May 2022

Dear St. Jerome ECC Families,

Welcome to St. Jerome Early Childhood Center! We are very excited about the year ahead and happy to have you here with us at St. Jerome ECC. With continued family and staff support, St. Jerome ECC is able to offer a quality program for families seeking a faith-filled learning environment for their young children. As a nationally accredited (NAEYC) early childhood program, we strive to work together with our families to ensure the best possible program for the youngest members of God’s kingdom.

Our 2022-23 school calendar is enclosed and is available on our website <https://www.stjeromeecc.org/> . (Families are asked to pay special attention to the calendar as you make plans for the year ahead. Please note that each age group (EC2/EC3 or EC4/VPK) has a specific school year calendar in which days and times may vary. The school year calendar for your age child is enclosed. Our four-year olds (VPK) have attendance requirements established by the state

We will begin our year with a very important Parent/Caregiver Orientation Meeting on Monday, August 8th at 7:00pm. The meeting is required for all families. Please refer to the enclosure ‘Back to School’ with specific details as well as additional important dates.

Items Enclosed: The enclosed items are also posted on our website for your reference.

- Back to School - Important Dates - 2022-23 Fee Schedule –For your age child/ren

- Registration Confirmation & Payment Information - 2022-23 School Year Calendar\*

- Annual Enrollment Checklist - Event Calendar

* VPK Parent Agreement – Parent copy VPK Only

**The following required forms** are accessed on the ECC website, <https://www.stjeromeecc.org/>. Click on the “Admissions” tab and select the “Required Forms 2022-23” option. The “Annual Student Forms” will be posted as of June 1, 2022 and are due to the ECC office by July 1, 2022. These items are also outlined on the enclosed page titled “Annual Enrollment Forms and Process for Submitting Required Items”.

* Child Enrollment Record with instruction page - Family Home Language Survey
* Emergency Medical Release (requires notary) - Permit to Remove Form
* Extended Day Registration Form (before & after care)Optional - Promotional Media Release

Pinellas County License Board requires that the following documents be read by all families. The required reading forms can be accessed on our website. Click on the “Information” tab. Each item is listed individually.

- Discipline Policy -Know Your Child’s Center Brochure

The following items will be posted on our website for your information as of June 1, 2022. Click on the “Information” tab and select the appropriate item.

- Summer Office Hours -School Supply/Donation list Continued on reverse….

Families are asked to read and print out (or be able to access the document on a device) the 2022-23 Family Handbook and bring your copy to Parent Orientation on August 8th. The 2022-23 Family Handbook will be posted to our website as of July 1, 2022.

All families are asked to take special note of our 2022-23 Fee Schedules. Fees for “Routine Extended Day’ are reduced to better assist families using Extended Day on a routine basis. Hourly rates are still available for those who will use Extended Day on as “As Needed” basis. Afternoons will offer optional ‘special enrichment programs’ – such as Soccer and Dance. These classes will be offered during our PM Extended Day hours. Parents would be responsible for the enrichment class fees as well as the Extended Day fees for each day your child attends. The minimum stay in Extended Day is until 3:00pm. Registration details for the enrichment classes will be included in your Welcome Packet in August.

For families new to St. Jerome ECC, we are a self-supporting, non-profit entity. Our income is generated from tuition, VPK funds (four-year olds), fundraising and limited grant opportunities. We receive no additional financial support. We rely heavily on the time, talent, and treasure of all families enrolled in our center.

It is important for all to know what determines our rates, our fundraising plans, and our development endeavors. In the fourteen years since the state began offering VPK for four-year olds, we have participated in that program. Each year, the state has retained or reduced the amount paid per child, which greatly widens the gap between the actual cost per child (approx. $5000) and the amount the state is providing (currently $2480). Our teaching staff far exceeds the qualifications, experience and commitment currently compensated by the state VPK program. We rely heavily on our fundraising efforts and the participation of all of our ECC families. Additionally, our four-year old families have been offered an opportunity to offset this significant deficit by participating in a pledge drive. We gratefully appreciate those families who have already committed to a pledge and we know many of you are still praying about your level of commitment

All tuition payment schedules begin with the July payment. The monthly payment schedule for tuition begins with the first payment due on July 1, 2022, with subsequent payments due the first of each month until the final (10th) payment is due on April 1, 2023. If enrolled families find their monthly tuition a hardship, please contact the EC office, as we would be willing to make allowances for an 11 or 12-month payment schedule (July – May or June) to help reduce your monthly expenses. We also have scholarship opportunities available for registered parishioners. If you would like more information, please call our school office. Scholarship applications will be available June 1, 2022.

Have a wonderful and safe summer. Thank you for choosing St. Jerome Early Childhood Center for your child’s first step in Education. May God continue to bless the work we do in His Name.

Sincerely in Christ,

Phyllis Steele, Administrator

St. Jerome Early Childhood Center