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Some Questions and Answers About Kindergarten at Bethlehem

What is the Mission of Bethlehem Lutheran School?

To lead lives that honor and serve God, Bethlehem Lutheran School partners with students and their families to share the love of Jesus while advancing academic excellence.

Do we need to be members of Bethlehem to enroll our child in the school?

Although Bethlehem operates its school as a ministry to its own children, we also welcome other children, and encourage their parents to enroll them.

How old must a child be to enter kindergarten?

A child must be three years old by September 1, 2016 to be in the 3 Year Old Kindergarten during the 2016-17 school year. A child must be four years old by September 1, 2016 to be in 4 Year Old Kindergarten during the 2016-17 school year. A child must be five years old by September 1, 2016 to be in the 5 Year Old Kindergarten during the 2016-17 school year.

What if my child turns 4 (or 5) shortly after September 1?

We do not encourage early enrollment. Almost always, the extra year of maturity a child will have if the parents wait the extra year will benefit the child much more than the early enrollment. However, if the parents feel that because their child has a birthday shortly after September 1 the child is ready for kindergarten, they should consult Mr. Patrick Vanic, the principal.

When should we enroll our child?

Parents are encouraged to enroll their children as soon as possible. However it is also possible to enroll a child a late as August if there is still room in the class.

What paperwork needs to be completed?

Several forms need to be completed before a child enters kindergarten. The Enrollment Form should be completed and returned to the school office along with the registration fee and the child's original birth certificate (copies can not be accepted) as soon as a parent decides to send their child to Bethlehem. The birth certificate will be returned. The current Health Form, and Immunization Form should be completed and turned in as soon as possible. In addition, several other forms for the new school year need to be completed by all families during August registration.

Does my child need a physical examination before starting kindergarten?

Parents are encouraged to have their child examined by a licensed physician before starting kindergarten. These forms are available in the school office. Be sure the physician returns the completed form to the school office.

Because of the importance of vision and hearing in a child's school experiences, parents are strongly urged to have their child's eyes and hearing examined before starting school. Dental examinations are also encouraged.

Rev. James L. Hartman
Administrative Pastor

Rev. Alan D. Kubow
Associate Pastor

Patrick R. Vanic
Principal

When does registration for the 2016-17 school year take place?

Parents having children in Bethlehem School for the first time are asked to attend an evening orientation session late in August, when registration for the 2016-17 school year takes place. Information on a specific date will be mailed to parents who have enrolled their child(ren) by turning in an enrollment application and paying the necessary registration fee.

Must a child's birth certificate be shown?

Proof of age must be provided for each child starting kindergarten. An original birth certificate (copies will not be accepted) should be given to the school office along with the enrollment application. The birth certificate will be returned to you.

Does Bethlehem offer half-day or an all-day program for five-year olds?

Some parents need or prefer a full-day program, while other parents prefer to have their children at home for a good part of the day. Our 5 Year Old Kindergarten program is designed to be a full-day program, with an optional half-day program to accommodate both preferences. Parents are encouraged to discuss these options with the teacher.

Will my five-year old child miss anything if he/she attends 5 Year Old Kindergarten only in the mornings?

Our program is set up so that those children who attend only the mornings will not miss the academic parts of the curriculum. On a typical day, the mornings include Jesus time, reading skills, math skills, and themed center time, which typically includes skills development in phonics, reading, writing, listening, math, science, social studies, computers, and crafts. The afternoons are still mostly structured, and include rest time, physical education, free play, special projects, and some enrichment of items presented in the morning.

How many sessions of kindergarten will there be, and when will they start and end?

3 Year Old Kindergarten meets three mornings a week, Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, from 8:05 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. 4 Year Old Kindergarten meets four mornings a week, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:05 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.

Our 5 Year old Kindergarten program meets five days per week, starting at 8:05 a.m. The half-day session ends at 11:30 a.m., with the expectation that children are picked up within ten minutes of dismissal. The full-day session dismisses at 3:05 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, and at 2:25 pm. on Wednesdays.

Do the children attending Senior Kindergarten eat lunch?

Children in the full-day 5 Year Old Kindergarten will of course eat lunch. This may be a bag lunch brought from home or a hot lunch purchased at school. Bethlehem is a member of the Federal Free and Reduced lunch program. Applications should be filled out at the start of the school year.

Do the kindergarten children have a snack during the day?

Both 4 Year Old and 5 Year Old Kindergarten children have a milk break. Milk may be purchased through the school. For children who are allergic to milk, parents may provide juice or other nondairy beverage. In addition, a light snack is provided by the Children's parents on a rotating basis.

Does Bethlehem provide child care before, during or after school?

Child care is provided for ages 3 & 4 throughout the day from 6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For grades 5K to 8th grade child care is provided from 6:45 a.m. until 8:00 a.m., and again from afternoon dismissal (3:05 p.m. every day but Wednesday, when it is at 2:25 p.m.) until 5:30 p.m.

Will my child have a chance to meet the teacher?

Each teacher makes a "home visit" during the weeks before school starts. The teacher will set up an appointment to visit the student and his/her parents. During the home visit, the teacher will share information about the class, and will also have a chance to see the child in the home setting. These home visits are a very important part of getting to know the child so he/she can be better served.

What are the fees for kindergarten, and when are they payable?

For the 2016-17 school year, there is a registration fee of \$170 per child for 3 Year Old Kindergarten, 4 Year Old Kindergarten and half-day 5 Year Old Kindergarten, and \$200 per child for all-day 5 Year Old Kindergarten.

In addition, tuition is charged according to the following schedule (amounts are for the school year):

	3 Yr. Old Kindergarten	4 Yr. Old Kindergarten	½-day 5 Yr. Old Kindergarten	Full-day 5 Yr. Old Kindergarten
Members of Bethlehem	\$800	\$950	\$1150	\$1500
Non Members of Bethlehem	\$1150	\$1350	\$1925	\$2675

There is a \$50.00 per child surcharge for returning families who do NOT complete the summer registration process (paperwork and payment of the September tuition payment) by August 4, 2016.

For tuition and registration amounts for families with more than one child attending Bethlehem School, contact the school office.

Families may reduce the amount of money owed to the school if they participate in the school’s Scrip program, which allows you to use a percentage of what you spend at various grocery stores, department stores, and other establishments in Sheboygan and elsewhere as a credit towards your tuition. Relatives, friends, and neighbors may also make purchases and have the credit apply to your family. For more information on this program, parents are urged to contact the school office.

Financial assistance is also available for parents who might have difficulty in paying the required fees. Contact the school office for more information.

What is the WPCP (Wisconsin Parental Choice Program)?

Bethlehem Lutheran School will be participating in the Wisconsin Parental Choice Program for the upcoming 2016-2017 school year. The Wisconsin Parental Choice Program (WPCP) provides children throughout the state with a full tuition voucher to attend the private or religious school of their choice.

Bethlehem will be accepting applications in grades 4K to 8th for parents who wish to enroll their children at the school through the WPCP. Student applications for the WPCP can be submitted online from February 2- April 20, 2016 at <https://apps4.dpi.wi.gov/ChoiceParent>. There is also a link that can be found on our website.

The program currently is limited to those families with incomes below 185% of the federal poverty level. So what does that number look like? Your adjusted gross income (AGI) (Line 38 on Federal Income tax form 1040) would need to be at or below the levels listed below for the size of your family:

Family Size	Single Family	Married Family
1	\$21,971	
2	\$29,735	
3	\$37,499	\$44,499
4	\$45,263	\$52,263
5	\$53,027	\$60,027
6	\$60,791	\$67,791

For each additional member add \$7,764

What if I have other questions that haven’t been answered?

You are also invited to call the school office (452-5071), and speak with Mrs. Schallock (our 5 Year Old Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. TenPas (our 4 Year Old Kindergarten teacher), Mrs. Buss (our 3 Year Old Kindergarten teacher), or Mr. Vanic (or Principal).

Bethlehem Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in administration of its education policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.