



**MISS JOAN'S**  
*Little School*

Est 1982

1411 Erbs Mill Road  
Blue Bell, PA 19422

[www.missjoanslittleschool.com](http://www.missjoanslittleschool.com)

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- Preschool
- Extended Care
- Summer Camp
- Ages 18mths – 5yrs

***Krista Alessandrini, M.Ed***  
**Owner**

***Gina Feliccitti, BS***  
**Director**

# MISS JOAN'S LITTLE SCHOOL



Dear Parents,

Thank you for your interest in Miss Joan's Little School. We are pleased to enclose information about our preschool.

Miss Joan's Little School is a preschool with a caring and dedicated staff experienced in helping children since 1982. Our staff has been here at Miss Joan's for many years, providing a stable and consistent environment throughout our school year and summer sessions. Miss Joan's is our only preschool center, therefore dedicating FULL ATTENTION to our students.

You will be more than pleased with our spacious and cheerful classrooms, caring staff, and stimulating, well-rounded programs. Our classes are for children ages eighteen months to PreK.

Please call and make an appointment to tour our facility and observe a class. You will also have the time to talk about any questions or concerns. Please ask for our current visitor policy due to the pandemic.

Our classes are filled on a first come basis. Applications are accepted up to one year in advance for the Toddler class. If you wish to enroll, please return the application form with the registration fees.

We encourage you to tour our school and meet our dedicated and experienced staff. We look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

Krista Alessandrini, M.Ed  
Owner

## Our Philosophy

We at Miss Joan's Little School believe that a preschool, in order to promote the development of a positive self-image in a child, should provide a safe environment with loving and concerned teachers. The school should make available stimulating experiences to help a child grow physically, cognitively, emotionally, socially, and creatively, according to one's individual needs and stage of development.



The atmosphere here is one of love and acceptance, informality and relaxation. We provide an appropriate balance of structure and self-initiated activities to meet the needs of the young child.



## What Preschool Means to a Child

Preschool is a "home away from home" to the little child. It is a time to be curious, discover, develop, and grow with our help and support.

## Our Staff

Miss Joan's Little School is a private school licensed by the Department of Public Welfare. We participate in the PA Keystone Stars Program and our director and teachers are members of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYCE).



Teachers are certified with degrees in Education and many years of experience. All of our teachers continue training through classes and workshops each year. Our staff meets and exceeds PA State requirements in all aspects of early learning.

## Our Facility



Our facility is designed to fit the preschool child. Our center has been planned and built to allow the student to learn in a child-sized world around them. Our classrooms are spacious and modern, yet are in a building with a "home away from home" feel. Each classroom contains its own child sized bathroom. The playgrounds are completely enclosed, and there is a separate playground for the toddler class. Playground equipment includes swings, slides, sandboxes, and basketball. Additionally, we have an open field, trike track, and garden!

# Classroom Routines and Activities

- Arrival, Organized Free Play and Choice Activities
- Clean-up for academic program
- Circle Time –welcome, pledge of allegiance, calendar, weather
- Reading & Math Readiness Program
- Snack
- Music Program or Presentation
- Outdoor Choice Time and Games
- Art
- Finger Plays & Story Time
- Show & Tell
- Handwashing
- Lunch
- Rest Time 12:30 to 2:30  
(\*\*toddlers are required to nap)
- Snack
- Outdoor Activities
- Independent Free Play



## Calendar

The school year runs from September through June. Summer camp is available throughout the summer, and organized around weekly themes. Summer camp is taught by the same teachers and assistants.

- Half Day..... 9:00AM – 12:15PM
- School Day ..... 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Extended Day ..... 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Two – Five day options

School will be closed on the following days. Any additional days will be given prior to the start of the school year.

- New Year’s Day
- Martin Luther King Jr.
- President’s Day
- Spring Break (Friday and Monday)
- Memorial Day
- Fourth of July
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Break (Thursday and Friday)
- Winter Break (week between Christmas and New Year’s)

Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

# Classrooms

## Toddler Classroom(Class C)-18 months to 36 months

Our number one goal is for our toddlers to look forward to coming to preschool. We want them to feel loved and part of the community while here. We believe that at this young age meeting their most basic need of belonging is most important. Our teachers build relationships with our toddlers while helping the boys and girls develop friendships and reach developmental milestones.

Some activities the children are presented with include: stories, felt board activities, parachute games, beanbag games, balance beam, limbo dance, arts and crafts, and so much more.

## Preschool Classroom (Class B)-3 year olds

As our children progress to the nursery classroom our goal is help our children continue to develop and gain independence. We strive to continue to grow their knowledge, build prosocial relationships, and self-regulation skills. We guide them in finding their independence, yet still providing the loving nurture and care needed at this age.

Some activities the children are presented with include a variety of stories and manipulatives, creative games, letter crafts, painting, and more.

## Pre-K Classroom (Class A)-4 year olds

Once our child advance to the Pre-K classroom, our goal is to foster independence, self-help and a love of learning; while getting the children fully prepared for Kindergarten. We provide love and support as the children transition from preschoolers to Kindergarteners.

We practice our curriculum through games, show & tell, songs, arts & crafts, and other fun activities.



## Curriculum



Miss Joan's Little School has selected **The Creative Curriculum**, a PA Early Childhood, Keystone Stars, and NAEYC approved curriculum of excellence, due to its child-centered approach to learning. It is also a play-based curriculum in which classroom environment and center activities are key components in the learning process. Classes A & B

enjoy the Creative Curriculum for *Preschool*, while Class C is in the *Infants to Toddlers* program. The Preschool Curriculum is presented thematically based around units. The units included are: Beginning of the School Year, Trees, Clothing, Balls, Buildings, and Recycle, Reduce, and Reuse. These themes are literature and activity based. The Infants and Toddlers Program is presented in a variety of activities that allow the children to work toward benchmarks and development as aligned through the Pennsylvania Early Learning Standards Guide. Both programs provide opportunities for individual and, small and large group activities. The numerous activities provided in the curriculum allow for the concepts to be presented in multiple ways to reach all learners.

[www.teachingstrategies.com](http://www.teachingstrategies.com)

In addition to The Creative Curriculum, the Pre-K children in Class A work through the **Learning Without Tears** (LWT) program. This is an award winning GET SET for SCHOOL Pre-K program. The *My First Schoolbook* helps children learn joyfully with multisensory readiness activities where children of different abilities develop and practice crucial readiness and pre-writing skills. The second book is *Kick Start Kindergarten* and is an extension of the first schoolbook. This book introduces student to lowercase letters, provides additional phonological awareness and fine motor skill-building.

[www.hwtears.com](http://www.hwtears.com)

**naeyc**<sup>®</sup>



## Focus Areas



### **Language and Literacy Development**

Expression and discussion of ideas and experiences  
Confidence in self-expression  
Listen for purpose, direction, or information  
Public Speaking and Sharing  
Interest in books

Hear like sounds in rhyming words  
Finger plays – poems  
Follow sequences  
Discover likenesses or differences in form, size, number, ideas  
Interpret pictures  
Visual and auditory learning  
Recognition of Letters  
Phonemic Awareness  
Printing Name and Letters

### **Social Studies Thinking**

Flag of the United States  
United States of America as our home  
Understanding of home and community  
Work, share, and play safely!  
Participate as group member  
Assume responsibilities  
Holidays  
Recognize address and telephone number

### **Math Readiness**

Shapes, calendar, clock  
Counting, number recognition and concepts, patterns  
Vocabulary (large, few, many, etc.)

### **The World Around Us and Our Bodies**

Fine Motor  
Gross Motor  
Obeying traffic signals  
Nutrition education  
Body awareness – daily exercise / daily fitness program  
Seasons  
Weather  
Five senses  
Computer skills in each classroom  
Cooking  
Hands-on-experiments  
Singing  
Dancing and music appreciation



# Skill Building

These below listed skills our focus areas as the children move through our program. They are focused on at each age appropriate level.



## **Self Help**

- Potty training (Class C)
- Gaining independence during mealtimes
- Be responsible for bathroom needs (Classes B & A)
- Take care of personal items such as toys, coats, mittens, hats, etc.

## **Social Abilities**

- Learning how to interact with teachers and peers
- Continuous language development
- Learn how to work and play in a group
  - Problem solving
  - Citizenship and friendship



## **Cognitive Learning**

- Listening and following simple directions
- Focusing in group situations, especially at story time and circle time
- Listen and understand stories in a group
- Following directions
- Learning through songs each month
- Classification, sorting, patterns

# Curriculum Enhancements



## **Wee Play Language Program**

All classes meet twice per month! Wee Play is a hands-on Spanish language program that is taught through the use of specially designed magnetic playsets, toys, games, books and songs. Each student always has a full set of their own materials so they are always fully engaged for the entire lesson. In addition to learning Spanish, the classes also teach and reinforce a number of other essential skills for preschoolers, such as following directions, organizing materials, hand-eye coordination, communication, global awareness, working memory, confidence, verbal expression and listening skills.



## **STEAM Classroom Learning**

### **SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGY-ENGINEERING-ART-MATH**

Twice per month we have a school-wide STEAM Day! The focus of the day is listed on the monthly calendar. While the focus for the school is the same (ie: pumpkins, seeds, etc), each classroom will partake in a different STEAM component and related activity.

## **Amazing Athletes!**

Amazing Athletes program joins us during the summer and some school year visits. It is a mobile program that bring kids sports and fitness classes right to our playgrounds! The program includes age-appropriate equipment and activities for each child.



## **Monthly Assemblies**

Check your child's newsletter or school postings for the exciting event of the month. It may be a Magic Show, Pony Rides, Artist, or a Live Animal Show. It's always a fun surprise!



# Special Events Throughout Year

Birthday Celebrations

Monthly National Days

Fire Prevention, Fire Drills, & Fire Company Visits

Pumpkin Patch

Halloween Parades

Thanksgiving Feast

Pre-K Holiday Show for Parents

Holiday Party!

Pajama Day

Dental Puppet Show

Donuts with Dad

Valentine's Parties

Read Across America

My Special Person Day Visits

Magic Shows

Butterfly Hatching & Release

End of Year Shows

Mother's Day Program

Pre-K Graduation



# Communication



## Open Communication

We always keep open communication with our families. We are accessible during drop off and pick up to touch base. The director can be emailed anytime. You will also receive information through email and in your child's backpack. If you need to speak formally with any staff, we are happy to set up a meeting and provide coverage for staff to attend.

## Newsletters

Classroom teachers send home monthly newsletters to keep all families current. Information will include topics of study, special events, reminders, and announcements.



## Montgomery County Intermediate Unit and Services



We work as part of your child's team. Families are encouraged to share service plans with us to help us best meet the needs of the children.

## Reports



Toddler Room-the children receive daily reports in their



mailboxes. Reports include information on eating, diapers/potty, rest, activities, behavior and supplies (ie: diapers, wipes, etc)needed.

Preschool & Pre-K Rooms-the children receive nap notes daily in their lunches to let you know if they have napped.



## Progress Reports



Progress Reports are completed three times per year school wide. They are distributed in

November, January, and June. The November is an early transition report. The January and June reports are based around milestones and benchmarks. In January formal conferences are offered for each child. If additional conference time is needed, it can be requested.

## Class Tag

We use Class Tag for daily updates about the classroom, picture sharing and electronic communication with your child's teacher. It is a private website/app that our families are invited to join. You will receive pictures and information and be notified when they are posted. You have the ability to save the pictures! You can also message with your child's teacher.



**Thank you for your interest and visiting Miss Joan's Little School!**



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## What Makes Us So Special ?

- Small, cozy, family-like environment
- Safe, clean environment following the EPA "green cleaning" guidelines for ECE
- Excellent school to home communication; always accessible
- Dedication to community
- Low teacher to child ratio *exceeding* state requirements
- Most Amazing Staff:
  - ~ 11 staff members hold degrees including 2 Special education degrees & 1 Masters in Education
  - ~ Entire staff averages over 15+ years of early learning experience
  - ~ **Low teacher turnover** with MJLS teachers on staff for 5, 15, 20+ years!
  - ~ Extensive training in CPR/first aide with latest updates for children with allergies
  - ~ Continued training on the latest trends in early childhood development
- Five large, safe outdoor play areas. Learning experiences through outdoor play is valued and encouraged
- Vegetable and flower garden, bike track, sandboxes, and gross motor equipment
- **Two** nationally accredited child-centered curriculums for all ages
- Variety of assessments including screenings, portfolios, formal reports, conferences
- Outside programs with no additional fees such as Jump Bunch, Music, and STEAM
- Exciting special events to promote family involvement
- **Above all, getting to know and love each child and family, like they're family!**



