



MISS JOAN'S Little School

Est 1982

1411 Erbs Mill Road
Blue Bell, PA 19422

www.missjoanslittleschool.com



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

Contact us:

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gina@missjoanslittleschool.com

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.

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,

Miss Joan's Little School

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 hold 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 (day after Labor Day) through June (second Friday).

Summer camp is available throughout the summer, and organized around weekly themes. Summer camp is a separate registration and program. Camp information will be available after Presidents' Day.

- School Day 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
- Extended Day 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM

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)
- Teacher In-Service Days
- Memorial Day
- Fourth of July
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Break (Thursday and Friday)
- Winter Break (week between Christmas and New Year's)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Classrooms

Toddler Classroom(Explorers-Room 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 (Imagineers-Room B)-3 year olds

As our children progress to the preschool 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 (Voyagers-Room 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 Kindergarten.

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





CURRICULUM

Miss Joan's Little School has selected **FunnyDaffer Education, Early Childhood 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. Each of our classrooms enjoy the Funnydaffer curriculum for their age group that 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. The program provides 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.



In addition, Funnydaffer, the Preschool and Pre-K children work through the **Learning Without Tears** (LWT) program. This is an award winning GET SET for SCHOOL Pre-K program. Children begin an introduction to the curriculum and mastering pre-writing skills in the Imagineers class before transitioning to the Voyagers classroom. 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 *My Lowercase Book* and is an extension of the first schoolbook. This book introduces student to lowercase letters, provides additional phonological awareness and fine motor skill-building.

Follow the links below for more detailed information:

www.hwtears.com

<https://funnydaffer.com/>



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
- Pledge of Allegiance
- 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 (Explorers)
- Gaining independence during mealtimes
- Be responsible for bathroom needs (Imagineers and Voyagers)
- 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.



Assemblies

Check your child's newsletter or school postings for exciting events. It may be a Fire Truck Visit, Magic Show, Pony Rides, Artist, Author or a Live Animal Show. It's always a fun surprise!



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.

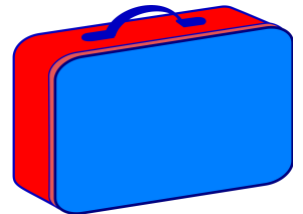
Preschool Room-the children receive nap notes daily in their lunches to let you know if they have napped.

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 conjunction with our formal curriculum. In January, formal conferences are offered for each child. If additional conference time is needed, it can be requested at any time.

Meals and Food:

***Every child must bring a lunch bag to school to house all personal food during the day.**



Snack

Children have snack at 10am and 3pm. Children pack and bring one snack to school (AM-Explorers; PM-Imagineers and Voyagers. Miss Joan's Little School provides the second snack (AM-Imagineers and Voyagers; PM-Explorers)

Lunch

Children bring packed lunch from home to school. Miss Joan's Little School Staff will refrigerate and heat up lunches. All food must be labeled and utensils provided from home.

Allergies

Our school is completely nut free; both peanuts and tree nuts are restricted from coming to school. Teachers will manage all other allergies in the classroom. Children with allergies must provide a complete action plan, medication, and bring their own snacks.

Special Events Throughout Year

Birthday Celebrations

Monthly National Days

Fire Prevention, Fire Drills, & Fire Company Visits

Pumpkin Patch

Halloween Parade

Fall Festival

Thanksgiving Feast

Pre-K Holiday Show for Parents

Holiday Party!

Pajama Day

Dental Puppet Show

Fun with My Favorite Guy

Valentine's Parties

Read Across America

Magic Shows

Butterfly Hatching & Release

End of Year Shows

Mother's Day Program

Imagineer Art Show

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.



New Family Orientation

We meet with new families before your child's first day to get to know all about the children and reviews specifics about Miss Joan' Little School. Children spend time in the classroom while we meet.

Our Software: Playground App

We use the Playground software to provide parents with daily updates about our school and classroom, share photos, and offer direct communication with your child's teacher. It is a private website/app that our families are invited to join. You will receive these daily pictures and reports and will be notified when they are posted. This app also provides the flexibility of making timely tuition payments, and also has an auto-pay set up feature. Follow the link below for more information.



www.tryplayground.com

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



What Makes Us So Special ?

- Small, loving, family-like environment
- Safe, clean facilities following the most updated health & safety guidelines
- Excellent daily home to school communication through various means
- Dedication to the community
- Low teacher to child ratio ***exceeding*** state requirements
- Most Amazing Staff:
 - ~ Degreed teachers including special education degrees & Masters in Education
 - ~ Entire staff averages over 15+ years of early learning experience
 - ~ Low teacher turnover with MJLS teachers remaining on staff for 5, 15, 20+ years!
 - ~ Extensive training in CPR/first aide with latest updates for children with allergies
 - ~ Continued training and education on the latest trends in early childhood development
- Five large, enclosed outdoor play areas. Learning experiences through outdoor play is valued and encouraged!
- Garden, bike track, sandboxes, shade coverings and gross motor equipment
- Two nationally accredited child-centered curriculums
- Variety of assessments including screenings, portfolios, formal reports, conferences
- Outside programs with no additional fees such as Early Languages/Spanish and shows
- **Above all, getting to know and love each child and family, like family!**

