

Our Savior's Lutheran School

Infant Center and Preschool

Family Handbook



License # 304371273 Infant Center

License # 300600175 Preschool

Love - Learn - Serve

2023-2024

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San Clemente, CA 92672
949-492-6165 www.oursaviorsschool.net

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Welcome to Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool and Infant Center

Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool and Infant Center is a ministry of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. We welcome families from the congregation and reach out to families in the community. All are welcome here. The Preschool Director, under the guidance of the Preschool Liaison, Church Council and Senior Pastor oversee the management of the infant center and preschool. The school is licensed by the State of California; license #300600175 preschool; license # 304371273 infants.

The preschool is ELEA accredited and part of the Quality Start OC program. The Infant Center opened in January 2020. We embrace a philosophy of developmental appropriateness and strive for excellence and best practices in all that we do. Our staff is a team of Early Childhood professionals who work lovingly with students and families to create a positive school experience. They instill a sense of awe and wonder in each child in the hope that every student will become lifelong learners with grateful hearts for all that God has done for them. The staff provides classroom experiences both indoors and outdoors in the following areas: creative, social, emotional, cognitive, spiritual, and physical. We recognize that each child is unique; bringing different gifts and customs to our program and we celebrate that diversity. Throughout the week the students will be introduced to a variety of activities, including but not limited to: Art, Chapel, Dramatic Play, Fine Motor, Gross Motor, Language Arts, Music, Math, and Science.

Children are empowered to make choices throughout the day. While there is teacher directed activities there is an hour of time both indoors and outdoors where the children can make their own choices as to what activities they would like to participate in under the loving and watchful guidance of their teacher. Our goal is that students leave here with the social and emotional intelligence that will successfully carry them through their school years. We place an emphasis on identifying their emotions, learning self-regulation skills, and developing a strong sense of self. We honor families as the first and primary caregivers of their children and we work together to provide a solid foundation for both the child and the family within a developmental and Christian framework. Students are assessed twice during the year, and we strive to continually keep families up to date on how their student is doing to facilitate a positive entry into the elementary grades. The Administration team at Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool and Infant Center is established to give detailed attention to the needs of our students and families. Please contact our office with any needs, concerns, or questions. We are here to serve you.

Office Number: (949) 492-6165

Amy Rivas, Director a.rivas@oursaviorsschool.net

Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool and Infant Center
Foundations

Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool and Infant Center is dedicated to best practices for young children within a framework of Christian education. We believe each child is unique and we strive to understand how each child best learns and then teach in that way. We base our curriculum on Howard Gardner's Theory of Multiple Intelligences and expose each child to as many experiences as we can throughout the preschool day with a strong emphasis on social emotional growth and developmental appropriateness.

Preschool is the introduction to a lifelong educational journey for children. It is the goal of Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool and Infant Center to foster a love for learning in our students with an individualized, child-centered approach. We introduce our students to the beginning foundations of language, mathematics, science, social studies, art, and music. We are a developmentally appropriate, Reggio inspired program with an emphasis on social emotional development. Each child is different and unique, and our purpose is to recognize and help your child achieve their full potential and leave us with a solid sense of self, positive self-esteem, and the desire to be a lifelong learner.

Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool and Infant Center began to minister to children and their families as a ministry of Our Savior's Lutheran Church over sixty years ago. In September of 1956 the preschool opened and in September 1961, Chapel Hill Lutheran School started. In 2020 the Infant Center was opened. With a love for the Lord Jesus Christ, a desire, and a commitment to minister to children and their families, a limited budget and creativity and prayers, the school utilized the countless donations of time materials and money by many of the church families. Today, with a well-developed quality program, an expanding facility and a dedicated professional staff, the school continues with the same high standards and spirit.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School is a fully accredited member of the Pacifica Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The school is a ministry and extension of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. The school provides early childhood education on a non-discriminatory basis and provides equal treatment to each child without regard to race, religion, national origin, or ancestry.

Age Requirements

Three months of age to enroll in our Infant Center

Two-year-old class: May start the preschool on their 2nd birthday.

Pre-K program is for students 4 years 6 months and older (5 day only)

Arrival and Dismissal

The school day begins at 8:45 a.m. Students who need to arrive earlier than 8:45 a.m. may be checked in to our Early Start Program as early as 7:30 a.m. The student's account will be billed for the added time in the Early Start Program, or they can get a coupon for \$8.

Students check out is 12:00 noon. The Lunch Bunch Program is available from 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. for a cost of \$8 per hour. The preschool closes at 4:00 p.m.

The infant center is open 7:30am - 4pm Monday through Friday.

State law requires preschool students be checked in and out each day by an authorized adult through the brightwheel app. No one under the age of 18 years of age may check in/out for a preschool student. The parents must check their child in each time the child is at school.

Failure to check in/out your child is a violation of state licensing requirements and will subject OSLS to a fine per missing check in. For failure to comply with the sign in and out procedures, preschool families will be fined \$150 per missing signature and can jeopardize your child's enrollment. Families will receive one verbal or written warning before fines are posted on your brightwheel account. The QR codes for check in/out are found outside your classroom door. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that any individual who may drop off/pick up their child has access to brightwheel. Unattended siblings are not to be left in the vehicles at any time while picking up or dropping off your preschool child under any circumstances.

Assessments and Parent Teacher Conferences

Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool & Infant Center implements child observation and developmental screenings to ensure that all children are moving forward in their development preparing them for school entry. We use the tools that are aligned with current California Department of Education and OC Quality Start requirements.

All screening results are shared with parents at parent teacher conferences in November and March. If any concerns arise from either screening tool, we will discuss referral processes with the family. All copies of screening results are kept in the child's file.

Infants will have a needs and services assessment prior to the first day of care.

Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP)

Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool uses the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP) twice a year, Fall and Spring as our formal assessment tool. The DRDP is used to inform planning and results are shared with parents during conferences.

Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2)

Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool uses ASQ-3 for developmental screenings. ASQ-3 is developmental screenings tool that relates to developmental milestones in children. Parents will be given the ASQ-3 to complete in a child's first 30 days of enrollment. The Director then reviews the assessment and shares results with the families. All results are shared with families in a timely manner. If a concern arises from the ASQ-3, we will refer families to the appropriate outside source.

If a family has a concern about their child's social and/or emotional development, we will either provide the parent with the ASQ:SE-2 (ASQ Social Emotional) as well as the teacher to complete. Any results that need to be followed up with will generate a referral to an outside agency. We currently partner with Help Me Grow Orange County and Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD) for all referrals.

Chapel

Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool students go to chapel once a week for worship, praise, and prayer. Chapel time is a sensory experience with interactive bible stories with a time of reflection and concrete thinking to how we can be Christ-like in all our day-to-day interactions.

Birthday Celebrations/Approved Birthday Snacks

Birthdays are a special time of year for any young child. Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool believes in modeling healthy behavior, and we do have an approved Birthday Snack list. Also, please see the class allergy list to make sure students who have allergies are still able to celebrate with the class. There are allergies in addition the school wide NUT FREE POLICY. Only approved birthday snacks will be served in the classroom. No treat bags please. Birthday party invitations may not be distributed at school and should be sent out in the mail or emailed directly to families.

As a nut free school, all birthday snacks brought on campus, must have an ingredients list, either on the package, or provided by the parent/guardian. Please send a note to accompany the birthday snack, stating that the ingredients have been checked and they are nut free, and not made in a facility that processes nuts.

Examples of Birthday Snacks include:

- 100 % Juice Bars Popsicles
- Milk and Oreos
- Jello
- Pudding Cups
- Chips and Salsa, or Guacamole
- Fruit Roll-Ups
- Animal Crackers Rice Krispie bars

Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool and Infant Center is an entirely NUT FREE campus.

No nuts or any foods processed in a facility that processes nuts.

California Department of Social Services

Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool & Infant Center is licensed by The Department of Social Services (LIC #300600175). Our infant center license is (LIC#304371272). Social Services require that all the forms, including medical forms filled out by your child's pediatrician, be on file before your child can attend school. All California State Licensing forms must be filled out completely and signed prior to acceptance into Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool and Infant Center. If there is a change in any of the information, please notify the office immediately. All forms will be completed every year.

Health

Upon enrollment, state licensing requires the submission of a health form signed by the child's physician. This physician form must also be updated and turned into the school annually. Additional regulations require that the child is to have standard immunizations. These records must be in the office prior to the first day of school. **No exceptions.** All students enrolled in Our Savior's Infant Center and Preschool **MUST** have current and up-to-date record of immunizations. **All students must be immunized. No exceptions or exemptions.** Under SB792 all day care centers must maintain vaccination records for all employees and volunteers for influenza, pertussis, and measles. We require the covid vaccination for all staff.

Your child's health is of major importance to us. A daily health check is given upon each child's arrival. The person bringing the child to school must wait until his/her teacher greets the child before leaving. Your child will not be admitted to the school, or will be sent home, if any of the following symptoms of illness are present:

1. The illness prevents the student from participating in school activities
2. The illness results in a greater care need than the staff can provide without compromising the health and safety of the students
3. A temperature of higher than 100 degrees. Must be fever free for 72 hours
4. Runny nose (thick or runny secretions), coughing, difficulty breathing, lethargy, persistent crying and/or irritability
5. Diarrhea, increased number of stools, increase in stool water, and/or form Stay home 24 hours after last symptom.
6. Vomiting-once incident. Stay home 24 hours after last episode.
7. Coughing: stay home until there is no substantial time spent coughing.
8. Mouth sores with drooling or draining sores
9. Rash with fever or behavior change
10. Conjunctivitis (pink eye)
11. Scabies, head lice, or other infestations
12. Impetigo
13. Strep throat
14. Chicken Pox- student is excluded from the school until all sores have dried and healed
15. Mumps- student is excluded for six days after the onset of rash
16. Measles- student is excluded for six days after the onset of rash
17. Rubella - student is excluded for six days after the onset of rash
18. Shingles
19. Respiratory illness

Earthquake Kit and Extra Clothing

Earthquake clothing: The clothing will be kept in the student's classroom in a labeled plastic bag. This will stay there until the end of the year or until needed. These clothes may also be used for replacement clothing in case of a bathroom accident. If this happens, please make sure to replace right away.

You may either bring a homemade earthquake kit or purchase an Earthquake Kit from the school. These kits have a shelf life of 5 years. We also recommend a family photo and letter of reassurance to the child to be kept in the same bag. Kits will remain in the Preschool until the end of the year.

Homemade earthquake kit should include:

- 2 packages of crackers and cheese
- 3 fruit cups
- 4 granola bars NUT FREE
- 2 meals of canned dinners (Hormel, Libby's, Etc.)
- 3 juice Drinks (box with straw)

Discipline

At Our Savior's Lutheran School, we understand that the word discipline comes from disciple, meaning "to teach." Teachers handle situations that require discipline in a loving manner and in ways that will positively impact the student's self-esteem. It becomes a teaching moment. The teacher will discuss with the student the importance of making good choices in the classroom. If the behavior continues, the child may lose a privilege. (For example, if the behavior is in the block center, then the teacher may explain to the student that he/she has lost the privilege to play in the area for five minutes, or longer depending on the situation.) If a student bites another student, the parents of both students will be notified. We will do all we can to stop the biting behavior, as soon as possible. If needed, we will partner with families to consult with experts.

Late Fees

If you arrive after your child's program end time you will be charged a late fee of \$15 every 5 minutes. There is no 5-minute grace period. Please see your brightwheel account for billing charges. It is to your advantage to have two or three people with written authorization to pick up your child in the event you will be detained or stuck in traffic.

Medication Policy

If medication must be given at school, please see the Director for the proper medication form. State law requires us to keep paperwork on all medications in the facility. If you are administering medication at home, please inform the teacher in case of an adverse reaction or unusual behavior. It is helpful for the staff to be aware of any medical situations that could impact the student's learning or daily behavior. Medication is stored in a secure spot in the classroom, locked, and documented for California State Licensing and safety purposes. All medications must be in the original container and if the medication is a prescription, it must be in the prescribed container with the patients name and the dosage. Please take all medication home at the end of the school year and replace expired medication as needed. Medications that require a Medication Administration Form includes, but is not limited to: Epi-Pens, Allergy Medication, Inhalers, Aspirin/Ibuprofen, Acetaminophen, Topical sprays, or medicated creams.

Photo Release

Our Savior's Lutheran Preschool and Infant Center tries to capture the many memories of our school day. If you wish for the photographs not to be published on our website or for marketing purposes, please indicate so on the school photo release form upon admission to the school.

Preschool Attire

All preschool students must wear comfortable and play appropriate clothing. Please remember when making clothing decisions your child will be climbing, painting, digging, sitting in sand, playing with water, and helping himself/herself when toileting. The clothes worn should be easy to button, snap, or zip for your child. For safety reasons, boots (of any kind, i.e., Ugg, rain, cowboy), sandals, flip-flops, and crocs are NOT permitted. Each child is required to have a change of clothes that should include pants, shirt, underwear, and socks. The clothes are to remain in your child's bucket. Please make sure to label your child's clothing with their name. Infants must bring enough clothes and diapers to ensure that they are dry and comfortable for the time they are here.

Please note that all parents volunteering in the preschool who will have direct contact with the children must fill out an IMMUNIZATION RECORDS FOR PRESCHOOL VOLUNTEERS FORM as a part of state licensure requirements.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Our Savior's Lutheran Church and School is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Our Congregation has been active in San Clemente since 1953 and while we are Lutheran, we welcome people of all backgrounds, traditions, beliefs, and disbeliefs to come love God and serve our neighbors with us.

We worship every Sunday at 9:30 am. Every week we sing, read the Scriptures, hear biblical preaching, and celebrate Holy Communion. In addition to a children's sermon during worship, we have a time where children (and any parents who want to go with them) can go to Sunday School to learn and make a craft.

For more information, please call the Church Office at 949 492 6164.