



St. Paul   
Catholic Preschool

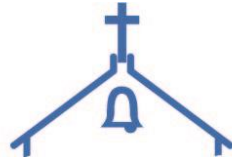
# Family Orientation Night

2023-2024



St. Paul   
Catholic Preschool

- Welcome
- Blessing by Fr. Morley
- Staff Introductions



St. Paul   
Catholic Preschool

**Mindy Geer**  
**Director**

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813-264-3383

**Jen Waibel**  
**Assistant Director**  
jwaibel@stpaulchurch.com  
813-264-3314

# Our Preschool Staff

## By the numbers...

- 30 children
- 15 grandchildren & 1 great-grandchild
- **OVER 130 YEARS OF CLASSROOM EXPERIENCE**
- Among our staff, 16 of our children are current or former students of St. Paul Catholic Preschool
- And we have 1 grandchild of former teachers in attendance this year!



## Our History

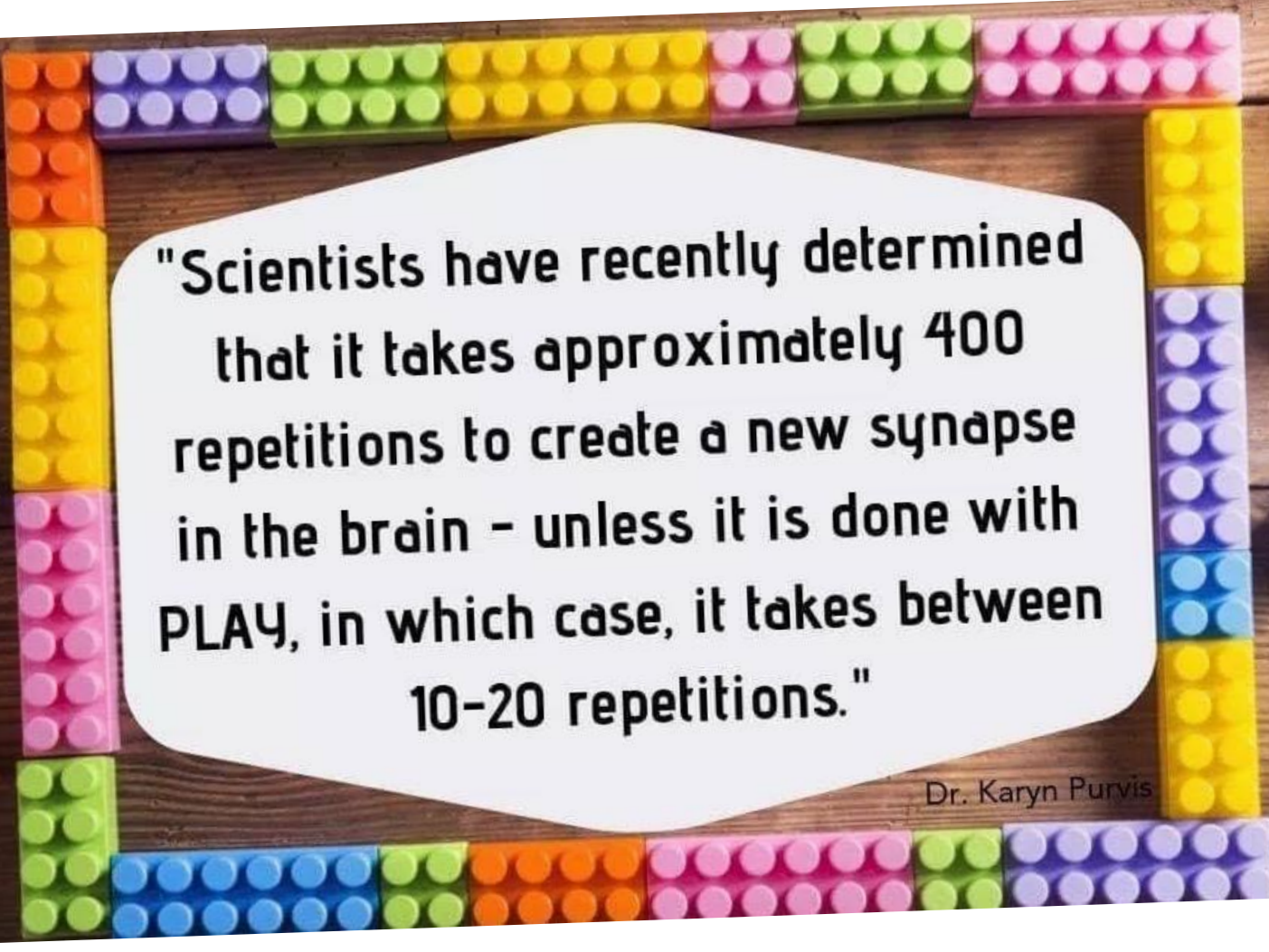
St. Paul Catholic Preschool was established in 1980. Over the past 43 years, our families and teachers have created a special place where children can grow and develop at their own pace, in a safe and loving environment.

## Our Mission

St. Paul Catholic Preschool's mission is to encourage the spiritual, intellectual and emotional growth of each child using developmentally appropriate practices.

Working in partnership with family members, as well as our parish and community, we provide a nurturing, safe, Catholic environment where children are inspired to learn, play and grow.

# Just one reason why PLAY is so important!



"Scientists have recently determined that it takes approximately 400 repetitions to create a new synapse in the brain - unless it is done with **PLAY**, in which case, it takes between 10-20 repetitions."

Dr. Karyn Purvis



**NAEYC**



We are proud to share that  
St. Paul Catholic Preschool  
Is accredited by the  
National Association for the  
Education of Young Children!

Fewer than 10% of American preschools have met the stringent guidelines for facility design, staff qualifications, and programming, as well as health and safety, physical environment and administration.

We have also received Florida's Gold Seal Quality of Care.



# Health & Safety

**Your child's health and safety is our #1 priority  
at St. Paul Catholic Preschool.**

- All preschool staff members are certified in CPR & First Aid
- Handwashing
- Cleaning & Sanitizing - following CDC guidelines



# Carline Safety

- Pickup person must be listed as an individual who is authorized to pick the child up from school. ID must be presented when requested. Possessing car/pickup sign does not mean automatic access to the child.
- Carline maps can be accessed on our website under the "Family Resources" tab.
- For the safety of the children, staff, parishioners, and pedestrians, the use of cell phones is not permitted in the parking lot or car lines.

# Carline Safety cont.

- Please convey arrival and dismissal procedures to those caregivers (such as grandparents, babysitters, etc.) who will be dropping off and picking your children up from school.
- For dismissal, please put your vehicle in park and exit your vehicle. Your child's teacher will hand your child to you on the sidewalk by the crayon bollards. It is unsafe for children and staff to walk between the cars. Please have your child enter your vehicle on the passenger side, then secure child in their seat before moving forward.

# Arrival Procedures

**There is no morning arrival carline. All caregivers will park their car to walk their child to the building .**

## Parish Center Classrooms

- Park in a designated parking spot.
- Walk to your child to their designated AM arrival door.

## Modular Classrooms

- Park in a designated parking spot.
- Walk your child to their classroom door via the pavilion or sidewalk by the crayon bollards.

**If you arrive after 8:25 am, please enter the front of the Parish Center to sign in at the front desk and walk your child to their classroom.**

# Dismissal Procedures: Parish Center Classrooms

**Twos & Threes Classes  
(Carleton & Kors)  
Dismiss at 11:30**

**Threes Class  
(Espailat)  
Dismiss at 1:00**

- Enter through 2<sup>nd</sup> church entrance on Stall Rd.
- Make sure carline sign is visible and be ready to present ID
- All children must be picked up in the carline.  
Walk-up pickup is not permitted

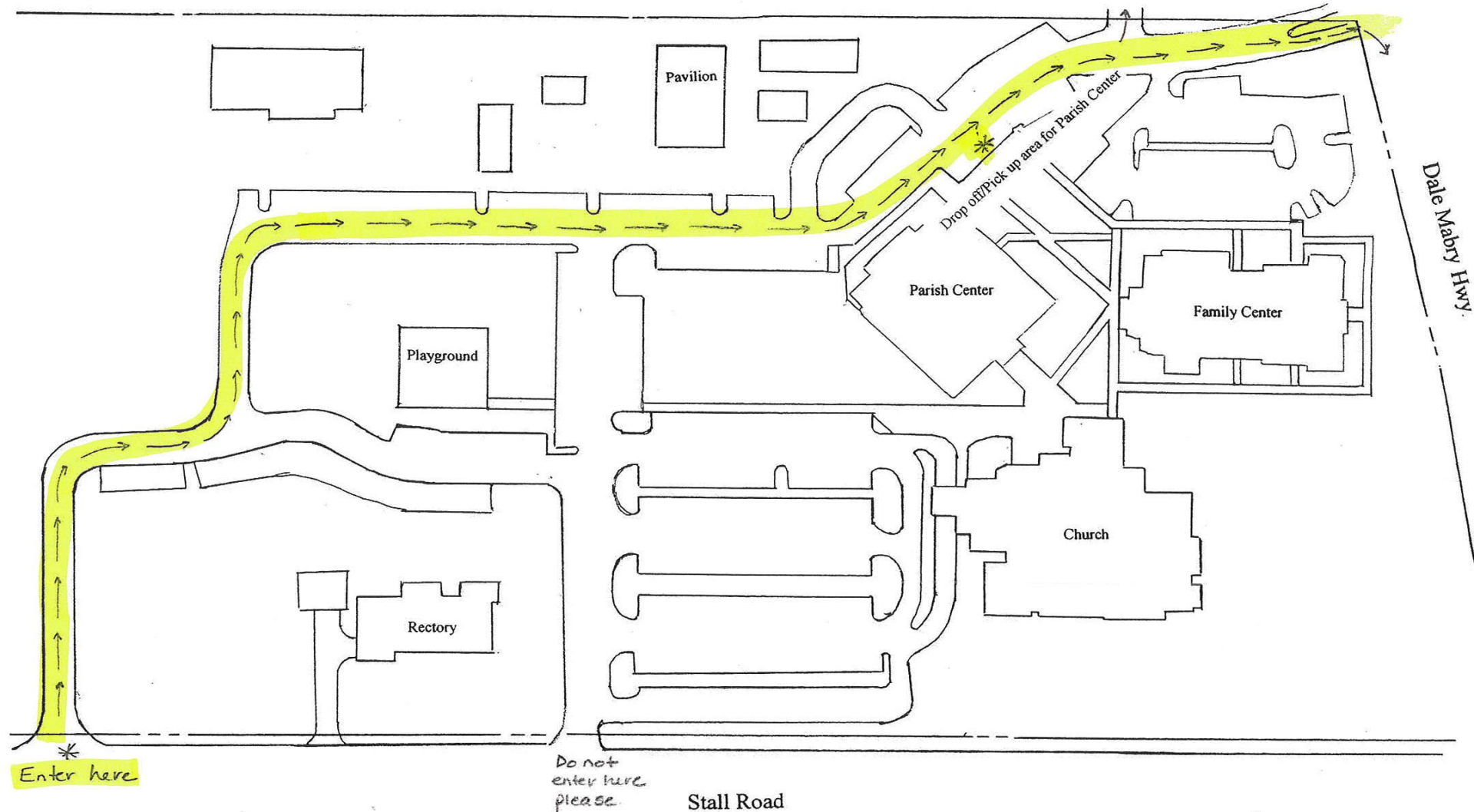


# Dismissal Procedures: Parish Center Classrooms cont.

- Exit vehicle, meet teacher on passenger side for your child, open door on passenger side for child to enter, & secure child before leaving
- Cars must exit via the Cascades shopping center or N. Dale Mabry Hwy.

**U-TURNS OF ANY KIND ARE NOT PERMITTED**

# Carline Dismissal Map - Parish Center Classrooms



# Dismissal Procedures: Modular Classrooms

**Threes Class (Laine)  
Dismiss to the carline at 11:30**

**Pre-K Classes (Overmyer & Mills)  
Dismiss at 11:55**

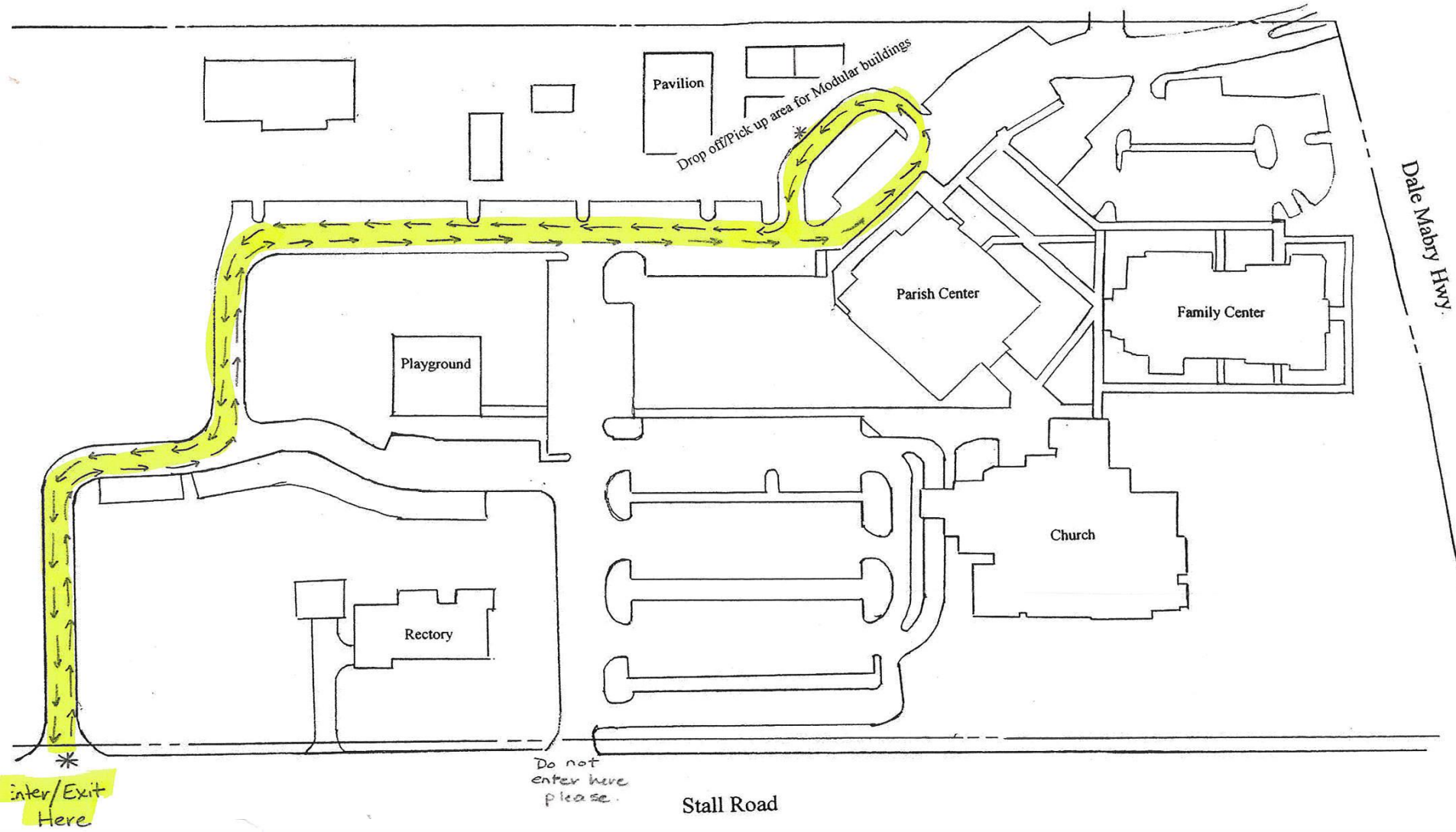
- Pavilion dismissal is 11:55-12:00
- Carline dismissal is 12:00-12:10

## Dismissal Procedures: Modular Classrooms cont.

- Enter through 2<sup>nd</sup> church entrance on Stall Rd.
- Make sure carline sign is visible and be ready to present ID
- Exit vehicle, meet teacher on passenger side for your child, open door on passenger side for child to enter, & secure child before leaving
- Cars should exit the property the same way they entered (past the playground to Stall Rd.)



# Carline Dismissal Map - Modular Classrooms



# Family Handbook

- Child isn't feeling well
- Calling in absences
- Medication at school
- No meds, hand sanitizer, cough drops, insect repellent, sunscreen, etc. in backpacks
- Snack
- Birthday celebrations

**A signed handbook acknowledgement is required for each child to attend school.**



Excellence in Catholic Education for 40 Years

## HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I/we acknowledge that I/we have received the Family Handbook, which includes the following items. Please initial each item.

- \_\_\_\_\_(Initial) Assessment Plan and Procedure (p. 14)
- \_\_\_\_\_(Initial) Tuition Policy (p. 13)
- \_\_\_\_\_(Initial) Discipline Procedure (p. 20)
- \_\_\_\_\_(Initial) Promotional/Media Release (p. 11):
- I/we  CONSENT or  OBJECT (check one) to the use of the name, portrait, voice or other likeness of my child for news releases, media, website, and promotional activities by St. Paul Catholic Church and Preschool or the Diocese of St. Petersburg. This consent/objection is subject to renewal at the beginning of each school year
- \_\_\_\_\_(Initial) Know Your Child's Day Care Center Brochure (Attached)
- \_\_\_\_\_(Initial) DCF Influenza Brochure (Attached)
- \_\_\_\_\_(Initial) Distracted Driver Form (Attached)
- \_\_\_\_\_(Initial) A Code of Conduct for Parents, Guardians, Caregivers, Volunteers, and Visitors of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of St. Petersburg (Attached)
- \_\_\_\_\_(Initial) My child may participate in snack and other special food activities

In addition, I/we have read and agree to follow all the policies and procedures contained in this Family Handbook

SIGNATURES REQUIRED: BOTH PARENTS AND/OR GUARDIANS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Child Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Please return this form to the school office no later than one week after your child enters our program.



## The Pyramid Model:

*Making a Difference for Children,  
Teachers, Programs and Families*

### Families

- Capacity to help promote child's social emotional development
- Teaming with teachers to help child grow and learn
- Support for preventing and addressing behavior problems



### Program

- Eliminate suspension and expulsion due to challenging behavior
- Improvement in readiness for Kindergarten
- Stronger support to teachers



### Teachers

- Improvement in children's social and emotional skills
- Reductions in disruptive behavior
- Partnerships with families to promote children's social development and prevent behavior problems



### Children

- Gains in social and emotional skills
- Reductions in challenging behavior
- Improvements in relationships with peers and adults
- Improvement in readiness for Kindergarten



**Dana C. Peña, M.A.**

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Facilitator

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Funding for services generously provided by



**Children's Board**  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY

[www.ChildrensBoard.org](http://www.ChildrensBoard.org)







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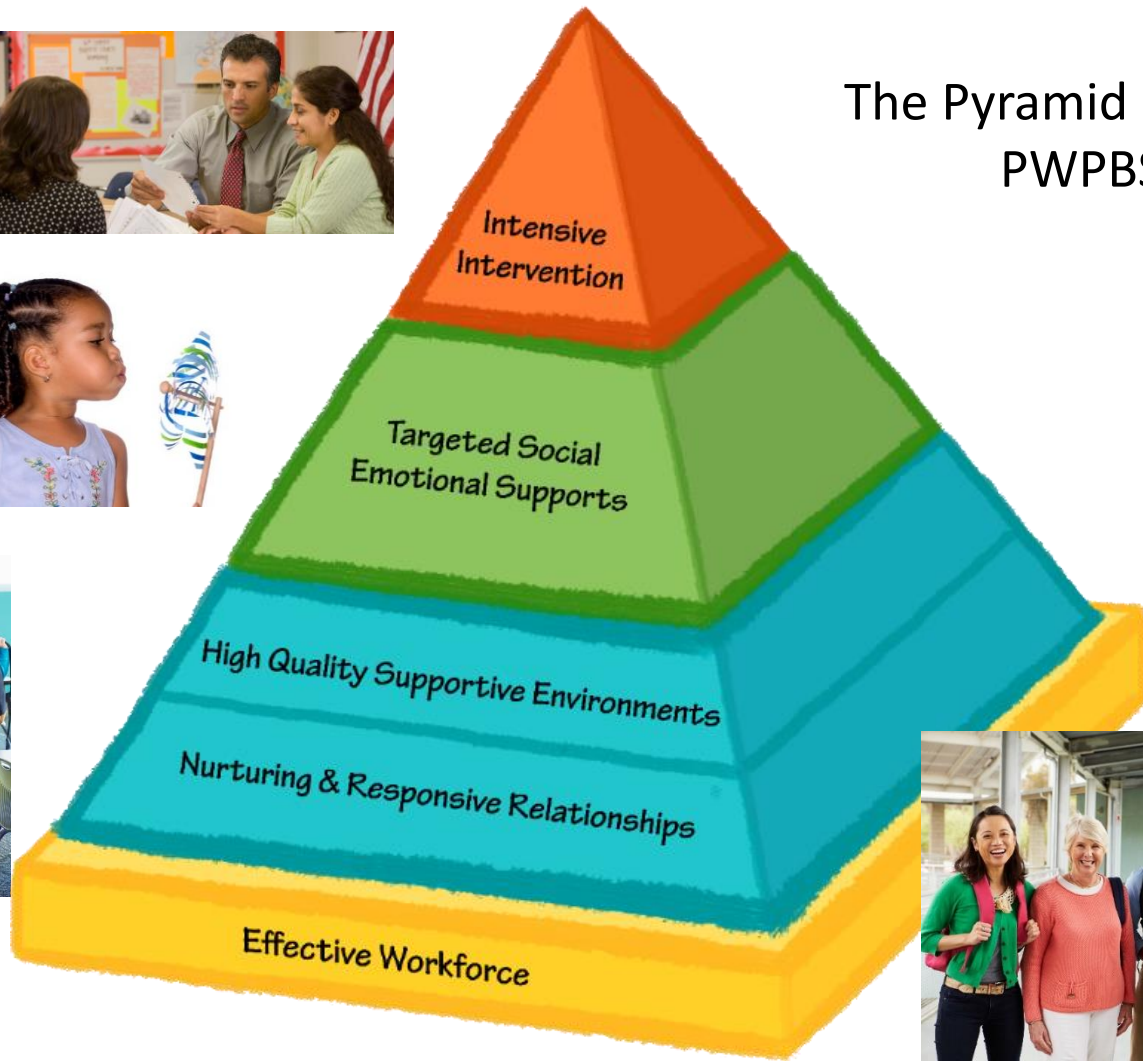
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## The Pyramid Model - PWPBS



# Expectations



We are **safe**  
Estamos **seguros**



We are **kind**  
Somos **bondadosos**



We are **responsible**  
Somos **responsables**

## Classroom Rules



Use walking feet

Use listening ears and  
quiet voices



We share and take turns

Use gentle hands and feet







**The Turtle Technique**

**Step 1. Recognize your feelings.**

**Step 2. Stop your body.**

**Step 3. Tuck inside your shell and take three deep breaths.**

**Step 4. Come out when you are calm and think of a solution.**

**ChallengingBehavior.org** Pub: 06/14/19  
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I can be a Super Friend when I...



**Ask To Play**



**Use Gentle Hands**



**Take Turns**



**Calm Down With  
Deep Breaths**



# What Having a Friend in Preschool Means for Later in Life Success

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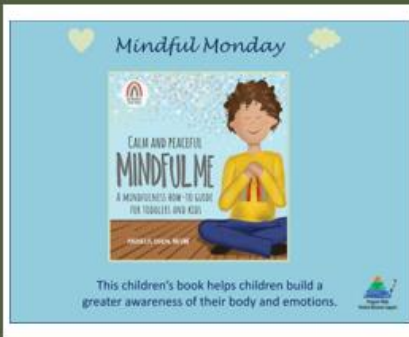
- Better academic skills
- Higher high school graduation rates
- Better adult employment status
- Greater chance of independent living
- Better adult mental health
- Less drug/alcohol use in teen years



Phil Strain and Ted Bovey, NTI 2018

## Resources:

<http://pwpbs.cbcs.usf.edu/>  
<https://challengingbehavior.org/>



# We ♥ parent volunteers!

How can I get involved in my child's school?

- Family Readers
- Assist With Fundraisers
- Donate Your Time
- Share Your Hobby
- Garden Helper
- Share Your Talents
- Room Parent
- Share Your Profession
- Help With Holidays & Special Events

**“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.”** - Elizabeth Andrew



# Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser & Silent Auction

Chairpersons:  
Katie Minch & Brittney Crespo

**Save the Date!**  
Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

# **We invite you to share your special gifts and talents with our school!**

In previous years, we've learned from musicians (guitar, keyboard, harp), a beekeeper, an arborist, police officers, firefighters, volunteers from Homemakers of Hope, a dentist, members of Gasparilla Krewes, dance instructors, and more!

**As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace.**

1 Peter 4:10

# Meet & Greet

- For parents/caregivers & the student
- Email invitation from your teacher to sign up for a date & time
- Come explore your classroom
- Talk to the teacher one-on-one & share important information
- Bring your school supplies & backpack

# Happy Feet Soccer

## Information Session





# **Back to School Fundraisers**

## **PDQ Gift Cards**

- One \$10 gift card for \$7
- Three \$10 gift cards for \$20

**Available for  
purchase after  
tonight's  
presentation**

## **SPCP School Shirts**

- \$10 each

**Cash, Check, & Credit Card Accepted**

Please join us for the  
Blessing of the New School Year Mass

St. Paul Catholic Church  
Sunday, August 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am  
\*Wear your St. Paul shirt\*

Students & Families

After Mass has ended, please join us  
on the steps of the altar for a group photo.

# Important Dates

August 13<sup>th</sup> - Blessing of the New School Year Mass  
@ 9 am

August 14<sup>th</sup> - First Day of School (M-F & M/W/F  
classes) & Boohtoo Breakfast

August 15<sup>th</sup> - First Day of School (T/Th classes)  
& Boohtoo Breakfast

September 4<sup>th</sup> - NO SCHOOL - Labor Day

September 15<sup>th</sup> - Grandparent's Day Celebration -  
8:00 am on the Pavilion

# Let's Keep in Touch!

Add to your email contacts so our communications go to your INBOX:

[mgeer@stpaulchurch.com](mailto:mgeer@stpaulchurch.com)

[jwaibel@stpaulchurch.com](mailto:jwaibel@stpaulchurch.com)

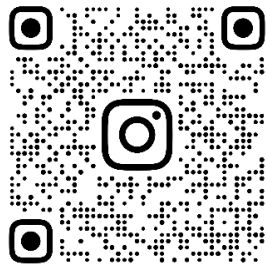
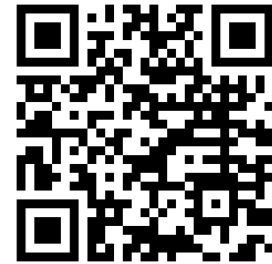
Your Teacher's Email



# Let's Be Social!

**Follow Us on Facebook**

@ St. Paul Catholic Preschool Tampa



SPCPTAMPA

**Join us on Instagram**

@spcptampa



**Preschool Website:**

[www.stpaulcatholicpreschool.org](http://www.stpaulcatholicpreschool.org)

# Our Closing Prayer

Lord,

Allow your grace to overtake those who are anxious, bring your spirit into all who are here to help the children that will be coming before us, allow us to continually grow in our faith, help us to always speak words of kindness and generosity, watch over these families as they travel home to their children, continue watching over these teachers as they get ready for the new school year. Give them wisdom and courage, kindness and a gentle hand as they take your most precious gifts in their classrooms this year.

Amen