

# K-2 Back to School Information

## 2023-2024



### **1. School Theme:**

Our school theme for the 2023-2024 school year is “Let Your Light Shine.” The Bible verses this is based on are from Matthew 5:14,16 which says, “You are the light of the world. A city located on a hill cannot be hidden...In the same way let your light shine in people’s presence, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.”

Our students will be receiving a t-shirt with this theme on it during the first part of September. We encourage them to wear it often and use it to share their faith and our school with others. When we have field trips and other whole-school activities we will ask the children to wear their special shirt, also.

### **2. Church Attendance**

By sending your child to a Christian school, you are showing how important Christian education is in your family. The teachers at St. John assist the parents in training their children in light of God’s Word. What is taught at school is reinforced by what parents teach their children about God’s Word at home. Families are strengthened, enriched, and encouraged when they worship in church on a regular basis. We expect our students to regularly attend and participate in worship services. What a wonderful opportunity we have each week to gather in the Lord’s house!

#### **Singing in Church**

Our school children are scheduled to sing in Sunday worship services throughout the year. This is a great opportunity for them to share the gospel message about our Savior and raise their voices in praise to our Lord. While we understand that there are several of our school families that belong to other churches, we ask you to try to have your child at the services that we sing in, if at all possible. If you are unable to make it, please let me know before the singing date so we can plan for their absence. There will be several times we will record the school children singing a song for the worship service. We have done this for a few years now and it works out rather well, since all the children can be there. The recording was shown as part of the worship service. When we record we usually do it after chapel on Friday mornings. We will let you know ahead of time so your child can wear their Theme T-shirt that day.

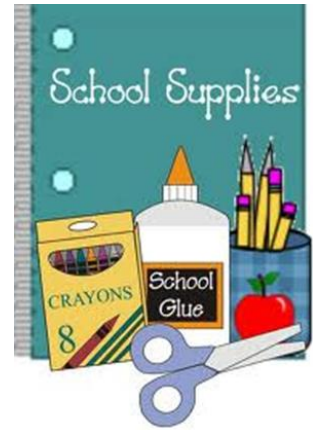
### **3. Class schedule**

A class schedule will be sent home the first day of school. If you have appointments that will require you to pick up your child from school, this will allow you to see what classes they will

miss. Generally, an appointment after lunch allows them to participate in most of our core subjects.

#### 4. Supply list

This is posted during July on our website and a hard copy went home in the summer mailing. I encourage you to grab extra supplies when you shop so you will have extras at home in case your child runs out during the school year. If your child runs out of something I will let you know so you can send more along to school.



**A word or two about shoes:** In an effort to help keep our school building clean, we have our children change shoes when they go outside and have a different – clean – pair for inside. I know this is an additional expense, but it really helps. Please make sure your child has a spare pair of clean shoes that will stay at school. Their outside play shoes should be ones that fit well and fasten securely with Velcro or laces (**if they know how to tie**), or they can be a slip-on athletic shoe. Please make sure their shoes fit well and has a closed toe so when they are climbing on the play structure or kicking a ball they are less likely to injure their feet. During the winter their outside shoes change to winter boots, and their clean and dry inside shoes will be ready to use in the classroom.

**Spare clothes: As you know - as careful as we might be - sometimes spills and accidents happen. Because of this, I am asking each child to have a few items of clothing kept here at school...just in case. Please send along: a pair of socks, underwear, and pants (jeans or sweatpants are fine) and a shirt.** Please put them into a gallon sized zip bag clearly marked with their name on the outside. If your child needs to use their spare clothes, the soiled ones will be sent home in a bag so they can be washed. Then please send replacement spare clothes with your child the next day.

#### 5. Folders

The **Take Home** folder will have finished papers and notes in it. First grade students will have a math fact practice page to do at home and return in the morning (starting later during the first quarter) and weekly spelling lists. Finished papers will have a grade, sticker, or some kind of marking on the top so you know we are done with it. Those papers can be taken out of the folder and are yours to keep. There will be a weekly note from me coming home on Mondays and will be posted on the school's website under the "Parent Resources" tab. There will be a weekly school-wide newsletter sent out on Wednesdays as well.

#### 6. Christ-light

Students have a spiral bound **Christ-light** book in their desk. The book will have all the Bible lessons for the school year in it. If your child is missing from school, I will send it home with the page marked, so you can read the lesson with your child.

## 7. Memory Treasure Calendar

Each month a Memory Treasure calendar will be sent home and posted on our website (again under the “Parent Resources” tab). **The calendar lists what should be learned and recited that day when children arrive at school.** Plan to study some memory work several days of the week. The first grade curriculum for Memory Treasures includes Bible passages, the 10 Commandments with the meaning, the Lord’s Prayer, the Apostles’ Creed and hymns. The Kindergarten curriculum has mostly songs, the 10 Commandments, and Bible passages. We will practice these at school, but they will take review at home to really get them into their long-term memory. Every child is different and what may take one child 2 minutes to learn may take another 20 minutes. Learning something “by heart” or memorizing can be difficult for some children, but God’s Word is an important part of our curriculum and is a treasure to have. In no way, do I want you and your child to come to despise learning God’s Word because it takes “so long” to learn. If you find your child is struggling a lot with memory work, please talk to me and we’ll work together to find a solution appropriate for your child.

## 8. Volunteer List

There are opportunities for volunteering at school. Consider lending a hand with preparing hot lunch on Fridays or chaperoning a field trip. This is a great way for parents to show their children how much they care about them and their education. We use a web based program called “Sign-Up Genius” as a tool to manage volunteers. Please check this out on our website.



## 9. Behavior Policy

For learning to take place, our classroom environment needs to be a safe place where children can listen, concentrate, and share their thoughts and ideas with their classmates. For that to happen, students need to show respect to each other and their teachers. This means being quiet when classes are going on and the teacher or a classmate is speaking, participating in the conversation when it is their turn, and keeping their hands, feet, and other objects to themselves. At times, students forget and the learning environment we strive for is disrupted. If that happens, I will respond with a verbal reminder two times. If the disruptive behavior continues to a third time the student will have a 5 minute time-out. The time-out is for them to “reset” themselves, think about their behavior, and be able to rejoin us ready to learn. If negative behavior continues throughout the day and the child has another time-out, I will either send you a note or call you about what has been happening during the day.

At the end of the day all students that have been good listeners and helped keep a good learning environment in our room will get to have a sticker on their individual behavior chart attached to their homework folder before leaving for the day. If a child has had a time out, they will not get the sticker. Instead you will see an X with my initials next to it, so you know

they did not earn a sticker for the day. I urge you to talk with your child that evening about their behavior and encourage them to think about how their actions effect their own learning and the other children in the classroom.

## 10. School Hours

Our school hours are from **8:00 to 2:55**. The doors of our building will be opened to students at 7:45 a.m. Students are expected to be in their desks ready to begin the day promptly at 8:00. Your child's safety is very important to us, **if your child will be late or absent, please let me know with a note, text, or phone call as soon as possible. (Feel free to text my cell number 507-327-4421.)**

Every Monday morning our faculty has a devotion and morning meeting together. We usually adjourn by 7:40. Dropping your child off extra early (prior to 7:45) is something we discourage, as children will be unsupervised at that time. If there is some reason that your child must arrive earlier than 7:45, please contact me so we can make arrangements. **Unless special arrangements have been made, students should not come to school before 7:45 a.m.**

When school ends at 2:55, students are dismissed and either go into the bus lines or wait to be picked up. If your child gets picked up, they will be dismissed after the buses have driven away. (This is a safety precaution – we don't want anyone crossing in front of the buses.) If you come to pick up before the busses are gone, please wait in your vehicle until the busses have left the parking lot. You can either park or form a line behind the buses. After the students taking the bus are gone, the remaining students line up by the front doors and wait with until their ride arrives. Parents picking up their children can pull forward and wait in their vehicle. When the teachers see the parent pull up, we will send out the child(ren) for that family.

## 11. Lunch

Monday through Thursday students should bring a bag lunch to school. We have a microwave in our classroom for the children to use, if needed. If your child will be using the microwave, it should be a quick 30-60 second warm up. Please be sure to send their food to be heated in something that is microwave safe. As you pack your child's lunch, be sure to include the fork or spoon for them to use. I have a few on hand in case one is lost or occasionally forgotten, but in general parents should supply their own for their child.



**Hot Lunch** - Fridays are hot lunch days. Mrs. Sargent is in charge of the hot lunch program. Parents often will volunteer to do hot lunch for the school the week of their child's birthday, or any other week they have available. Hot

lunch costs students \$2.00 and is paid on Friday morning. If they prefer not to have hot lunch, that is fine. They should just bring a bag lunch that day. Some parents providing the meal donate the money raised to a specific school fund, others use the money to off-set the cost of making the meal. That is completely up to the people making the meal. Just talk to Mrs. Sargent if you would like to help with the lunch program. There is a sign-up on our school website under the “Sign-up Genius” tab.

## 12. Snacks and Water

Children are encouraged to bring a healthy midmorning snack to school each day, which they may eat just after our first recess break. Students may also bring a water bottle to keep at their desks. Please make sure the water bottles have a water-proof sealed top that your child can easily open and close.

## 13. Friday Chapel

Friday mornings we have a special chapel service with the whole school. Different area pastors, staff ministers, and our Principal/5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher – Mr. Aguilar – serve as leaders throughout the year. Teachers and students coming together for worship is a great way to end our week. During chapel an offering is collected for different mission projects. This is a great opportunity for children to learn and practice giving an offering to the Lord. Please consider having a special place in your home for your child(ren) to put some money aside for the Lord’s work.

## 14. School Closings

If there is bad weather moving through the area we may have a late start or school closing.

Please watch the news for information if this happens. We are located between two districts, the Peshtigo School District and the Coleman School District, so **if either one closes or has a late start, we will also.** We will also send out a notification using the “Remind” app. If you have not already downloaded the app, I encourage you to do so.



## 15. Show and Tell

On Fridays we will have a time for “Show and Tell.” Children are invited to bring along something they would like to share with the class each week. Please make sure it is an item they can carry themselves and it should fit in their backpack. While fun to share, really big items are unwieldy and difficult to keep contained by their coat hooks. If children want to talk about something at home that is not a “fit in the backpack” item, consider printing out a picture of it to send in. They can talk about it and still show their special item to their friends.

## 17. Contact Information

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. One of the best ways to get hold of me is by email or text (for quick questions or messages). My email address is [smyslik@stjohnpeshtigo.org](mailto:smyslik@stjohnpeshtigo.org) My cell number is: 507-327-4421 (it is a MN area code, just so you know). If I am unavailable (I don't answer calls while I am teaching a class) please leave a message or send a text, I will get back to you as soon as I can. If it is an emergency, call the school landline 715-582-4565 and either Mrs. Sargent or Mr. Aguilar will get me.

## 18. In Closing...

I am super excited about the coming year! I am very eager to work with you and your children. My favorite part of each day is sharing God's Word with these little lambs. I feel very privileged and humbled that you have entrusted your children with me, and I will do my best to give them a Christ-centered, safe, caring, and academically excellent education.

Lord's blessings,

Mrs. Myslik

