



St. Mark's Preschool Course Offerings 2024-2025 School Year

FOUR YEAR OLDS

St. Mark's Preschool offers three choices for our four year old students. All classes have the same kindergarten readiness end goals (outlined below) but each offers a different daily schedule and lessons/themes unique to each teacher.

M-TH 4s -- 4 by 9/1/24

Maximum 14 students with 1 teacher and 1 teacher assistant.

This four day program is designed for the child in their last year of preschool before kindergarten.

M-Th 4s -- 4 by 9/1/24

Maximum 15 students with 1 teacher and 1 teacher assistant.

This four day program is designed for the child in their last year of preschool before kindergarten.

Four year old class goals align with benchmarks of the Illinois Early Learning Standards and focus on kindergarten readiness and promoting a love for learning through exposures to / investigations of different high interest topics.

- Literacy skills focus on letter recognition, letter/sound connection, print awareness, vocabulary development, speaking / listening skills, writing instruction, and inspiring a love for books/ stories.
- Math skills focus primarily on number recognition and counting but also include concepts such as skip counting, sorting, patterning, measuring, estimating, graphing, reasoning, calendar awareness, and basic problem solving skills.
- Students have opportunities to develop social and self help skills as they interact with peers, make choices during independent play time, learn to express feelings and emotions, and have opportunities to master simple activities independently.
- Students develop small motor skills through a variety of creative classroom experiences and art activities involving scissors, playdough, sensory tables, writing utensils, and more. Large motor skills develop during 30 minute daily gym/playground experiences.
- Students will have opportunities to grow spiritually through weekly Bible lessons that reinforce that they are made by God, loved by God, and are gifted with ways to share the love of God with others. Students will get to worship God with prayers, songs, stories, and mini-lessons during monthly chapel chats.
- Additional program components include a monthly story time with the St. Charles Public Library, monthly music classes with B-Sharp Music, monthly small group STEAM experiences in our preschool Wonder Lab, in-house assemblies and 2 field trips per year (parents attend with children.)



THREE YEAR OLDS

St. Mark's Preschool offers three choices for our three year old students. All classes have the same early learning goals (as outlined below) but each offers a different daily schedule and lessons/themes unique to each teacher.

TTH 3s --3 by 9/1/24 and must be potty trained.

Maximum of 15 students with 1 teacher and 1 teacher assistant.

This two day program is appropriate for those children who have not been in preschool before or for those parents who prefer two days a week for their child.

MWF 3s --3 by 9/1/24 and must be potty trained.

Maximum 15 students with 1 teacher and 1 teacher assistant.

This three-day program is appropriate for those children who have completed our 2s program or may be entering preschool for the first time.

TTHF 3s -- 3 by 9/1/24 and must be potty trained.

Maximum 15 students with 1 teacher and 1 teacher assistant.

This three day program is appropriate for those children who have completed our 2s program or for parents who are looking for a longer 3s class.

Three year old class goals align with benchmarks of the Illinois Early Learning Standards and focus on helping students become part of a classroom community, exposing them to a variety of learning activities, and providing a joyful early learning experience through exposures to / investigations of different high interest topics.

- Students develop the confidence to separate from parent / caregiver and are introduced to the structure / workings of a classroom community (Ex: free choice time, circle time, table activities, forming a line, interacting with peers, taking turns, etc)
- Literacy skills include daily exposure to the alphabet, print, phonemic awareness, speaking/listening skills, writing/drawing experiences and joyful interactions with books/stories. Fine motor skills develop with daily activities such as drawing, coloring, painting, gluing, cutting, manipulating playdough, exploring sensory tables, and more.
- Math skills include daily exposure to counting, numeric awareness, calendar activities, patterning, and sorting through the use of hands-on activities and a wide array of manipulatives.
- Social skills develop as students learn to successfully interact with classmates, make choices, learn to express feelings/emotions/ideas with teachers and friends, and begin to demonstrate independence with some daily activities. Children also interact during daily playground/gym time.
- Students will have opportunities to grow spiritually through weekly Bible lessons that reinforce that they are made by God, loved by God, and are gifted with ways to share the love of God with others. Students will get to worship God with prayers, songs, stories, and mini-lessons during monthly chapel chats.
- Additional program components include a monthly story time with the St. Charles Public Library, monthly music classes with B-Sharp Music, monthly small group STEAM experiences in our preschool Wonder Lab, in-house assemblies, and an end of the year park field trip where families are invited to join us

TWO YEAR OLDS

St. Mark's Preschool offers three choices for our two year old program. All three classes have the same early learning goals.

MW2s -- 3 by 1/31/25; DO NOT need to be potty trained

Maximum 12 students with 1 teacher and 1 teacher assistant.

This two day program is appropriate for older two year olds that will turn three between Sept. and Jan.

TTH2s -- 2 by 9/1/24; DO NOT need to be potty trained

Maximum 12 students with 1 teacher and 1 teacher assistant.

This two day program is appropriate for our younger two year olds.

Two year old class goals focus on helping students become part of a classroom community, exposing them to a variety of stimulating learning activities, and providing a joyful early learning experience through simple, themed lessons.

- Students develop the confidence to separate from parent / caregiver and are introduced to the structure / workings of a classroom community (Ex: free choice time, circle time, table activities, interacting with peers, taking turns, etc.)
- Students learn stamina for engaging with teachers during short circle time as they participate in songs / fingerplays, interactive read alouds, and opportunities to share verbally in order to communicate ideas, feelings, likes, needs, etc.
- Students will be exposed to pre-literacy skills such as understanding book orientation (holding book upright, turning pages), observing details in pictures, recognizing some letters, being able to listen while a story is being read, and learning to follow simple multi-step directions.
- Students will be exposed to and begin to develop math skills such as shape / color identification, sorting, and counting.
- Students develop fine motor skills by manipulating small items such as cubes, pegs, puzzle pieces, etc. and having exposure to a variety of tools for drawing and creating such as paint, markers, crayons, etc. Students are also encouraged to develop self help skills with managing coats, hats, boots as they prepare for outdoor large motor activities on our playground each day.
- Students participate in free choice activities such as dramatic play, building, large scale floor puzzles and more. This is a time to practice engaging / communicating with other children and learn about sharing / taking turns.
- Students will have opportunities to grow spiritually through weekly Bible lessons that reinforce that they are made by God, loved by God, and are gifted with ways to share the love of God with others. Students will get to worship God with prayers, songs, stories, and mini-lessons during monthly chapel chats.
- Additional program components include a monthly story time with the St. Charles Public Library, and monthly music classes with B-Sharp Music.



EXTENDED DAY

Extended Day+Lunch Bunch on Tuesday OR Wednesday (for students enrolled in 3's or 4's program)

Classes may go up to 20 students with 1 teacher and 1 teacher assistant.

What is "Extended Day"? Our Extended Day is a year-long program that adds extra learning time to your child's preschool day. This program gives children the opportunity to share a mealtime with their friends, learn important social skills, and participate in fun theme based activities. During the class, children will engage in stories, songs, free play, gym / playground time, games, art, math, language arts and science. A longer preschool day provides parents more free time to run errands, schedule appointments, etc. and is good preparation for students planning to attend part / full day kindergarten.

How it works: When you bring your child in the morning, we ask you to sign-in and write "ED" for the authorized pick-up. After class the children will be escorted and signed in to the ED classroom by their regular classroom teacher. Children will bring their own lunch, drink, and any utensils they may need. Please remember we are a nut free environment, so no peanut butter or nut products. Extended Day is **not** an official DCFS regulated program, but the standards/policies will be maintained.

Who is it for? This program is for children enrolled in our 3's or 4's program. If your child does not normally attend preschool on Tuesday/Wednesdays, they are still welcome to register for Extended Day

When is it? This class meets on Tuesdays OR Wednesdays, October through May. Children may join at any time if space is available.

ENRICHMENT WORKSHOPS

Enrichment Workshop + Lunch Bunch (for students enrolled in our 3's or 4's program)

Classes may go up to 20 students with 1 teacher and 1 teacher assistant.



What are "Enrichment Workshops"? Enrichment workshops are 4 week themed classes where students will have the opportunity to "dig deeper" into some high interest learning topics. Examples of previous enrichment workshop topics are *Budding Engineers*, *Hooked on Books*, *Manners Everywhere*, *Cooking*, *Coding & Robots* just to name a few. Students will also have the opportunity to eat lunch with friends at school and enjoy an extra gym/playground time in addition to exploring the enrichment topic through fun hands-on activities and learning centers.

Who are they for? This program is for children ages 3 through 5 who are potty trained. It allows a more flexible opportunity to try a longer day without committing to our year long extended day program. If your child does not attend preschool on Enrichment Day, they are still welcome to register for Enrichment Workshops.

When are they? This class usually meets for 4 weeks. Information about upcoming enrichment workshops will be emailed and posted around our preschool in advance of the start of each new session so that families can register for specific programs they are interested in.