



St. Martin's School

115 South Frederick Avenue
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

301-990-2441
Fax 301-990-2688
<http://www.smsmd.org>

Dear Interested Pre-Kindergarten Parents,

It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that we announce to you that St. Martin's opened a Pre-Kindergarten Program in September 2009. We received approval for this new endeavor from the Catholic Schools Office and from Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, Archbishop of Washington. Parents can be assured that our program will play a significant role in their child's developmental, educational and socialization processes.

Our Pre-K is an academic readiness program. It is designed to develop the whole child in concert with each student's talents, interests, and abilities. The Pre-Kindergarten core program begins at 8:00 a.m., and it concludes at 2:45 p.m. Monday through Friday. These hours are set to coincide with the schedule of our students in Grades Kindergarten through Grade 8. Parents also have the option to enroll their children in our After-Care Program. Included in our school day is the opportunity for the children to rest after lunch.

Students may arrive as early as 7:30 a.m. each morning. There will be no additional fee for the Before-Care Program. This program concludes when the school day begins. Students in Pre-Kindergarten also have the opportunity to attend our After-Care Program. This program begins at 2:45 p.m. each afternoon, and it closes at 6:00 p.m. in the evening. There is an additional fee for this service.

The administration wholeheartedly believes that parents, the first and foremost educators of their children, and our school should work together in a collaborative partnership. Therefore, as our Pre-K students learn and grow developmentally, we strongly believe that parental involvement is crucial for their success.

The curriculum for our new program follows the Standards for Pre-Kindergarten set forth by the Archdiocese. Our program promotes the spiritual, emotional, aesthetic, intellectual, and physical growth of the young child. The activities throughout the day are age-appropriate, challenging, experiential, hands-on, and multi-sensory. The children and teachers engage in shared reading activities, phonemic awareness, and vocabulary building. The children also experience pre-writing and math activities. The children explore God's gifts of self, creation, family, and our Church community in their Religion class. In addition, various forms of technology are integrated during the day in their centers. Included also



in the learning stations are art, blocks, sand, water, books, exploration with writing materials, and dramatic play.

New furniture, new tiling, area rugs and teaching resources were purchased for this new program. We have also added a bathroom for the children. This facility is adjacent to this classroom.

The tuition for the Pre-Kindergarten is similar to the full day Pre-Kindergarten Programs throughout the Archdiocese. Current rates for this program can be found in your folder.

St. Martin's School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, and/or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, programs, and admission's procedures. Priority will be given to children who are parishioners of St. Martin of Tours Parish and/or families who already have children registered in our school. Upon availability of spaces, we will then admit Catholic children from other parishes as well as children of other faiths.

St. Martin's Pre-Kindergarten Program follows the guidelines set forth by the Archdiocese of Washington. Students entering our program in the 2010-2011 Academic Year must be **4 years old by September 1, 2010.**

We hope that you will seriously consider our program. We also invite you to please tell a friend and/or a relative about our new program and our future Open Houses.



God Bless You,

Sister Sharon

Sister Sharon Ann Mihm, CSC
Principal

