



**OUR LADY OF THE
ASSUMPTION'S
PRE-K FOR ALL (UPK)**



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Our Lady of the Assumption's "Pre-K For All" (UPK)

Prekindergarten Program. At this time we would like to introduce ourselves. The teachers of your children are

Pre-K A – Ms. Amanda Schoeps assisted by Ms. Liz T. Fichter

Pre-K B – Ms. Brittany Ambrosio assisted by Mrs. Tara Cassidy

Pre-K C – Mrs. Kaitlin Ciardiello-Ford assisted by Ms. Christine Fichter

Ms. Diana Licess, Pre-K For All (UPK) Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Kristie Robustello, "Floater Aides"

We are certified teachers with experience in Early Childhood Education. We are very excited to be your child's teachers and look forward to an enriching and rewarding school year.

We are committed to providing a high quality education to the children entrusted to our care. We want to learn ways in which we can improve the process and learn how to better prepare our students to take their place in the world.

We look forward to working with you and your child this year. Thank you!

Our Lady of the Assumption's Pre-K Mission

Our Lady of the Assumption (OLA) welcomes New York City's "Pre-K For All" (UPK) Program as first steps in preparing students with strong foundational skills needed in Early Childhood Education. The program's Creative Curriculum utilizes high quality programming and readiness goals that are aligned with the common core.

A vital part of our mission is "Pre-K For All" (UPK) staff curriculum planning and collaboration to ensure our readiness goals are attained as well as family engagement, formative feedback and regular parent classroom meetings.

The program is truly an incredible start for your child's academic career.

Our Lady of the Assumption's "Pre-K For All" (UPK) Curriculum

The curriculum utilized for our Pre-Kindergarten Program is the Creative Curriculum. The Creative Curriculum is based on 38 objectives for development and learning, which are fully aligned with early learning standards for every state.

The teacher will present to students concrete units of study such as balls, clothing, etc. throughout the school year. Each unit will last approximately four to six weeks, in which students will be immersed in the topic throughout each aspect of the day, including circle time, centers, gross motor and story time. This will ensure greater student understanding and retention of the topic.

The Creative Curriculum presents knowledge building volumes that focus on different themes and daily practice resources. This assists the teachers and students as they actively engage in higher order thinking and more critical thinking through meaningful activities. Students are provided with opportunities to investigate the "how", "what", and "why" questions through discussions, center-based activities, environment/community studies, experiments and investigations.

Our Lady of the Assumption's "Pre-K For All" (UPK) Readiness Goals

1. Cognition and General Knowledge

Mathematics

- Children will understand measurement and concepts such as “longer/shorter”, “heavier/lighter.”
- Children will demonstrate an awareness of spatial relationships, patterns and sequences.

Science

- Children will demonstrate the ability to think through problems and apply strategies for solving them.

Social Studies

- Children will demonstrate an understanding of one's relationship to the family and the community, roles in the family and community and will demonstrate respect for diversity.

2. Physical Development and Health

- Children will demonstrate an understanding of safe and healthy habits.
- Children will demonstrate appropriate gross motor skills and fine motor skills in a variety of settings.

3. Approaches to Learning

- Children will demonstrate persistence in play, activities, and problem solving.
- Children will demonstrate curiosity, creativity, flexibility, and a willingness to try new experiences.

4. Social Emotional Development

- Children will demonstrate regulation skills in response to needs, feelings, and events.

5. Language and Literacy

- Children will understand and use an increasing complex and varied vocabulary.
- Children will express ideas and information through drawing, writing and dictating.

Learning Centers

Creative Curriculum calls for Learning Centers. Learning centers help young children build a strong early foundation by allowing students to be active learners. Learning centers are way for young children to experience and make connections with the world around them. Success in learning requires the child to be engaged at a center to experience and make connections across discipline and settings around us.

We allow for more exploration and investigation in early childhood which helps children build skills and interests throughout their school year and later in life. Children learn through curiosity. We allow children to be active, engaged and take their imagination in their own learning, thus allowing children to have an overall long-term academic success.

Children learn by curiosity and by hand on experiences. Our learning centers allow our early childhood teachers to work with each child individually or as a small group. Students will also learn to work independently.

Our Learning Centers are fully equipped with educational games, toys and manipulatives that are used for instruction and learning.

Our Day

We begin with literacy based centers. The following skills are being continuously learned while the children are working in centers.

Library Corner: By reading aloud, teachers show children how a story is told through words and pictures. Children discover that we read from left to right and grasp the concepts of words and letters.

Math Center: The math center includes a variety of manipulatives (puzzles, legos, and beads) that improve a child's concentration, focus and eye-hand coordination, and encourage counting and oral language development.

Art Center: The art centers are filled with numerous supplies (construction paper, an easel with paints, as well as crayons). These supplies allow children to experiment with their own creativity. The process – or the doing – is where the children are learning. Holding a crayon, cutting with scissors and folding paper all help children to master fine motor skills which are important for learning handwriting.

Science: Magnets, scales and magnifying glasses help children master science skills like classifying, labeling, weighing, examining, and predicting.

Writing: The Writing Center includes pencils, markers, colored pencils, paper, colored paper, dry erase boards, and word cards. The students are encouraged to write their name in this center. They write and illustrate weekly vocabulary words that correlate to each unit study.

Dramatic Play: Whether this area is set up as a home, a hospital, or a post office, it gives the children the chance to role-play. These are wonderful for language development, vocabulary acquisition, and develop skills like cooperation and problem-solving.

Sand and Water: Children love to experiment with different textures and forms. Using containers, pumps, tubes, and strainers prompt children to explore cause and effect, measure volume, and learn concepts like squirting, sifting, floating, and sinking.

Block Area: These traditional wooden toys teach basic math and science skills. Children can count, compare sizes, measure and plan patterns to build structures. Research has shown that playing with blocks improves spatial skills, which are a key to success in subjects such as geometry and physics.

Pre-K For All (UPK) Schedule

- Early Drop Off Students arrive 6:55-7:45 A.M. in the cafeteria (\$5/day). They are supervised by Our Lady of the Assumption teacher assistants.
- All other students arrive by 7:45 A.M. Class begins at 8:00 A.M.
- At 8:00 A.M., the students enter their classrooms and get ready for breakfast.
- Students are dismissed promptly at 2:20 P.M.

School Attendance

Good attendance and punctuality is vital for students to achieve their full academic potential. Our Lady of the Assumption's is committed to helping our students foster these and other good habits.

Please view school as a priority and see to it that your child attends every day except in cases of illness or emergency.

Your child will be released only to the parent or persons specified on the Student Emergency Form. If your child is absent due to illness, you must call the school by 8:15 A.M. to inform us. A note of absence must accompany your child upon returning to school. Please be sure to indicate the reason for your child's absence, the date of the absence, and your signature.

Appointments, such as doctor appointments, should be made outside the school schedule. Please review the calendar when making appointments.

Parent/Teacher Relationships

Throughout the school year, the “Pre-K For All” (UPK) teachers will communicate with parent(s) or guardians through notes, telephone calls, meetings and Parent/Teacher conferences/classroom meetings.

We believe that a Parent/Teacher relationship is essential for maximum school success and request that you try your best to follow the parents’ responsibilities listed below.

- To send your child to school well rested and ready to learn
- To ensure that your child attends school regularly and on time
- Be aware of your child’s work and progress
- To maintain contact with the teacher and school
- To be positive – your attitude towards school is important; instill in them a love of learning and the important role that a good education will play in their lives
- To model appropriate behavior for your child
- To treat school personnel with courtesy and respect
- Review weekly Teacher’s Newsletter (online via our school website & your child’s take home folder) as well as school calendar

Reminders:

1. Please note that outside toys are not allowed in school.
2. We also ask that you provide your child with a change of clothing (placed in a bag) that we can keep in school in case of an accident. We ask that you please label every article of clothing with your child’s name to ensure that no clothing gets misplaced or lost.
3. Please fill out the Student Emergency Form and return it to your child’s teacher as soon as possible.
4. Please indicate any allergies or illness to your child’s teacher.

In case my child soils himself or herself, please contact:

Child's Name: _____

Caregiver: _____

Phone Number: _____

Relationship to child: _____

*Please have contact bring photo identification
