

**SAN JOSE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL
FAMILY HANDBOOK**



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License: # 443410829 and #434413583

(The State of California Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing Division).

Days and Hours of Operation

The Preschool and Infant Center are open from 7:00am to 6:00pm, Monday through Friday; year-round.

Mission Statement

The mission of San Jose Christian School is to advance the Kingdom of God by providing exceptional teaching and curriculum fully integrated with biblical perspective. Within our committed Christian community, we live to engage and transform culture for Jesus Christ.

Statement of Faith

San Jose Christian School was founded by believers from area Reformed Churches, for the purpose of educating their children for Christian life and service. The Board of Directors and Staff of San Jose Christian School hold to the following Statement of Faith:

- The Bible is the inspired and infallible Word of God and is the ultimate source of truth and authority in all matters of our faith and life.
- There is only one God, who is eternal and all-powerful, the Sovereign God of heaven and earth. He created the universe and everything in it and maintains sovereign control over all things. He exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- God created man, both male and female, in His image. This is what separates us from the animals and all other forms of life. However, our forefather Adam disobeyed God and, as our representative, brought sin and death to the entire human race. The result is that all humans are born sinful, are unable, on their own, to please God, and deserve death and eternal punishment. This means that every person needs renewal and restoration; we are in need of God's grace.
- Jesus Christ came to renew and restore. He is the true God and true man who died on the cross for our sins. All whom God called to believe in Him and repent have the forgiveness of sins and new life through the Holy Spirit. This is possible because Jesus Himself was raised from the dead. He ascended into heaven where He now rules as Lord. He will return to make all things new, judging all who have ever lived.
- God has commanded believers to train their children in this faith and to recognize the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all areas of their lives. This is best

accomplished when parents use three God-given agencies: the Christian home, the Christian school, and the Christian church.

Purpose:

- Support and strengthen spiritual priorities of the home and church.
- Stimulate academic excellence.
- Give proper attention to physical and social growth development.
- Provide experience for making moral choices regarding stewardship, social relationships, leisure time use, and entertainment.
- Encourage creative growth through the fine arts.
- Prepare students for Christian leadership by providing:
 - an academic community in which teaching and learning are highly esteemed;
 - a Christian community of parents, teachers, and students in which the love of Jesus Christ is radiantly evident; and
 - a commitment to excellence at all levels and in all subject areas.

Admission Policy:

- San Jose Christian School believes it can most effectively carry out its mission and goals when its efforts are balanced with effective spiritual nurturing in the home and in the church. Consequently, SJCS primarily admits students whose parents (guardians) provide this balance. The spiritual teaching in the home and church should be consistent with SJCS's Statement of Faith. When this is not the case, SJCS may admit students whose parents (guardians) are striving to achieve this balance.
- The academic readiness of applicants will be reviewed for acceptability and appropriate class placement. Final application acceptance is contingent upon mutual agreement by SJCS and the parents (guardians) as to the appropriate class entry level.
- Once accepted, continued attendance at SJCS is subject to the student successfully maintaining the standards set forth above and in the student policies, as well as fulfillment of the financial responsibilities identified in the SJCS Financial Policies.
- When admission is not in the best interest of the school or the applicant, the board may deny admission to an applicant. SJCS does not refuse admission of students based on race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap.

Classroom Ages and Locations:

Caterpillars (Infant) | Ages 6-weeks to 2 years | Room 9

Butterflies | Ages 2 years (“younger”) | Room 10

Grasshoppers | Ages 2 years (“older”) to 3 years (“younger”) | Room 11

Dragonflies | Ages 3 years | Room 2

Fireflies | Ages 4 years | Room 1

Philosophy and Curriculum

San Jose Christian Preschool utilizes exploratory and child-initiated learning. We believe that children learn best when they explore and construct an understanding of the world within an intentionally prepared learning environment. The teacher’s role is to guide learning by preparing a richly educational classroom in which each child can thrive. Using brain-based research and age-appropriate methods, the teacher provides activities that lead to cognitive learning benefits. Even seemingly simple activities can produce meaningful results. For example, consider a sand table with different-sized containers. By pouring a larger container of sand into a small sized container, a child is experimenting with conservation and measurement, along with developing muscle memory for pouring.

The best way to help children succeed in learning is to teach them to be creative, confident thinkers. This means offering each child an opportunity for hands-on exploration and discovery, which in turn helps build lifelong critical thinking skills and fosters confidence.

A positive student outcome consists of demonstrating positive approaches to learning. These include engaging in self-guided activities, displaying persistence, and practicing problem-solving skills. Showing curiosity, motivation, flexibility and inventiveness in thinking are goals of our program. Children will learn to connect prior learning to current challenges, recognize patterns, and practice memory techniques to form a strong foundation for lifelong learning. Children should also be able to use classification skills and understand simple symbols. Lastly, children will engage and perform in socio-dramatic play, learning the social skills that will assist them throughout their life.

All of this learning happens in a Christ-centered environment in which each child is known as an individual learner. Through a strong partnership and regular communication with parents, our Preschool will help foster character development, spiritual growth, and academic learning that will prepare children for a long and productive academic career.

Conferences & Assessments

Parents are kept well informed about all of our activities at San Jose Christian through classroom calendars, bulletin board announcements, newsletters, and e-mail.

Parents will be offered an opportunity to formally meet with the teacher during our scheduled conferences once a year, in November. This provides both the parents and the teachers the chance to share valuable information about the child's adjustment to school, academic progress and social/emotional progress.

Additional conferences may be scheduled at any other time, at the request of the parents, teachers, or director, as needed.

Assessment of each child's growth and development is an ongoing process in the preschool classroom. It is the process of observing, documenting, and evaluating what a child knows, what a child understands, and what a child can already do. Assessment opportunities are embedded in the various activities the teacher has planned for the day. Ongoing assessment occurs in the context of the daily classroom activities.

Assessment has two main purposes. The first is to help the teacher create a plan for instruction to meet the individual needs of each child. The second is to provide a clear picture of each child's strengths and weaknesses to the child's family.

Teachers use a variety of techniques and materials to collect information about each child's progress, including observation, anecdotal notes, work samples, photos, checklists, and communication from the child's home and family culture. The teachers will use this information to help plan meaningful learning opportunities for each child. Curriculum and lesson plans can then be adjusted to meet the needs of individual children.

Our program does not use norm referenced assessment tools. Our assessment tools are teacher developed, and engaging for young children. Our assessment approach of gathering information is systematic, but informal and non-stressful for the child.

Enrollment

Your child's schedule will be agreed upon during the enrollment process. San Jose Christian does not permit makeup or trading days. Pre-arranged drop in is available, if needed. Please contact the Director if you would like to do a drop-in day.

If you wish to change your schedule during the year, please speak to the Director. Accommodations for adding additional days will be based on availability and staffing.

Families need to provide a minimum of two week's notice when wishing to end services provided by San Jose Christian Preschool. This request will need to be given in writing (email is acceptable). All tuition balances should be paid in full before your child's last day of school.

San Jose Christian Preschool runs year-round. Families who choose to take the summer off will need to pay a hold fee, in order to hold their spot for the subsequent school year.

Attendance

It is important that your child comes to school when scheduled and on time. School begins promptly at 8:30 everyday. Coming to school late can often disturb the children who are already in class. It also causes a child to get behind when they miss certain activities.

When your child is absent, or will be late, please notify the office, your child's teacher, or the Director to let them know. Please call the school's main line (408) 371-7741.

**For parents who use extended hours from 5pm-6pm, please be aware there is a late pick-up charge of \$5.00 per child for the first five minutes, and then an additional \$3.00 each minute thereafter.

Discipline Policy

San Jose Christian Preschool uses positive methods of discipline that encourage self-control, self-direction, self-esteem, and cooperation in a firm, consistent manner. We will try to prevent discipline problems by providing a stimulating, safe, caring atmosphere and by guiding the children through difficult situations.

The following methods are used:

1st infraction: Talk to the child. A staff member will talk to the child in the moment regarding their behavior. We will talk about what kind of behavior is acceptable and appropriate for school. We hope to empower the student to make good decisions regarding their behavior.

2nd infraction: Redirection. If a child continues with a behavior after talking with them, they will be re-directed to a different activity. This can provide the child with the opportunity to start over and make wise choices.

3rd infraction: Change of Heart Time: At times, it will be beneficial for a child to be separated from the group or activity, in order to calm down and to regain compliance. They will sit quietly in the classroom in order to have a “change of heart” and calm themselves. This is the time to sit and reflect on their behavior. The time allotted is based on their age and if they feel ready to change their behavior. The teacher will then sit with the child to come up with solutions as to how to improve their behavior.

4th infraction: Sit with Director: If the above strategies have failed, the student will be taken to the office to talk with the director. The Director will ascertain a course of action, which may include calling the child’s parents. It is not the policy to call parents until it is deemed necessary. Unless the Director called the parents, the child’s behavior should be discussed either at pick up time, and/or via email. Parents may always ask for a conference with the Director if they would like to discuss the matter further.

If a child has continuous behavior challenges at school, the Director and child’s teacher will schedule a meeting with the family, in order to create a behavior plan. A child may be dismissed from San Jose Christian School Preschool if the behavior challenges do not improve.

Injuries and Incident Reports

If a child obtains an injury at school, the staff will follow proper procedures and protocols. The Preschool staff is trained in First Aid and has knowledge of how to handle such situations. Injury reports will be filled out and sent home to the child’s family. If a serious injury occurs, the parents will be notified immediately. In the event that is necessary, San Jose Christian will call emergency services for help.

Parking and Driving on Campus

While at school, please adhere to the school's speed limit of 7 miles per hour in the parking lot. When dropping off or picking up, please park in a parking spot and not along the curb. A Preschool student must be walked to their classroom and signed in and out. Repeated failure to sign in and out from school can result in licensing fines.

Sickness Policy

San Jose Christian School Preschool is committed to providing a healthy and safe learning environment for all students. It is our intention to partner with families, in order to maintain the optimal learning environment for students at all times. We kindly ask all families to follow our illness policy.

Children will be visually screened when they arrive in the morning. In the event a child becomes ill and needs to be picked up, the parent(s) will be called and are expected to come pick the child up within one hour (60 minutes). If the parent(s) cannot be reached, or have not arrived within an hour, the emergency contact person will be called and asked to come pick the child up.

For the benefit of our staff and other children in our care, a sick child will not be permitted to return to school after 1 full school day (7:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.) If the illness is due to an infection, the child may return 48 hours after they have received the first dose of an antibiotic. You must provide a doctor's note explaining the infection and how it is being treated. If you aren't sure about whether or not to bring your child to school, please call school for advice. Allergy related symptoms, and non-communicable illnesses do not require exclusion if you have a note from your doctor.

Symptoms requiring removal of child from school:

- **Fever:** Fever is defined as having a temperature of 100°F or higher taken under the arm or forehead. A child needs to be fever free for a minimum of 1 full school day (7:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.) before returning to school. That means the child is fever free without the aid of Tylenol, or any other fever reducing substance.
- Fever AND sore throat, rash, vomiting, diarrhea, earache, irritability, or confusion.
- **Diarrhea:** runny, watery, bloody stools, or 2 or more loose stools within last 4 hours.

- **Vomiting:** 1 or more times in a 24-hour period. Note: please do not bring your child if they have vomited during the night. Please keep your child home for a full day.
- Breathing trouble, sore throat, swollen glands, loss of voice, hacking or continuous coughing.
- Runny nose (other than clear), draining eyes or ears.
- **Pink Eye:** Conjunctivitis is an inflammation or swelling of the conjunctiva. Symptoms are- more tears than usual, itchy eyes, green or white discharge that crusts over the eyelashes especially after sleep, burning eyes, and blurred vision.
- Frequent scratching of body or scalp, lice, rash, or any other spots that resemble childhood diseases, including ringworm.

School Calendar

Please review the calendar in depth prior to the start of the school year. There is a Preschool calendar, and a JK-8 calendar, although similar, there are differences. Please adhere to the calendar that coincides with your child.

Holidays and closures for San Jose Christian Preschool coincide with the calendar of the elementary and middle school. It is important to note these dates for planning in advance.

Limited care is provided to those families who need coverage during the holidays. Selection is based on lottery as well as teacher-child ratio.

Room Parent

Each classroom will have at least one room parent for the duration of the school year. This responsibility includes coordination of class parties and honoring teachers. If you are interested in participating in this, please notify one of the representatives from the Christian Parent Teachers Association (CPTA). Room parents will work with the classroom teacher to organize activities throughout the year.

Tuition Payment Policy

San Jose Christian School utilizes an automatic payment service (FACTS). While it is strongly recommended and encouraged for Preschool families, it is not required until elementary school. You must set up an account, in order to begin paying automatically.

It is highly recommended that you utilize this service, as hardcopies of your invoice might get lost in the shuffle of your child's belongings.

All questions regarding tuition payments can be directed to, SJCS Business Manager, Tanya Garside (TGarside@sjchristian.org).

Vaccination Policy

Students must be current with required vaccinations, in order to attend San Jose Christian School Preschool. Proper documentation needs to be turned in before your child starts attending. You have 30 days from your child's start date to return all documents. Students who are not current with immunizations will not be admitted. Personal Belief exemptions are no longer accepted.

Napping

The full day schedule at San Jose Christian School Preschool includes naptime. Naptime varies in each classroom and individual needs of the child. Our Infant Care Center provides care to our infant students based on individual schedules, including naptime. Infant students will nap based on their families' provided needs.

Students in the Butterfly, Grasshopper and Dragonfly classes nap every day; the Firefly class does not nap. Each child will need to bring napping items for naptime. Families will need to take napping items home each week to wash them. San Jose Christian School Preschool provides nap mats for their child to use.

Toy Policy

Please do not have your child bring toys to school. It is a distraction for themselves and their peers. Teachers are not responsible if they are lost and/or broken. Upon teachers request, they may have children bring a share item on a designated day, and once they finish sharing, it's returned to their bookbag.

Please do not take toys from the classrooms or from the playground. It is understandable that children enjoy their school toys, but once child gets picked up, all toys and materials must be left in the classroom and/or playground.

Biting/Hitting Policy

Biting is a typical behavior often seen in infants, toddlers, and 2-year olds. As children mature, gain self-control, and develop problem-solving skills, they usually outgrow this behavior. While not uncommon, biting can be an upsetting and potentially harmful behavior. It's best to discourage it from the very first episode.

When a child is bitten:

For the biter:

1. The biter is immediately removed with no emotion, using words such as "biting is not okay – it hurts." We will avoid any immediate response that reinforces the biting or calls attention to the biter. Caring attention will be focused on the child who was bitten.
2. The biter will not be allowed to return to work/play and will be talked to on a level which he/she can understand.
3. The child will be redirected to other work/play.

For the victim:

1. Staff will separate the child who was bitten from the biter.
2. Special attention will be given to comfort the child.
3. Staff will administer appropriate first aid. Should the wound require immediate medical attention, appropriate action will be taken and parents will be notified immediately.

Both student's parents will be notified of the situation. If biting persists throughout the day, that child will be asked to leave school for the remainder of the day. If the behavior does not improve, the child might be asked to be withdrawn from school for the remainder of the year.

Hitting is unacceptable and behavior will follow the same rules as biting.

Potty training

San Jose Christian School Preschool partners with families to assist with potty training. When a child's family feels they are ready to potty train, the child's teacher can help and support this during the school day. Potty training needs to be reinforced at home. A child must continue to wear diapers or pull-ups to school while potty training until they are considered dry throughout the day, for two weeks consistently. Once a child's

teacher confirms this, a child can then begin wearing underwear to school. Once child is wearing underwear and are dry consistently, the fee will be removed.

Students who are not potty trained must pay a **\$50 fee per month fee**. A child's teacher can confirm with the business manager and director, when a child is considered potty trained. Then, the fee will be removed.

Food and lunches

San Jose Christian School Preschool does not provide snacks or lunch to students. Please provide both a morning and afternoon snack for your child.

Snack and lunches should be healthy and nutritious. Lunch boxes with ice packs and thermoses are highly suggested, as we do not have microwave or fridge use for students' lunches. Please do not send soda, candy, or juices to school. Each child should have a bottle of water each day as well.

San Jose Christian School Preschool strives to be a nut safe school. This means that we kindly request that no nut products of any kind are brought to school. We have several students with serious nut allergies and it is our goal to keep them safe at all times. There are several alternatives available (Sun Butter, Wow Butter, Soy Butter, Sesame Seed Butter). Please remember to check ingredients, especially in items like granola bars.

Nutella is also not permitted as it contains hazelnuts. It is very helpful to label sandwiches or alert the teacher when these alternatives are used, since they often look and smell similar to peanut butter.

When bringing treats to classrooms, please make sure baked goods were made in a nut-safe factory (most baked goods will have labels)

Always remember, if you have any hesitations of the food item, just don't bring them to school.

Dress Code

Each child should arrive at school in simple play clothes. Many of our activities tend to get a little messy, and we want the children to be able to enjoy themselves, without having to worry about their clothing.

Closed-toed shoes are best when playing outside. There are many opportunities for climbing and running around the playground, and the children must be able to participate in activities safely.

If your child does come to school with sandals, please be sure they have straps around the ankle. For the little girls who want to wear their “princess heels” please provide an extra change of shoes so they can play outside. Please have girls wear shorts or leggings under their dresses and skirts.

Always be sure your child has a jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt available to wear to school. **Unless the weather is bitter cold, rainy, or the air quality is deemed unsafe, the children will go outside every day.

First day of school checklist:

Infant Care Center (ICC)

- All food and milk needed for the day (milk should be in bottles or sippy cups)
- An extra cup for water if desired
- Diapers (A full pack can be stored with child’s name, and teachers will let families know when more are needed)
- Spare Clothes with name on it
- Blankets/Sleep Sack (If desired)
- Needs and Service Form
- Authorization form and applicable supplies (for non-prescription medical supplies or daily needs; items may include pacifiers, diaper rash ointment, sunscreen, etc.)
- Comfort item (blanket, picture of family, etc.)
- **Highly recommended:** lunchbox with ice pack for milk bottles

Preschool

- A lunch and beverage for the day- morning and afternoon snack.
- Spare clothes with name written on it
- Diapers/ pullups or spare underwear
- Nap mat/sheet and blanket (if student will be napping)

PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING!

Thank you! We are glad you are here and we look forward to an amazing year!