let us thank him for our food. Amen."

Lunch Prayer: "Bless us, O Lord, and these, Thy gifts, which we are about to receive from Thy bounty. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen. "

Goodbye Prayer: "Thank you Jesus for this beautiful day, and thank you for watching over all that I think, say and do. Thank you for our work and play. Thank you for this happy day. Amen."

### Classroom Rules

- We keep our classroom clean by cleaning up our toys and throwing away our snack/lunch.
- We keep our hands, feet and objects to ourselves while playing and at circle time.
- We listen to our teachers and our classmates.
- We speak softly and respectfully. We use our indoor voices.

Additionally, on the first day of school, we will have a discussion about classroom rules. As a class, we will decide what rules best fit the needs of this particular group!