

2024-2025 Enrollment Deadlines Important Dates to Remember

- ❑ Priority enrollment applications accepted through March 8, 2024 for returning families.
- ❑ May 15, 2024
 - *Deadline for submitting the financial aid application with Tuition Assistance Data Services at www.mytads.com.*
- ❑ August 1, 2024
 - *Capital Use Fee due.*
 - *Signed Financial Agreement form due.*
 - *Immunization Forms due (Kindergarten and Gr. 7).*
- ❑ August 1, 2024
 - *Kindergarten physical forms due (exam must be done after 4/1/24).*

All forms must be completed, signed, and turned in to the school office by the dates indicated, unless otherwise noted.



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St. John's is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization



St. John's Lutheran School 2024-2025



Kindergarten Enrollment & Admission Information

Bakersfield's Lutheran School...a rich history & a vibrant future!

Registration Checklist



This checklist is provided to assist parents.

Forms & other Necessary Documents:

- Completed application
- Copy of applicant's birth certificate
- Copy of applicant's current immunization record
- Kindergarten Student Recommendation form from transferring pre-school/child care facility

Fees:

- Registration fee of \$275.00 (due with application form, non-refundable)
- Assessment fee of \$50.00 (due with application, separate check)
- Optional: Financial Aid Application, submitted through Tuition Assistance Data Services – www.mytads.com (due by May 15, 2024)

Forms and Fees due *after* acceptance:

- Signed Financial Agreement form (will be mailed during the summer)
- Capital Use fee of \$200.00 (due by August 1, 2024)
- Copy of updated immunization record
- State of California Health Exam for School Entry form (completed after April 1, 2024)
- Completed Student Health Forms (Includes both the Allergy Action Plan and Medication Administration Authorization) *Only for students that require school personnel to administer health/medical intervention.*
- Extended Care registration form, if needed



History and Geography

In Kindergarten, children study aspects of the world around them: the family, the school, the community, etc. The goal is to foster curiosity and the beginnings of understanding the larger world outside the child’s locality.

World History and Geography

The children will gain a beginning geographic vocabulary and basic sense of how we organize and talk about the world by giving some names to some of the biggest pieces of land. The children will identify the seven continents and four oceans.

American History and Geography

The children are given a brief overview of major events and figures from the earliest to recent times. Native Americans, the voyage of Columbus, the Pilgrims, and the birth of our nation are highlighted. The children are introduced to famous presidents as well as the current president, and are to become familiar with and recognize certain symbols and figures associated with the United States.

The Arts

Self-expression is natural to young children and should be supported and encouraged. It is important to accept children’s artistic expression uncritically, and as such, “enjoyment” is the focus of the arts in the early years.

Music

Children sing, experiment with making sounds using a variety of instruments, listen to many different kinds of music, compose songs, and attend musical performances.

Movement

Children use their bodies to respond creatively to music.

Drama

Children use puppets, put on plays, and view others performing.

Drawing and sculpture

Children experiment with various media such as tempera paint, crayons, markers, pencils, and clay. They also observe and discuss art of famous artists.

Elements of Art

Children are introduced to colors and line. They are encouraged to recognize and use a variety of color and line as they create.



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Superintendent's Welcome

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Welcome to St. John's. We are so happy that you've decided to explore our community. Our ministry-wide mission can be explained in a quick three word motto. **Love, Learn, Lead.**

Love

At St. John's we strive to love God and others – we work hard to cultivate an environment where meaningful Christian faith is nurtured and relationships are fostered and supported.

Learn

We are an institution that has and values high educational standards. We fundamentally believe that all students have the capability to succeed at St. John's if growing to one's potential is the common goal. We value working together, as a cohesive home and school team, in the best interest of student learning.

Lead

Our goal in nurturing the Christian faith is to build up courageous leaders who are enlivened with possibility, lead by example, act purposefully, and embrace new challenges.

Additionally, we believe our program is excellent because...

We believe each child is a unique and precious gift from God. We view the whole child and his/her needs to maximize individual growth.

We have an outstanding staff. From the office, to the classroom, to the kitchen and beyond, our team is comprised of high quality people who are equipped and qualified to help your child develop his/her God-given talents.

We have an outstanding academic program that challenges the whole child. Our students continually score above the national norms on standardized tests and are highly competitive in our county and state level academic competitions. St. John's is a National Blue Ribbon School. We are currently the only non-public school in Bakersfield to be awarded this high federal honor. As a National Blue Ribbon School, we serve as a model of effective school practices for local and statewide educators. Annually, only 50 non-public schools receive this award across the United States.

Our educational program has been part of the Bakersfield community for 60 years. Over time we have been blessed with continued growth in quality facilities, academic programs, athletics, and music programs. We anticipate a full enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year, so please be aware of our registration deadlines.

I hope this booklet, as well as our personal contact, will help you make an informed decision about your child's future. We know it is one of the most important decisions you make, and we look forward to partnering with you in equipping this next generation of Christ-like leaders. I encourage you to keep up with current news on our website at www.sjlschool.org.

Please contact our staff if we can be of any assistance.

God's blessings upon you and your family,

Evan Anwyl,

Superintendent

Science

Young children are naturally curious, and inquisitive, and always delighted to explore the world around them. The main role of the science curriculum is to support and encourage this curiosity.

Living Things

Children explore the nature of plants and animals, their growth patterns, their uses and the care they require. Children learn to describe and care for plants and animals, recording their findings in scientific journals through pictures, dictation, or Kindergarten-style writing.

The Five Senses

Children make conscious use of tasting, smelling, hearing, touching, and seeing to gain information about their world.

Magnetism

Through reading aloud, observation, and experiments with magnets, the children are introduced to the idea of invisible forces acting upon objects.

Seasons and Weather

The emphasis in Kindergarten is on observation and description of weather types and patterns.

Development of Inquiry and Thinking Skills

Children learn how to observe carefully, question, and conduct experiments.

Health

Kindergarten children engage in physical activities that are related to both gross motor development (jumping, running, climbing) and fine motor development (blocks, puzzles, balancing games).

Basic Health Habits

Children learn the importance of caring for their bodies (teeth, eyes, physical exercise, rest, and cleanliness).

Nutrition

Children learn about the food groups and the importance of food choices and good eating habits, the values of different foods, and the customs of various cultures.

Safety

Safety training stresses the importance of being careful around machinery, in the street, and on the playground, as well as covering fire prevention, the use of 911, and awareness of poisons.



Content Guidelines in Kindergarten: *Math*

Mathematics

At this early stage of schooling, math is as much about vocabulary as it is about numerals, and it is more concerned with gaining understanding than rote knowledge.

Basic Terms

The children are to understand these basic terms used to describe relations among objects or numbers: more than, less than, the same as, etc.

Spatial Terms

Children commonly work with these spatial terms: near and far, in and out, above and below, etc.

Comparison

Children commonly learn to use the following terms of comparison, such as tall and short, long and short; big, bigger, biggest; etc.

Numerals

Most children arrive at Kindergarten with some experience in counting and some knowledge of numbers. At school, they build on this base by counting in multiples; identifying and writing numerals to at least 31; learning ordinals (1st to 6th); matching objects and sorting them into groups by size or color; counting and writing the number of objects in a set; and identifying pairs.

Shapes

The study of shapes is an entry into geometry. Kindergarten children begin this study by learning to recognize and sort circles, squares, rectangles, and triangles, and by making congruent shapes and designs and the like.

Time, Money, and Measurement

The goal in this area is for children to tell time to the hour; understand such concepts as morning, afternoon, day, noon, and night; know the days of the week and the months of the year; identify coins and have some understanding of their value; learn to estimate and measure informally with non-standard units of measure; and identify differences in size and weight of objects.

Patterning and Classification

The children will be able to sort and classify objects by various attributes, define a set by the common elements, move from concrete to pictorial representations, and recognize patterns and predict the extension of the pattern.

Computation

Children will learn to add and subtract to ten using concrete objects, recognize the meaning of the addition sign (+) and the subtraction sign (-).



Our Mission

To be a premier educational center where Christian faith is nurtured, high educational standards are valued, and meaningful relationships are fostered.

Goals

Spiritual: Our school exists to provide opportunities for children and families to discover and strengthen their relationship with Jesus as their Lord, Savior, Teacher, and Friend, and then to reach out to others with the same Good News.

Academic: We are proud to offer high quality educational programs that educate children to become literate and productive Christian citizens while they discover and develop their own God-given talents and grow in their understanding of God's world.

Social: We provide opportunities for children to interact with one another, as well as others in the Bakersfield community and the world, to share God's Good News through Christ-like acceptance and respect for others.

Physical: We pledge to educate the whole child. Physical activities for play and recreation, as well as encouragement for positive physical fitness in the future, will be part of each child's experience at St. John's.

Emotional: This is a place for Christian fellowship and forgiveness centered in the Word of God. Individual student strengths and abilities will be recognized, and a community of support will be developed to encourage one another as each student grows in discipleship.

Expected School-Wide Learning Results

(Simplified for our younger students.)

As a Christian School, St. John's Lutheran will prepare life-long learners who are:

Responsible citizens who

- Share God's love and forgiveness.
- Help make the world a better place.
- Enjoy learning about different people, music, and art.
- Learn how to use technology safely.

Motivated learners who

- Work hard.
- Read and write.
- Listen.
- Learn new ways to solve problems.
- Remember and use new information.
- Take care of their bodies.
- Use technology responsibly.

Good communicators who

- Build a relationship with Christ.
- Use what they learn from the Bible.
- Set goals for themselves.
- Share ideas so others understand them.
- Work with others in groups.

Who We Are

St. John's Lutheran School

In operation for over a half-century, St. John's Lutheran School (SJLS) is one of the more than 1,000 fully accredited and licensed elementary schools operated in the U.S. by churches of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. SJLS faculty consists of 29 full-time teachers, 7 part-time teachers, and numerous professional support staff. SJLS currently enrolls 450 children, grades K-8, with an average student:teacher ratio of 23:1.

St. John's Children's Center

Our exemplary preschool, St. John's Children's Center (SJCC), has a staff of over 27 full-time and part-time child care professionals who care for over 164 children, 12 months through 5 years of age, enrolled both on a part-time and full-time basis.

St. John's Lutheran Church

SJLS/SJCC's sponsoring organization is St. John's Lutheran Church (SJLC), founded in Bakersfield in 1904.

Administration & Governance

The chief administrator of St. John's Lutheran School & Children's Center is the Superintendent who supervises two K-8 Grade Principals, the Special Events Coordinators, and the Director of SJCC. The Superintendent is a member of St. John's Strategic Leadership Team, which collaborates with the SJLC Board of Directors, who in turn are accountable to the Voters Assembly (the members of SJLC). The Congregation is the chief governing body of SJLC.

We Believe and Teach What the Bible Says

1. Man was created perfect and holy, with a free will, by a loving God (Genesis 1:27-31 & 2:16-17).
2. Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve's disobedience and spread to all their offspring through the inheritance of a sinful nature (Romans 5:12).
3. Because of His boundless love for us, God rescued us through the redemptive act of His Son, Jesus Christ, from the punishment we and all people deserve by virtue of our sinfulness (Romans 5:8).
4. It is by the Spirit-created faith in Jesus Christ as our own personal Savior that we receive forgiveness of sins as a free gift from God (Romans 8:8-9).
5. As Spirit-filled Christians, we seek the total leadership of Jesus in every part of our lives. This is "Growing in Grace" (2 Peter 3:18), and we strive for such growth to happen through St. John's.

Language Arts (cont'd)

What they'll learn about listening:

The goals for young children are to:

- Take turns and let the other speaker finish before they speak;
- Interact with a speaker by responding to what they hear;
- Listen purposefully to a variety of stories, sounds and rhymes;
- Practice conversations;
- Listen to multi-step directions and follow them;
- Listen to information and pass it along to others;
- Distinguish fantasy from realistic text;
- Be able to predict what will happen next in a story;
- Understand the parts of a story.

What they'll learn about speaking:

As with listening, children have been speaking for some time before they start Kindergarten. The goal is for children to:

- Take part in class discussions;
- Participate in speaking through share time, chants, songs, and plays;
- Learn numerous nursery rhymes and poems through repetition;
- Use the telephone as a means of learning to speak clearly;
- Visit with friends at school and at home;
- Interact with adults at school and at home.



Content Guidelines in Kindergarten: *Language Arts*

Language Arts

What they'll learn about reading:

Kindergarteners should:

- Know that print is talk written down and that it can be read;
- Know that writers of print are authors;
- Become increasingly fond of books, literature, and of going to the library;
- Learn to “read” pictures and signs;
- Learn the letters of the alphabet in both upper and lower case;
- Learn to differentiate between various sounds and letters;
- Learn to read the names of colors, numbers, common objects, and sight words in print;
- Begin reading stories that they have dictated;
- Begin reading stories with which they are familiar;
- Begin building an awareness of how language works; and
- Participate in Sustained Silent Reading.

What they'll learn about writing:

Writing is an extension of reading. At the Kindergarten to 1st grade levels, the goals for the children include:

- Putting marks on paper (scribbles at first);
- “Writing” through pictures, an early stage of story writing;
- Becoming aware that everyone has ideas that can be turned into print;
- Learning to form letters and numerals;
- Beginning to write words, using invented or transitional spelling at first;
- Trying to express ideas through print (parents and teachers need to applaud the inventiveness and creativity of beginning writers);
- Learning that stories can be changed, expanded, reorganized, and even discarded if they do not work;
- Participating in writer’s workshops;
- Using writing at school and at home in messages, invitations, lists, letters to friends, and thank-you letters.

Accreditation, Curriculum, & School Hours



Accreditation

St. John's Lutheran School (SJLS) is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC), with a six year accreditation granted in June 2019. In addition, SJLS is one of only 678 schools in the United States accredited via the rigorous National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) process. We currently hold a seven year accreditation. State law requires California public schools to accept credit granted by St. John's.

Curriculum

The curriculum is established by the Superintendent and faculty and is aligned with the Core Knowledge Curriculum and the California State Department of Education Standards. In keeping with the mission of the school, teachers relate instruction and activity to life in Jesus Christ. Students experience daily Bible classes and a weekly all-school chapel worship time.

- *Core Virtues*—(one per month as an area of focus) Previous Core Virtues include: Respect & Responsibility, Stewardship, Courage, Wonder, Gentleness and Humility, Honesty and Justice, Service, Mercy, Perseverance.
- *Christian Studies*—Study of the Old and New Testament, Church History, Memory Studies, & Basic Lutheran Christian Doctrine.
- *Language Arts*—Reading, Phonics, Grammar, Spelling, Literature, Writing, and Oral Language.
- *Mathematics*—Numbers, Arithmetic, Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Elementary Geometry.
- *History/Social Studies*—Geography, History, Citizenship, U.S. Constitution, and Current Events.
- *Science*—Concepts in Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science.
- *Other*—Visual and Performing Arts (music, band, choir, strings), Spanish, American Sign Language and Physical Education.

School Hours & Extended Care

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Kindergarten-3rd Grade | 8:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m. |
| • 4th-8th Grade | 8:15 a.m.-3:15 p.m. |
| • Extended Care (optional) | 7:00-8:00 a.m. & 3:00-6:00 p.m. |

Gates open at 7:57 a.m. each morning. Students are not to arrive before 7:55 a.m. and must be picked up within fifteen (15) minutes of dismissal. If students arrive early or are not picked up on time, they will be checked into Extended Care and drop in fees will be applied. St. John's provides Extended Care (EC) before and after school. When children are enrolled in the Extended Care program, they are enrolled on a full-time basis. Hourly use is reserved for family emergencies only.



Admissions Criteria & Enrollment

Non-Discriminatory Policy

St. John's is open to serve the whole community and admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students. SJLS has a non-discriminatory policy regarding its administration of educational policies, admissions, financial aid, athletics, and other school-administered programs.

Priority Enrollment February 12–March 8, 2024

Due to limited classroom space, children and their siblings who are enrolled in the current school year have priority in registration for the next year provided deadlines are kept and fees are paid. Waiting families will be notified when space becomes available.

SJLS Students

Students must be a positive influence in the SJLS family through words and actions to improve the physical and spiritual conditions of the people, grounds, and programs. A six-week probationary period will be in effect for all new students to assure a positive adjustment of the applicant to SJLS.

SJLS is not equipped to serve as a "disciplinary school" or a "school for children with special needs," whether physically, emotionally, or educationally. We will admit students who we feel have the potential and desire to be successful. Therefore, we reserve the right to:

- a) examine records from previous schools;
- b) discuss the student's progress with former teachers and administrators;
- c) assess the student for grade placement before the student is admitted.

Health Requirements

Children must meet the health requirements of the state of California. New Kindergarten enrollees must have a physical examination before Kindergarten enrollment is completed. The physical examination must take place after April 1, 2024 and before the first day of school. Immunizations must be up to date to attend school.

Requirements

1. In order to apply for enrollment, children entering Kindergarten must be five (5) years old before September 1 of the year in which they enroll, (six years old for 1st Grade). (For example, an incoming Kindergarten student must be 5 years old or older by 9/1/24 to enroll for 2024-25 school year).
2. Proof of date of birth must be established at the time of initial registration.
3. All applicants must be self-sufficient regarding communicating, toileting, feeding, and dressing.



The Kindergarten Classroom

Kindergarten: A Special Time

Kindergarten is a time for children to expand their love of learning, their general knowledge, their ability to get along with others, and their interest in reaching out to the world.

Kindergarten Curriculum & Environment

While Kindergarten marks an important transition from preschool to the primary grades, it is important that the "curriculum" also include such events as snack time, recess, and individual and group activities as well as those activities we think of as traditionally educational. Developmentally appropriate Kindergarten classrooms encourage the growth of children's self-esteem, their cultural identities, their independence, and their individual strengths.

Top 10 Signs of a Good Kindergarten Classroom

1. Children are playing and working with materials or other children. They are not aimlessly wandering or forced to sit quietly for a long time.
2. Children have access to various activities throughout the day, such as block-building, pretend play, picture books, paints and other art materials, as well as table toys such as Legos, pegboards, and puzzles. Children are not all doing the same thing all of the time.
3. Teachers work with individual children, small groups, and the whole group at different times during the day. They do not spend time only with the whole group.
4. The classroom is decorated with the children's original artwork and their own writing (with invented spelling as well as phonetically spelled words).
5. Children learn numbers and the alphabet in the context of their everyday experiences. Exploring the natural world of plants and animals, cooking, and calendar activities are all meaningful.
6. Children work on projects and have long periods of time to play and explore. Filling out worksheets should not be their primary activity.
7. Children have an opportunity to play outside every day that weather permits; this time is not sacrificed for more instructional time.
8. Teachers read to children throughout the day, not just during group story time.
9. Curriculum is adapted for those who are ahead as well as those who need additional help; children do not learn the same things at the same time in the same way.
10. Children look forward to school and attend regularly. Parents feel safe sending their child to Kindergarten. Children are happy; they are not crying and are not regularly sick.

Information from the American School Counselor Association. Adapted from www.FamilyEducation.com



My point of view about St. John's Kindergarten...

I am loved here, even though my eyes are shaped differently than everyone else's eyes; people respect me here.

I am safe here; no one will laugh at me or take away my things.

I am at home here; I can use things that are here.

My teacher tells me that Jesus is my Savior and my Friend; she tells me stories from the Bible and shows me how to pray.

Good things happen in this place; my teacher has things ready for me everyday.

I feel okay about making a mistake here; that's the way I learn.

There are new and interesting things to learn here — things I can see, touch, feel, and experience.

We forgive each other in this place.

I can make choices in this place. Sometimes, my teacher helps me make better or different choices.

There are smiles and laughter in this room.

I get to share my ideas with my friends in this place.

I can experiment with movement to exercise my large and small muscles here.

My teacher opens doors of reading, math, writing, spelling, science, and social studies.

This place is full of my colorful handiwork.

BUT, best of all, this place is where I can **BE!**



Enrollment Procedures

Applications for incoming new students will be considered as openings are available. The school will notify the family in writing if an applicant will be placed on a waitlist.

Enrollment Procedures

1. Submit completed application to the school office along with the registration fee of \$275.00, an assessment fee of \$50 (due with application), a birth certificate, updated immunization records, and recommendation form from transferring pre-school/child care facility.
2. Schedule a family interview with the Lower School Principal or attend Kindergarten Information Night.
3. Complete Gesell Assessment and/or Kindergarten Readiness Assessment to help establish readiness (to be scheduled by the school). This assessment is not applicable to SJCC enrolled children.

Class openings will be filled in the following order:

1. Qualified children currently enrolled in SJCC
2. Qualified children of staff employed by St. John's
3. Qualified siblings of currently enrolled students of SJLS
4. Qualified siblings of currently enrolled students of SJCC
5. Qualified new students from SJLC and the community

Students are "qualified" when they have successfully completed the enrollment process, submitted all paperwork and fees, and have been successfully assessed. Since all grades have multiple classrooms, students admitted to St. John's will be assigned to the classroom deemed most appropriate.

Philosophy of Discipline

St. John's Lutheran School Staff dedicates itself to following a set of core beliefs which provides a guide for dealing with student discipline. Each student is a unique individual, created by God, with unique personal, social and educational needs. As a result, every disciplinary situation becomes unique in nature.

Consequences for misbehavior provide the best learning value when matched to the unique student and situation. The core beliefs guide our attempts to individualize disciplinary procedures and to help students see reasonable connections between their behavior and the resulting consequence which increases the odds for children learning from their mistakes.

Student Uniform and Dress Code

St. John's seeks to create a school environment that promotes learning and self-discipline. To help achieve these goals, and for a variety of compelling reasons further outlined in the [SJLS Student & Parent Handbook](#), school uniforms are mandatory.

School Uniforms are required apparel. See the detailed uniform guide on the school website for acceptable items.



2024-2025 Tuition, Fees, & Financial Aid

Required Fees

Due when returning each application

- Registration and book fee \$275 per child/per year (Reg. & book fee is non-refundable)
- Assessment fee \$50 (for all new incoming students)
- Capital Use fee \$200 per child/per year (C/U Fee due by August 1, 2024)

Tuition

Yearly tuition (may be paid monthly August-May)

- Tuition \$7770/yr (\$777/mo.)
- Paid in full by 9/1/24 \$7670/yr

Sibling Discount

- \$780 tuition reduction for the 2nd child \$6990/yr (\$699/mo.)
- \$1170 reduction for the 3rd & 4th child \$6600/yr (\$660/mo.)

Extended Care

Yearly amount paid August-May

- Before School \$2110/year (\$211/mo.)
- After School \$2650/year (\$265/mo.)
- Both \$3560/year (\$356/mo.)

Financial Aid

St. John's provides tuition assistance to families with demonstrated financial need. Families desiring financial assistance for their child to attend St. John's Lutheran School are encouraged to file a financial aid application online at www.mytads.com. Requests for financial aid must be submitted by **May 15, 2024** with Tuition Assistance Data Services (TADS).



Kindergarten Preparedness: A Checklist

Children who are well-prepared to enter Kindergarten are children who:

- Have been exposed to and have experience with manipulatives and a variety of activities to develop small muscles such as manipulating clay, building materials, self-directed art activities, etc.
- Have been exposed to and have experience with large muscle development.
- Have been exposed to and have experience with appropriate social skills and good classroom behavior (being kind to one another, not interrupting, waiting their turn, using appropriate voice tone and locomotion, sitting and listening to an adult, cleaning up after themselves, etc.).
- Are able to make choices and are beginning to work independently.
- Are able to separate themselves easily from their parents.
- Speak to and are understood by other children and their teachers.
- Are willing to engage in new activities.
- Can carry out simple, three-step directions.
- Know the basic shapes.
- Know colors.
- Can hold a pencil and use scissors with some success.
- Can visually track from top to bottom and left to right.
- Can recognize their first name using upper and lower case letters.
- Attempt to write their name using upper and lower case letters.
- Can recognize some letters (especially those in their name).
- Can count to 10 and have a basic understanding of one-to-one correspondence.
- Can recognize rhyming words.