

Preschool Bulletin Article for 8.16.20

Former governor of Arizona and educator, Jane D. Hull, once said, *“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents.”*

When I came across this inspiring quote, I re-read it several times. As a parent, I felt like this was a good reminder, particularly as children return to school in a couple of weeks. As preschool educators, we often encourage parents to try and maintain their enthusiasm about school. We know that at even this very young age, children often detect a parent's stress and anxiety as easily as they do parents' joy. We know that long goodbyes are more difficult than short ones; frequently they only serve to heighten the anxiety that the parent has about leaving the child.

This year, more than any other, the uncertainty that surrounds leaving our children at school is great. Although we know that we have a solid re-opening plan and are confident in the measures that are in place to minimize the risk, there is still hesitation and doubt. At St. Francis Preschool, we have always recognized and valued the trust that parents have in allowing their child to be with us. We know that this year requires an even higher level of trust. This is needed not only from parents, but also from grandparents, aunts, uncles, and others who are an important part of children's lives. Due to health restrictions, parents are, unfortunately, not allowed to drop their child at his/her classroom. They will not be able to come to preschool and meet/talk with other parents who are often a great support to one another even after only brief interactions in the school hallways. At this time, they will not be able to come into the classroom to volunteer and catch a glimpse of their child's day. Parents are being asked to entrust the care of their child to our preschool without having some of the basic connections that they normally would. Without these in place, they are being required to take an extra leap of faith.

While I firmly believe that we are ready for a fun, engaging, and exciting year at preschool, we understand that many of our parents might now start out with this same outlook. Let us then remember all of our parents, of both big and little students, who might be experiencing elevated levels of anxiety as they send their children to school. Let us keep them in our prayers that they will take strength and comfort from their faith and trust that God is watching over them as well as their children. Let us also pray that while they might feel some nervousness on the inside, they will be able to be enthusiastic so that their children feel happy and confident in going to preschool.

Dear Lord- As parents send their children off to school, help them feel strong and at peace. Help them remember that every person, every experience and every lesson will help to shape him/her into becoming the good and loving individual that You mean for them to be. Help them not to forget, that their teachers will take every precaution to keep their children safe and protected. Especially on that first day, give any nervous parent plenty to do so he/she doesn't have time to worry and doubt. Fill them with wisdom and trust as they watch their babies grow and learn, especially during these uncertain times. Amen.

To learn more about the wonderful opportunities that we provide, please visit our website at www.preschoolatstfrancis.com or contact Shelley Freeman at: shelley.freeman@stfrancisraleigh.org.

With Joy,
Heidi Hobler, Director

St. Francis of Assisi Preschool

