



**KINDERGARTEN
ST. PETER MARTYR SCHOOL
PITTSBURG, CALIFORNIA**



Our kindergarten program provides variety, flexibility and structure. Play, fantasy, creativity, and individual choices are encouraged. Learning activities and formal lessons are woven into the child's day. Formal lessons in pre-reading and math are presented to all of the children with an understanding that each child will absorb as much as she/he can. Children's literature plays an important role in the pre-reading program.

There is a constant awareness of the importance of the child's self-esteem. Praise is given and appreciation is shown for the child's efforts. It is important that each child feels special and good about the effort that he/she puts in his/her work. The children are taught to appreciate the uniqueness and individuality of their peers and to treat each other with kindness and respect.

A maximum of thirty students is accepted into the class. There are two teachers in the room at all times. **We do not have a parent co-op structure.** Kindergarten is held Monday-Friday, 8:10-11:30. There is before and after school child care for those who need it. (Please consult the Day Care brochure for further information.)

After a child applies to kindergarten and **all of the appropriate paperwork and fees have been submitted** to the office, a date will be set up for a screening. I encourage you to do this as soon as possible. We have a limited amount of spaces available. The children who are already enrolled in our prekindergarten program, and who qualify, will

be given the first spaces. There are currently twenty-four children in the prekindergarten program. After the thirty kindergarten places are filled, you may choose to have your child tested and placed on our waiting list.

The kindergarten screening will help us determine if kindergarten is the correct placement for your child. Some children benefit from delaying kindergarten placement for a year. If this is clear during the screening, we would recommend that the child be placed in the prekindergarten program or delay entrance into St. Peter Martyr's kindergarten for a year. The pre-kindergarten class is smaller and gives us more time to focus on the individual child and his/her school readiness skills. Most importantly, it gives the child time to mature and therefore enjoy a more successful school experience as he/she advances through the elementary grades. The same teachers teach the kindergarten and pre-kindergarten programs. Some skills that we observe during the screening are: the child's ability to stay on task for a given amount of time; the ability to use a pencil and scissors; the ability to understand and follow two and three step directions; language development (receptive and expressive); visual and auditory discrimination; the child's awareness of letters and numbers. These skills and others help your child have a more successful school experience.

If we recommend delaying kindergarten entrance for a year it is not a reflection on your child's intelligence. It is an observation of his/her development and maturity and his/her readiness for school related tasks. For these reasons, **we strongly recommend that a child be five-years-old no later than Sept. 1.** Research, and our experience, has shown us how important this is. Children should not be rushed into school because the calendar "says so" or because it would be more convenient for parents.

A child must be fully potty-trained before entering kindergarten.

We do understand that accidents happen, but a child cannot attend to his school tasks if he/she is worried about the bathroom. We have bathrooms adjacent to our classroom which the children may use at any time.

Another thing to consider --- is your child comfortable separating from you for a couple of hours per day --- and can you separate from your child.

There is a little bit of homework, usually related to the letter or the number we are working on. The work should take no longer than about ten minutes and would require some parental supervision. **The most important homework a child can have is the opportunity of being read to. No homework that I give could be better than this. The best getting-ready-to-read experience your child can have is being read to.**

There is a class fee of \$40.00. This is a one-time fee and is due by the first day of school. This fee covers milk, snacks, special projects, and some supplies. It may be paid in cash or a check payable to St. Peter Martyr. Please note on the check that it is for the kindergarten class fee.

I'M READY!
KINDERGARTEN, HERE I COME!

