

FAQ's about St. Clement

Q: How long is a typical day?

A: Parents may choose from three dismissal options: 12:45, 3 pm, or 4 pm (during the pandemic, 6:00 pm during non-pandemic times).

Q: How do you keep the children safe if you're open during the pandemic?

A: We have a long list of protocols, designed to keep staff and children healthy! We spend the majority of our days outside, and when inside, use only our own designated space (with windows open) and keep our masks on. Our hallways are one way, so children don't pass each other in the hall. Our table spaces have plexiglass shields, so children may sit together safely. We clean frequently. We have rigorous attendance standards to be sure everyone is healthy.

Q: How old do children need to be to start, and how many classes do you have?

A: Children must be 30 months old BY September (born no later than March two years earlier) in order to attend St. Clement. We currently have six classes—a 2.5, two 3's, two 4's, and a Junior Kindergarten.

Q: What's a Junior Kindergarten, and who is it for?

A: Our Junior Kindergarten is for children who turn 5 in June, July, August, and September, and whose parents are giving them the gift of time. Rather than be the youngest in their classes, they are enjoying the opportunity to continue to grow and mature and develop their self confidence before heading off to Kindergarten. Our JK class continues on the developmental trajectory, and they are learning sight words, the difference between vowels and consonant's, math skills, refining their handwriting, and so much more! When recommending the JK classroom, our focus is not just on Kindergarten—it's a broader look down the educational highway, ensuring that students graduating from high school have the emotional and social maturity to handle college!

Q: How large are your classes?

A: We maintain excellent staff/student ratios. Currently, our younger classes have only 8-10 children, and our fours have 10-12, with two staff members.

Q: Do you have enrichment classes?

A: During our "normal" school year, our classes attend library, cooking, music, and chapel weekly. We cannot safely have instructors mix from group to group, so we do not have formal enrichment classes at the moment.

Q: Does my child have to be an Episcopalian?

A: No! We accept children, regardless of their family faith traditions, and welcome everyone!

Q: What is your school philosophy?

A: We believe in the importance of ownership; we want every child to think of the school as THEIR school, not just a school. Their art work is displayed, their photos, names, and projects are displayed throughout the school. Every child has their own cubby space, so they can be responsible for their own belongings—and learn that school is a safe place, and they can count on their belongings being right where they left them. We want our children to have ownership in the classroom, so each class has jobs for the children, and each class has a “job” each month—from decorating our bulletin board, to helping sweep up the mulch! We believe that children should have ownership in the natural world, so we spend a lot of time outside, exploring the neighborhood and helping beautify our campus by planting flowers, herbs, and trees. We want our students to have ownership in our community, so we do community service projects to help support our community, through making sandwiches, to book donations, to food drives. Ultimately, ownership is about owning our own behavior and choices, and our goal is to help our students make good choices in their daily life.

Q: What are your staff qualifications?

A: Staff are chosen on the basis of a combination of education, experience, and a genuine love of children. Some of our staff have Masters’ degrees, some BA’s, and some CDA’s (Child Development Associates), and some have many, many years of experience.

Q: Do you have a lot of staff turnover?

A: No. Most of our staff have been here for more than a decade, some for two decades! Our newest staff members filled spots left by retiring faculty or out of state moves. Our staff is compensated based on their level of education and experience, get free continuing education, are offered health insurance, and a retirement plan after one year.

Q: Does the school use a particular curriculum?

A: No. Each classroom develops their own curriculum based on the needs, strengths, and challenges of the children in the classroom. We do use the Handwriting Without Tears workbooks in the classrooms to help teach handwriting.

Q: Do the children go on field trips?

A: No. In non-pandemic years, we bring enrichment programs in to the school. This year, we are creating our own in-house enrichment here at school.

Q: Can you accommodate children with allergies?

A: Yes. We work closely with the school families to be sure we can safely care for each child. All staff have CPR/First Aid training, and are trained (but not certified) in Epi-pen administration. Multiple staff members are MAT Trained, meaning they are legally able to administer medications (antibiotics, inhalers, etc.). Allergy sheets are posted in each classroom and in both school kitchens.

Q: Do you accept children with identified special needs?

A: Yes, we welcome all children, as long as we can joyfully accommodate them in a classroom and have them and their classmates have a positive, engaged experience. We have happily welcomed children with hearing impairment, speech challenges, physical challenges, atypically developing children, children on the autism spectrum, and children with eating disorders.

Q: Are parents required to volunteer?

A: No. Most of our parents are working parents, and their availability during school hours is limited. We welcome volunteers during non-pandemic times, and offer many different opportunities to volunteer for those whose schedules have that flexibility.

Q: Does the school provide meals?

A: No, not on a regular basis. The school provides a morning snack, and children bring their lunch from home. In non-pandemic times, the school also provides an afternoon snack; currently, children bring their afternoon snack from home. During non-pandemic years, the school PTO provides lunch once a month.

Q: Does the school do parent/teacher conferences?

A: Yes, we hold parent/teacher conferences twice a year. This year, we are holding our fall conferences via Zoom.