

A Poem for Parents: Nothing

*When children come home at the end of the day,
The question they're asked as they scurry to play is,
"What did you do at school today?"
And the answer they give
makes you sigh with dismay.
"Nothing, I did nothing today!"*

*Perhaps nothing means
that I played with blocks, counted to ten, or sorted some rocks.
Maybe I painted or learned to tie my shoe
Or learned what happens when you mix red and blue
Maybe I learned to tuck in my chair and put my work away
Or maybe I learned to be kind to a friend while I was playing outside
today,
Maybe my scissors followed a line and I learned to write my name.
Maybe I learned some sounds or numbers or learned to play a new
game,
Maybe I made a craft or sang a song from beginning to end,
Or maybe I learned to play with a special, brand new friend.*

*When you're in preschool
And your heart has wings,
"Nothing" can mean so many, many things.
(Author Unknown)*

The Omaha Archdiocesan Schools admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origins to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the schools. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of their educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan program, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

St. Vincent de Paul School

PRESCHOOL FAMILY HANDBOOK 2025-2026



Administration

Pastor.....	Rev. Andrew Roza
Associate Pastor.....	Rev. Logan Hepp
Principal.....	Dr. Barbara Marchese
Assistant Principal.....	Mrs. Diane Warneke, M.S.
Assistant Principal.....	Mr. Nathan Horner, M.S.

Faculty and Staff

Teacher.....	Mrs. Kathie Onkka, M.S.
Teacher.....	Mrs. Jessica Malone
Teacher Associate.....	Mrs. Cheryl McNally
Teacher Associate.....	Mrs. Suzanne Kerr
School Receptionist.....	Mrs. Haydee Gregory
School Secretary.....	Mrs. Ann Lamphere
Administrative Assistant.....	Mrs. Courtney Eden
School Nurse.....	Mrs. Natalie Gonzalez, R.N.
Music Teacher.....	Mrs. Karen LeMense
Media Specialist	Mrs. Chris Kaiser
Technology Coordinator	Mrs. Amy Kuhr
Physical Education.....	Mr. Brian Boone

E-Mail Addresses – last name, first initial of first name, @svdpomaha.org

Example: John Smith – smithj@svdpomaha.org

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School is to provide quality spiritual, educational and social opportunities in a respectful learning environment reflective of our Catholic beliefs.

Preschool Philosophy and Goals

Our program promotes and supports the spiritual, physical, social, emotional and cognitive development of young children by facilitating active learning experiences that are developmentally appropriate. We believe each child is unique in terms of developmental level, life experience and cultural heritage; and we are committed to creating a safe, nurturing environment where all children can learn and grow. In addition, we believe it's imperative that a partnership exists between school and parents in order to provide the optimal learning experience.

* Due to the developmentally appropriate and hands on nature of most of our activities, preschool students will not bring home daily assignments or worksheets.

Goals

To provide a Catholic environment where:

- Each child will be able to experience God's love and grow in a relationship with God
- Each child's social and emotional development is fostered
- Language, literacy and listening skills are developed and encouraged
- Each child is exposed to the arts and sciences
- Each child can cultivate their fine motor skills
- Opportunities are given for the development of large motor skills
- Creativity, problem-solving and critical thinking skills are fostered
- Self-help skills and an awareness of health, nutrition and safety are taught
- Each child's individuality with regard to life experiences and traditions is valued

Admission Policy

It is the policy of the St. Vincent de Paul School Board that eligible children shall not be denied enrollment, rights or privileges in the school because of race, color, or national/ethnic origin. The criteria for acceptance will follow the enrollment policy in place for kindergarten through eighth grades. Registered and active parishioners will be given first priority.

Birthdays

Students may bring simple treats to school to share with classmates for their birthdays if they wish. In keeping with the nutrition guidelines provided by the State, it is recommended that birthday treats are healthy. Treats other than food are acceptable. We ask that you avoid food items that could be problematic for students who have food

allergies. All treats should be **nut-free (peanuts, all tree nuts including coconut)**. Please **no cakes or cupcakes**.

Conferences

Formal parent/teacher conferences will be held on October 29, 2025 from 12:30-4:00 p.m. and on October 30, 2025 from 7:45 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. There is also an optional conference available in February. Parent or teacher initiated conferences may take place at other times.

Daily Routine

Students will follow a daily routine that will include Opening Prayer and Circle Time, Small Group Time, Center Work Time, Snack/Free Reading Time, Music/Body Movement and God Time. All students will be exposed to P.E., Music, and also Library on a bi-weekly basis. Students in the five-day Pre-Kindergarten class will also have Computer class on a bi-weekly basis.

Discipline Policy

The preschool classrooms will focus on developing positive social and emotional skills. Good behavior will be modeled and reinforced. Despite these efforts, day-to-day conflicts between children still occur and will best be resolved through redirection, discussion with the teacher and, when needed, time away from the group.

Drop Off and Pick Up Procedures

(See the following map for further explanation)

AM Students Only:

Drop-Off

We ask that only students with older siblings attending SVDP arrive before 8am. These students may walk in with their older sibling and proceed directly to the preschool classrooms. Preschool students without older siblings at SVDP should not be dropped off prior to 8:00 a.m. From 8:00 a.m. to 8:10 a.m., preschool parents may enter the parking lot through the EAST entrance (143rd Circle) and then proceed to the drop off/pick up lane in front of the school. A preschool teacher associate will assist your child out of your car and direct them into the building. Please do not allow your child to hang out of the window or sunroof of the car while in line. Parents who need to enter the building for any reason should park in the parking lot **and use the main crosswalk**. Students arriving after 8:10 a.m. must be escorted into the building by a parent.

Pick-Up

Morning preschoolers will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m. Please enter the parking lot through the WEST entrance and proceed to the drop off/pick up lane. As you approach the front of the line, a preschool teacher will assist your child into your car. You can then pull forward into the circle drive to secure your child into a car seat.

PM Students Only:

Drop-off

We ask that afternoon preschoolers not arrive before 12:20 p.m. From 12:20 to 12:30 p.m. parents may enter the parking lot through the EAST entrance (143rd Circle) and then proceed to the drop off/pick up lane in front of the school. As you approach the front of the line, a preschool teacher associate will assist your child out of your car and direct them into the building. Please do not let children out until a teacher associate is **at** your car to assist them. Parents who need to enter the building for any reason should park in the lot and use the crosswalk. Students arriving after 12:30 p.m. must be escorted into the building by a parent.

Pick-up

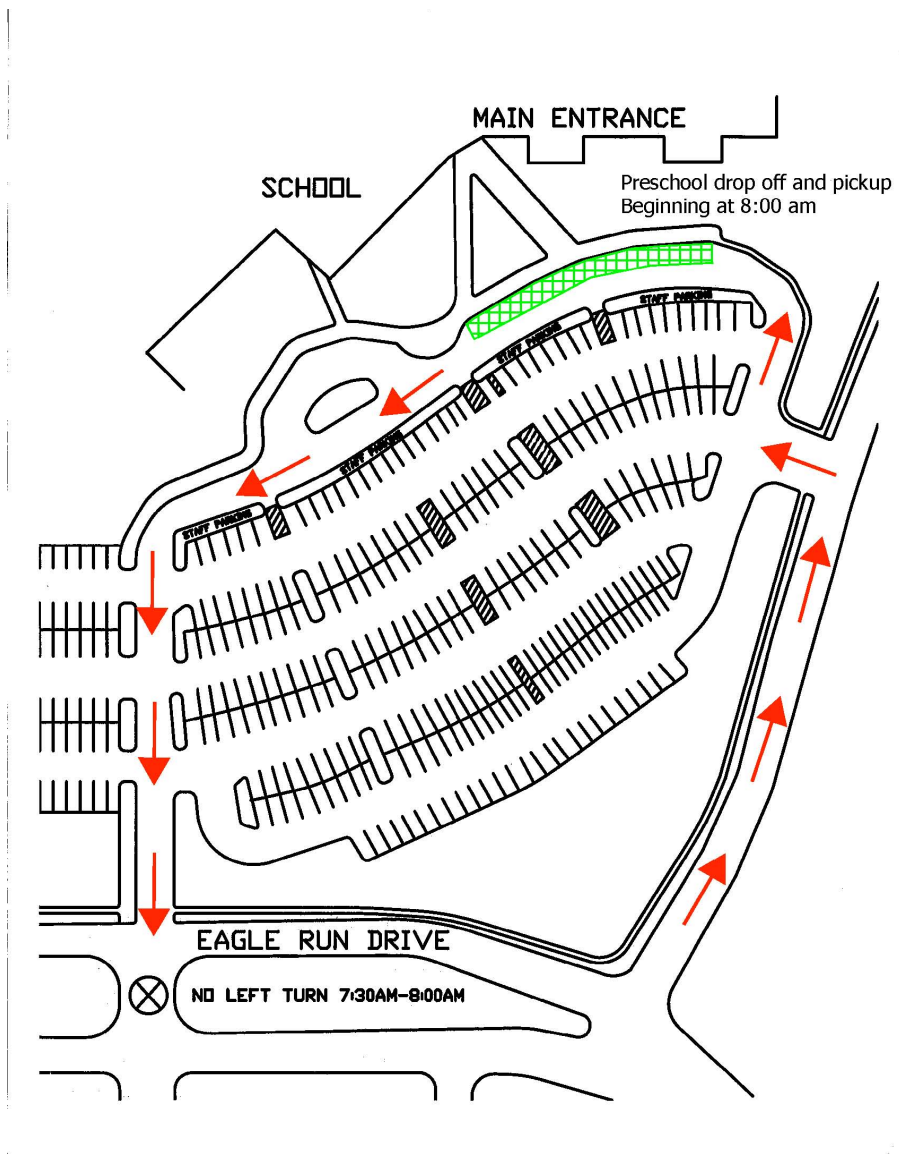
Afternoon preschoolers will be dismissed at 3:00 p.m. Please enter the lot through the WEST entrance and proceed to the drop off/pick up lane. As you approach the front of the line, a preschool teacher will assist your child into your car. You can then pull forward into the circle drive to secure your child into a car seat.

Families with other SVdP students who are dismissed at 3:10 or 3:15 p.m. have the following options:

1. A sibling who is in 4th grade or above may pick up your preschool child from Mrs. Onkka's room (P2) and escort him/her to your car.
2. Pick up your preschool student at 3:00 p.m. in the drop off/pick up lane and then proceed to the parking lot.
3. Park in your assigned row and walk up at 3:00 p.m. to meet your preschooler on the front sidewalk

For safety reasons, preschool teachers will not walk the students into the parking lot.

Only families with students in the K-8 school may park in the parking lot. All others must wait in the pick-up line for their child.



Emergency Procedures

School closing due to severe weather will be announced on local TV stations. A closing of Omaha Public Schools and/or Omaha Archdiocesan Schools includes St. Vincent de Paul Preschool.

Fees

Families will be asked to provide a materials/special events fee for each student enrolled in the preschool. Amounts are yet to be determined, based on the needs of our curriculum.

Health Record and Immunizations

Nebraska State Law requires that students receive the following immunizations before entering preschool:

- 4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine
- 3 doses of Polio vaccine
- 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age
- 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine
- 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age
- 1 dose of Varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age, written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted
- 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age

Parent Communication

Every effort is made to inform parents/guardians of school events and student progress both formally and informally.

Every Friday, parents will receive a “Virtual Backpack” via email where parents can receive important school information. The “Virtual Backpack” can also be accessed on the school website. Teachers will post a newsletter at the end of each theme, as well as send home a monthly **preschool snack calendar**. On the last Friday of each month, parents will be emailed an all-school monthly calendar and monthly newsletter. The newsletters and Virtual Backpack are the primary vehicles for communication between home and school informing parents/guardians of upcoming events.

Whenever possible, teachers will communicate by note, telephone, or email to discuss your child's progress and/or answer any questions. Parents/guardians should always feel free to contact teachers or the principal at the school office between 7:30 a.m. and 3:40 p.m.

Snacks

Families will be asked to provide snacks throughout the year. The snack schedule will be communicated through a preschool monthly calendar. In keeping with the nutritional guidelines provided by the state of Nebraska, we ask that you provide healthy, **nut-free (peanuts, all tree nuts including coconut)** snacks. Please read labels carefully. We have included a list of suggestions below:

String cheese	plain popcorn	cereal bars
Sun chips	graham crackers	animal crackers
Pretzels	dried fruit	yogurt cups
Pudding cups	goldfish crackers	cheese and crackers
Fresh fruit (cut please)	vegetables and dip	applesauce cups
Baked chips	muffins	

All students will be given water with their daily snack.

Uniform

Preschool students will wear uniforms that must be purchased through *Dennis Uniform* and/or *DiGiorgio's*. Please label all clothing and backpacks with your family name.

Extra change of clothes

We ask that you provide a change of clothes in case there is an accident here at school. You can place in a zip lock bag with your child's name on it.

Girls Uniform

Navy Box Pleat Pull Up Skort or navy pants or shorts. Elastic waist preferred.

Red long or short sleeved polo with SVDP Preschool logo

Navy cardigan or V-neck sweater (optional)

SVdP Sweatshirt

Solid Red, white, or navy socks, tights, or leggings. (Leggings must be solid in color and reach the anklebone. Socks must be worn with leggings).

Tennis shoes. Only tennis shoes may be worn. Tennis shoes must be laced or Velcro.

Slip-on shoes and light-up tennis shoes are NOT allowed.

Boys Uniform

Navy pants or shorts. Elastic waist preferred.

Red long or short sleeved polo with SVDP Preschool logo

Navy cardigan or V-neck sweater (optional)

SVdP Sweatshirt

White or navy socks

Tennis shoes. Only tennis shoes may be worn. Tennis shoes must be laced or Velcro.

Slip-on shoes and light-up tennis shoes are NOT allowed.

*Uniform shorts may be worn September through October 31st and April 1 through the end of the school year.

Volunteers

Parents are always welcome. There will be opportunities throughout the school year for holiday parties and special events. Teachers will send out a request for volunteers when needed.

All volunteers must complete the Safe Environment Training provided by the Archdiocese prior to volunteering in preschool. Information can be found on the parish website under *Parish Life*.

Right to Amend

St. Vincent de Paul administration retains the right to amend the handbook for just cause. Parents will be promptly notified if changes are made.



Preschool Family Handbook Sign-Off

Please sign and return to school by Tuesday, August 13

We have read and agree to follow the procedures outlined in the St. Vincent de Paul Preschool Family Handbook.

Print Name

Signature

Date