## **ST. PAUL CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL**

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##### **PARENT STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**2024-2025**

 

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Welcome to St. Paul Christian Day School. We are excited that you are a part of our family and we look forward to a wonderful year of growth with your child.

Our Christian Day School Program is an outreach ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church designed for children ages eighteen months through age five.

St. Paul Christian Day School, herein referred to as CDS, is a licensed childcare facility regulated by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. We operate under the guidelines established in the Minimum Standards set forth by this government agency. A copy of these standards is accessible in the CDS Director’s office along with a copy of the most recent licensing inspection report. A copy of the most current inspection report is also posted on the CDS bulletin board by the office.

Under the Texas Penal Code, any area within 1000 feet of a child-care center is a gang-free zone where criminal offenses related to organized criminal activity are subject to harsher penalties. If you have questions or concerns regarding licensing and/or minimum standards, you may contact the local DFPS office. They are located at 3635 SE Military Dr., P.O. Box 23990, San Antonio, Texas 78223. The phone number is 210.333.2004. Or, you may access their website at https://www.dfps.texas.gov/.

**OUR MISSION AND VISION**

**Our Mission:**

To provide a Christian preschool program that encourages and develops our children into confident, capable little individuals and prepares them for the next step in their education.

**Our Vision:**

CDS will provide a safe, loving, caring, and nurturing environment. We will offer mentally, physically, and emotionally balanced growth opportunities through a variety of creative and developmentally appropriate experiences. CDS strives to provide an environment that fosters positive self-esteem, spiritual growth, interpersonal relationships, social awareness, and a love for learning.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

St. Paul CDS is a self-sufficient program and is under the direction of the CDS Board consisting of four members of the congregation with the CDS Director, Church Council Liaison, and Church Pastor serving as ex-officio members. The board members contribute their time and efforts voluntarily and serve as a link between you, the staff of CDS, and the church.

**CURRICULUM**

Eighteen months through age two (Toddlers and Twos) will participate in activities designed to help develop sensory and communication skills, motor skills, and behavioral expectations. These classrooms follow a weekly theme to determine their classroom activities.

Children ages three through five (Threes and PreK) have a more structured program based on weekly units of study and incorporate letter and number recognition, beginning phonics and fine and gross motor development. Creative activities will be offered to give children the opportunity for self-expression and socialization. These activities will include crafts, art projects, stories, music, science and discovery activities, indoor and outdoor play, and chapel time.

**Students in our 3-year-old classes and above will attend Chapel, Science, and PE once per week.**

Children ages five and older participate in our Bridge program and will follow a weekly curriculum that incorporates Abeka curriculum along with the Science of Reading program used by Comal ISD and other school districts nationwide; this reinforces the elements essential for building strong readers. Through small group and direct instruction, students will build skills in comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, phonics, and phonemic awareness.  Math will be taught using a hands-on curriculum designed to teach beginning numeration, patterns, and problem solving.  Science instruction is heavily STEAM based and encourages students to explore God’s creation around us. Social Studies concepts are integrated and enhanced through special events. Participants must be five as of September 1st of that year and have completed one year of a Pre-K program.

Each classroom will be set up in learning centers that may include dramatic play, blocks, books, manipulatives, music, art, science, and discovery. This provides the teachers opportunities to interact with the children in small groups as well as one-on-one.

Each class will follow their own daily schedule which may fluctuate slightly with the interests of the children. **Teachers will create daily lesson plans based on a weekly theme that will include activities centering on language, science, math, social skills, music, art, sensory development, and small and large motor development.**

###### STAFF DEVELOPMENT

In order to provide the best quality learning experiences for each child, the entire CDS staff participates in a minimum of 24 clock hours of in-service training annually. This training may include a combination of early childhood development, curriculum planning, discipline, nutrition, safety, professional development, etc. Each staff member is certified in CPR and First Aid in accordance with Minimum Standards. Each infant/toddler teacher, assistant teacher, substitute teacher, as well as office staff is trained in understanding, recognizing and preventing SIDS and Shaken Baby Syndrome as well as understanding brain development in accordance with Minimum Standards. Training is done outside of CDS scheduled hours of operation.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

The CDS staff and/or room parents plan special events and parties throughout the year to further enrich our student’s learning. To provide each classroom with a similar experience for special events, Room Parents request a donation to our Activities Fund at the start of each school year. This dollar amount will vary based on the current price of vendors and supplies. This donation should cut down on the need for sign-up sheets for volunteers and special treats for each individual event, though there may be school sponsored events that require extra support.

Some of our annual special events include: a visit from the Bulverde Police Department and the Bulverde/Spring Branch Fire Department; Trunk or Treat; Thanksgiving Feast; Christmas Program; Snow Day; Travel Around the World with St. Paul; Dental Awareness Visit; Rodeo Day, Dr. Seuss Week; Zoo Man; Easter Egg Hunt, Field Day, Splash Day, Graduation, and more!

**Student Birthdays:**

If you would like to bring a treat to celebrate your child’s birthday, please talk with their teacher about what types of treats are acceptable and when would be a good time to bring them.

**Volunteers and Room Parents:**

Here at CDS, we encourage our parents and family members to participate in activities at the school when possible. All parents interested in being a volunteer or room parent must be willing to submit information for a background check, if requested. Volunteers and room parents are never left alone with a group of students. The children are always under the teacher’s supervision; volunteers and room parents are here only to assist with activities.

**HOURS OF OPERATION**

CDS operates Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

**Doors will open at 8:55 a.m. and most of our classes begin work right at 9am.** At 9:10am each day, we say the pledge and recite our monthly Bible verse and Fruit of the Spirit as a school. Please do all you can to make sure your child arrives on time to ensure a strong start to their school day.

**Children should be picked up promptly at 2:00 p.m.** If you know you are going to be late picking up your child, please call. After 2:10 p.m. late pick up fees will be incurred.

**Open-Door Policy**: CDS has an open-door policy. However, all outside doors to the facility will be locked from 9:10 a.m. until 1:55 p.m. Parents who wish to visit the school during these hours must ring the doorbell to gain access. We ask that for safety and security you sign in with the CDS office when entering the building at all times other than drop off and pick up.

# SCHOOL CALENDAR

# We observe the same holidays as Comal Independent School District. A current copy of our CDS school calendar will be provided to you separately. For the 2024 - 2025 school year, our first day of school is Wednesday, August 28, 2024 and our last day of school is Thursday, May 15, 2025. We will also have two early release days per year; Thursday, December 19, 2024 (the day before Christmas break) and Thursday, May 15, 2025 (the last day of school). Both days we will release students at 11:30 a.m. Children will need to be picked up by this time or late pick-up fees will be incurred. Time of early release is subject to change.

###### SCHOOL CLOSURE

# CDS will typically follow Comal ISD school closures and delays. In these events, teachers will notify parents and the school will email families and post notifications on our Facebook page. If there are any questions, please message via Brightwheel or call your child’s teacher or the CDS Director.

# EMERGENCY PLAN

Fire drills are held monthly. Severe weather drills and lock down drills are held once every three months. Evacuation plans are posted inside each classroom. Should the need arise to relocate, our plan would be to relocate into the church building when possible.

Per our licensing guidelines, CDS has a written emergency preparedness plan that details how we will handle situations such as a tornado, flood, fire, communicable disease outbreak, chemical spill, explosion, or an intruder with a weapon. This plan is kept in the office of the CDS Director if you wish to review it.

# PARENT COMMUNICATION

CDS furnishes this parent handbook so we may have open communication with you. If you don’t understand any part of this handbook, please discuss it with the Director as soon as possible. This handbook is subject to periodical review and as addendums are made parents will be notified in writing. The school also maintains a website and Facebook page that can be viewed for the most up to date information. The website is [www.redroofschool.com](http://www.redroofschool.com).

Always feel free to speak with your child’s teacher regarding any questions or concerns. If you would like to schedule a conference with your child’s teacher and/or the Director, you are welcome and encouraged to do so.

# WHAT TO BRING

**Backpack:** All students should bring a lightweight backpack (approximately 12”x18”) to accommodate a take home folder. This folder will be used by the teacher to send home schoolwork and important information.

**Lunch and Water Bottle:**  Parents are responsible for providing their child with his/her lunch, including water, each day they are in attendance. CDS will provide a snack in the morning. Lunches you provide should be nutritional. CDS is not responsible for meeting your child’s daily nutritional needs. We strongly recommend no junk food, candy, juice or sugary drinks as these inhibit their learning and/or rest time. Please have the food prepared the way your child likes (i.e. oranges/apples peeled, hot dogs/grapes cut). We do not refrigerate or heat their lunch.

**Diapers and Wipes:**  Parents in the Toddlers and Twos classrooms are also responsible for providing all diapers and wipes throughout the year (please bring a full box of wipes at the beginning of each semester to start).

**Change of Clothes: *All ages, please provide a complete change of clothes*** (i.e., shirt, shorts/pants, socks, and underwear) each day in case of an accident. Even our older children can have accidents.

**Nap Mat:** Children in the Toddler through PreK classrooms will rest in the afternoon. Rest time usually begins anytime between 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. Sleep is not mandatory, but children are required by Minimum Standards to have a rest period. Please provide a mat that is waterproof or washable for each child through age four to sleep or rest on.

Plastic/waterproof mats will be kept at CDS for the school year and wiped down by your child’s teacher at the end of each week.

Washable nap mats should be brought to CDS each Monday morning and will be sent home to wash each Thursday at pick-up.

Children in the three-year-old classrooms and younger may also bring a pillow and/or light blanket that will need to be taken home and cleaned at the end of each week. PreK students please bring a mat only; no blankets, pillows, or loveys.

**REMINDER: LABEL ALL ITEMS BROUGHT TO CDS WITH YOUR CHILD’S NAME.**

Please do not send any toys with your child to CDS. Unless the teacher gives permission on “Show and Tell” days, please leave personal toys at home. CDS will not be held responsible for lost, stolen or broken items.

###### ATTIRE AND OUTDOOR PLAY

Please dress your child in comfortable, washable clothing and rubber soled, closed toed shoes. **Necklaces and bracelets are not allowed** on children in the infant through 3-year-old classrooms. The American Academy of Pediatrics and the State of Texas deem these to be a choking/strangulation hazard and these items are not permitted.

Weather permitting, the children will go outside every day for unstructured play using, for example: balls, swings, play structures and the like. It has been shown that young children learn better through experiencing an activity and observing behavior than through didactic methods. Additionally, physical activity is important to overall health and to overweight prevention. Outdoor play can last anywhere from 30-60 minutes. On cold or chilly days, please provide your child with appropriate clothing (jacket, coats, or sweaters). All apparel should be safe for playground activities. If we are unable to go outside due to inclement weather, unstructured play will be held inside the gym using, for example: balls, hula hoops, scooters, etc. Indoor play can last anywhere from 20-45 minutes.

It is the parents’ responsibility to apply sunscreen and/or insect repellant when deemed necessary.

Physical Education, structured play, is offered in the gym approximately one to two times per week. At times, PE is replaced with special event activities that can be found on the school calendar.

# ADMISSION PAPERWORK

Children are placed in classrooms according to their age as of September 1st of the current year. Children will remain in their assigned classrooms throughout the entire school year.

CDS is a licensed childcare facility and is required by law to maintain a confidential file on each child. Each child must have the following forms on file in the office:

* Admission Information form (required at the time of registration)
* Signed physician’s statement stating that the child is in good health and can attend CDS
* Current immunization records or affidavit
* Food Allergy Emergency Care Plan if child has a food allergy diagnosed by a healthcare professional (must have on file prior to child attending school)
* Signed statement confirming that the parent has read and understands the policies and procedures of CDS as outlined in the Parent Student Handbook
* Completed and signed Information Release form

Please check with the Comal County Health Department for what immunizations are needed. These records must be updated in our files when new immunizations are received. Parents have one week after the date of admission to complete and return these records as well as the signed physician statement. **If not, your child will not be allowed to attend CDS until this has been completed.**

Per the Center for Disease Control (CDC), there are some immunizations given in adulthood; for example, Influenza, Hepatitis A, Pertussis, etc. As an organization, we are allowing our staff to individually choose whether they receive these immunizations.

When you enroll your child at St. Paul CDS their picture will be taken and may be used. If you do not want your child’s picture to be taken or used, please be sure to make note of this on the Information Release Form. By signing this handbook and the Information Release you waive any consideration due.

# TUITION AND FEES

Tuition is set as an annual amount with the total number of school days for the year taken into account. This amount is then broken down into 9 equal monthly payments (September through May). **You are required to make the same monthly payment *each month* regardless of the number of school days in that month.** Our operating budget, which includes teacher’s pay as well as licensing fees, training, background checks and many other fixed and variable costs is 100% dependent on tuition payment for all the children in our program each month. If your account remains past due for two months, the circumstances will be relayed to the CDS Board of Directors for review. The Board will determine a plan of action. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Annual Annual

Age Group Monthly Tuition Registration Supply

18 mo. – 3 yrs. $275.00 $75.00 $145.00

(two days)

18 mo. – PreK $455.00 $75.00 $195.00

(four days)

Bridge $465.00 $75.00 $245.00

(four days only)

**At the time of registration,** **a deposit which consists of the registration fee, half of the supply fee and half of the first month’s tuition are due to hold a position for your child at CDS.** If for any reason, your child ***does not*** attend CDS in the fall of 2024 this deposit is ***NON-REFUNDABLE***. The second half of the supply fee and the second half of September’s tuition are due on the first day of school and are also ***NON-REFUNDABLE.***

**Tuition is due on the first school day of each month**, unless other arrangements are made with the Director. Checks should be made **payable to SPLC CDS** and can be placed in the CDS Drop Box outside of the Director’s office. Your canceled check will serve as your receipt for payment. If you pay by cash, a receipt is available in your Brightwheel account. CDS accepts cash, checks, or payment through Brightwheel, our classroom management app.. Your tuition reserves a place for your child in his/her classroom. No refunds will be made and there will be no switching of days.

**Late Tuition Fee:** Last Wednesday morning of school each month: $20.00

**Late Pickup Fee:** 2:10 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.: $10.00

 Each additional minute: $ 2.00

**Late Supply Fee:** Per month after September: $10.00

**Returned Check:** Service charge: $35.00

\*All above fees will be added to the following month’s tuition.

**If your child misses CDS due to illness, vacation, doctor appointments, inclement weather, etc., there will be no refund.** Statements are available through your Brightwheel account.

For children of active members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, there is a discounted tuition rate. Please see the Director for more information.

# DROP IN ATTENDANCE

If your child attends CDS two days per week and you would like to bring your child to school on a day that they are not regularly scheduled, please check with the office prior to that day. Drop-ins are accepted only if space is available. The drop-in rate is $30.00 per day and payment is due on that day.

**WITHDRAWAL POLICY**

CDS requires written notification **at least two weeks in advance** of the last intended day of school. Parents are responsible for tuition payment through the last intended day of school given. This policy is in place to ensure that CDS is able to meet all monthly financial obligations including, but not limited to, staff payroll.

###### ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE

Students will be dropped off with a St. Paul CDS staff member at the CDS doors and will be checked in by a staff member using our classroom management app. Please say your good-byes at the door and enjoy your day. Children who are upset initially will typically calm down within a few minutes of drop off. We encourage all parents to call back and check on their child as they deem necessary.

**Children must be checked out and picked up from the teacher by a parent or other adult designated by the parents.** Please make sure that the person picking up your child is noted on the enrollment form in their file. In the event your child will be going home with someone not noted on that sheet, a written note must be given to the teacher or Director in advance of pick up. Persons unknown to the staff must present a picture ID (ex. driver’s license) prior to the child being released, even with written authorization from the parent.

Your child’s safety is of the utmost importance to the staff of CDS. Once your child is checked out, they are your responsibility.

# DISCIPLINE POLICY

**NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

CDS does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, ethnic background, national origin, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity. All students enrolled at CDS are provided all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to the students at the school. CDS will make necessary, reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities provided that the individual may safely be a part of the school environment and the accommodations requested are provided in writing and do not impose undue hardship on CDS.

**DISCIPLINE POLICY**

A desirable climate for learning and growth is the result of careful planning, teaching, and guidance by our staff. Discipline and guidance, therefore, shall to the best of our ability, be consistent, based on an understanding of the child’s needs and development, directed toward teaching the child acceptable behavior, and promoting self-discipline. CDS recognizes that certain behaviors can be an age-appropriate response for some children because their language and/or social skills are still developing. Therefore, our staff will work with both child and parent to help the child learn what behaviors are inappropriate for the school/classroom. Should a child’s conduct be aggressive, disruptive, or dangerous in nature, a note will be logged in the student’s file. Any time an inappropriate behavior is logged parents will be made aware. They will then be asked to sign off that there was communication of said behavior and of the plan to keep the behavior from continuing.

If the behavior is excessively aggressive, disruptive, or dangerous causing harm to themselves, another student(s) or staff and/or impeding the learning environment we will need to move directly to an incident report.

Confidentiality will be of the utmost importance. Teachers will communicate with parents directly and not in front of the children or other parents. When necessary, private meetings with teacher, parents, and the CDS Director will be made available.

**Removal from School for the Remainder of the Day:**

In the best interest of the class, if a child’s behavior is deemed to be such that they are unable to return to their classroom/peers safely and without class disruption, a parent will be called to take the student home for the day. The removal from school will be logged in the student’s file and signed by a parent.

A student who is sent home for the day is welcome to return the next day.

**Expulsion:**

Once a child receives three incident reports within one semester (Aug-Dec or Jan-May), the documentation of any/all parent contact along with state-mandated incident reports will be taken to the Board to review for adequate communication, attempts to correct behavior, and potential for future incidents. A CDS Board review will happen within 48 hours of the third incident report being given.

After review, the CDS Board will make the decision whether or not the child can continue to be enrolled.

* If a child is deemed no longer able to attend CDS, any remaining tuition payments will be made null.
* If a child is deemed able to continue attending CDS, a clearly outlined Individual Behavior Plan will be implemented and enacted by teacher and staff. Close monitoring and progress will continue, and improvement/regression will be reassessed.

CDS reserves the right to evaluate all excessive discipline problems or inappropriate behavior for referral to the CDS Board to determine if a child should be allowed to continue attending school.

**Our desire is never to send a child home before the day is complete or remove them from our school completely, but we must ensure the safety and positive learning environment our families and students expect. Our goal is to work with families and students to ensure each student reaches their full potential.**

# POTTY TRAINING POLICY

All of our classrooms from 3-years-old and above are not equipped for diaper changing, therefore the children in these classrooms **must be fully potty trained per licensing standards.** Required potty training is standard practice among area preschools.

The St. Paul CDS definition of “fully potty trained” is:

* The child is able to inform the teacher of their need to use the potty.
	+ It is nearly impossible for a teacher to remind a child every half hour to go to the bathroom, while also caring for and instructing other students in the classroom. There are frequent potty breaks built into the schedule.
* The child is able to urinate and defecate in the potty and then flush the potty.
* The child is able to pull clothing up and down without assistance.
	+ Please recognize that belts, overalls, pants with snaps, and long dresses or shirts that fall into the toilet are difficult for children to manage on their own.
	+ Pull-Ups are not considered underwear and may not be worn to school.
* The child is able to wipe, using a reasonable amount of toilet paper, independently.
* The child is able to wash their own hands at the sink with soap and water and then dry them. There is a hand dryer available in the restroom.

If parents feel this may be difficult for their child to accomplish before the first day of school, they should consider whether our program is an appropriate fit for their child at this time. After the first two weeks of school, if a child has three accidents within two weeks, the child will be asked to take a break from school until potty training is completed successfully. A meeting will be held, at that time, with the parent(s), teacher(s), and administration to determine the best plan of action for the child moving forward.

If your child is not completely potty trained as described above by the first day of school, you may choose one of the following options:

1. You may withdraw your child from school and place his or her name on our wait list.
* Registration and supply fees are non-refundable; however, if your child is placed in a class at a later date, you will not need to pay additional fees.
1. You may continue to pay tuition to hold your child’s spot until potty training is completed.

Accidents happen: We understand that the occasional accident will occur throughout the school year. Any child who has an accident will be removed from the classroom discreetly and escorted to the bathroom by a teacher or assistant. The teacher will assist the child in the removal of the soiled clothing. The child will be placed on the toilet and encouraged to complete the action to ensure that the bladder/bowels have been completely emptied and then to wipe. If the child’s underpants are excessively soiled, they will be thrown away. The remainder of the soiled clothing will be returned to the child’s school bag in a knotted plastic bag. The teacher will check the child for sufficient cleanliness and assist as necessary. The teacher will assist the child in getting dressed as necessary. Parents will be notified if an accident occurs at any point, so you are expecting to see your child in fresh clothes and the bag of soiled clothing to come home. Children who have accidents will never be humiliated, punished, or belittled.

Potty training occurs for all children at some point in their life, there is no right or wrong timing; unfortunately, however, we are not equipped to change diapers in the three-year-old classroom and beyond. Please remember that this policy is in place not only for the teachers and St. Paul CDS, but for all of the students in the program as well. Potty accidents are time consuming for the teachers; they take the teacher away from others within the classroom and can be a sanitary issue/health hazard. If you have questions regarding this policy, please ask a staff member.

# ILLNESS

Children with a communicable disease may not attend CDS until a medical evaluation determines that they are no longer contagious and are able to participate in CDS activities. A note signed by the physician stating the child is no longer contagious must be turned into the office. Please **DO NOT** bring your child if they have any of the following:

1. An illness that prevents the child from participating comfortably in CDS activities. If your child cannot go outside due to a runny nose, cough, etc. please keep them home. Teachers accompany their classes outside and we do not have a supervised room in which your child can stay during recess.
2. An illness that results in a greater need for care than the staff can provide without compromising the health, safety and supervision of the other children.
3. The child has a tympanic (ear) temperature of 100 degrees or greater and accompanied by behavior changes or other symptoms or signs of illness. This equates to a temporal (forehead) temperature of 99 degrees or greater.
4. Symptoms and signs of possible illness such as lethargy, uncontrolled breathing, uncontrolled diarrhea (two or more times in 24 hours), vomiting, rash with fever, green nasal discharge, mouth sores with drooling, wheezing, or behavior change.

The staff will perform a visual or physical assessment of a child to identify potential concerns about a child’s health, including signs or symptoms of illness or injury or in response to changes in the child’s behavior since the last date of attendance. Should the classroom teacher(s) and/or Director still have concerns regarding a student’s health and ability to be in school, parents may be asked to pick their child up. **We ask that if you pick up your child due to illness that you do not remain on campus/playground or bring the child back in for pick-up of another child/student. We are happy to bring your other child(ren) out to you at pick-up and/or come to the car and get them at drop-off.**

In the event you are called to pick up your child with a fever over 100 degrees, we require that they be picked up within 30 minutes to limit exposure to the rest of the school. If you do not arrive within 30 minutes, late pick-up fees will apply. We appreciate your understanding and your partnership in keeping our students healthy.

**CHILDREN MUST BE FEVER FREE FOR 24 HOURS AND ANY VOMITTING/DIARRHEA HAS CEASED FOR 24 HOURS BEFORE RETURNING TO CDS.**

Should your child become ill or seriously hurt, we will make every effort to contact you as soon as possible. Please make sure your child’s emergency contact numbers are current. Emergency contacts will be called when you cannot be reached. In the event your child is hurt while at CDS, your child’s teacher will fill out an Incident/Illness report which will be kept in your child’s file. Upon request, a copy of that form will be sent home with your child. A first aid kit is available in the Director’s office and near the playground for any minor needs.

**Immunizations:**

Per state guidelines, each child enrolled or admitted to child-care centers must meet and continue to meet applicable immunization requirements specified by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS). All students must have an updated, **current** immunization record or certified affidavit on file with the school before they are able to attend school.

# MEDICATIONS AND MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

Prescription and over the counter medications will be administered by CDS office staff only with prior authorization following Minimum Standard guidelines. Parents should talk to the Director for more information.

Parents will be notified immediately by telephone if there is suspicion of abuse or neglect, a child needs to be seen by a medical professional or needs hospitalization, has been placed at risk, or there is an unsafe condition at the school. The priority will of course be the child’s safety first. Parents will be notified of less serious injuries such as minor cuts and scratches through the classroom management app or when an adult picks the student up from school at the end of the day.

###### FOOD ALLERGIES AND PREFERENCES

**Food Allergies:**

A signed food allergy plan must be on file with the school, along with any guidance from the student’s doctor. Food allergy information will be placed in the student’s file, displayed in the office, and posted in the kitchen to ensure proper preparation and handling of food.

**Food Preferences:**

If your child does not have a diagnosed food allergy, but you have specific preferences regarding ingredients or certain foods, you will need to bring your child’s own snack/treat. Per state licensing, we will be providing a morning snack to all student’s each day if one is not brought from home. Please sign the food preference form for us to keep on file and share with teachers so that we may adhere to your request appropriately.

###### VISION AND HEARING SCREENING TESTS

The Special Senses and Communication Disorders Act, Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 36, requires a screening or a professional examination for possible vision and hearing problems for children who are enrolled in a childcare center. Children who are four years of age by September 1st of each year will need to be screened for possible vision and hearing problems. The screening should be completed by January 1st or within 120 calendar days of the enrollment date. This screening can be done by your child’s general physician. The tests do have to be performed by a licensed or certified screener or a healthcare professional. We are required to report the results to the state as well as keep a record of the screening in your child’s file, no matter who performs the tests. You can access <https://www.dshs.texas.gov/vision-hearing-screening> for more information.

# SAFE SLEEP POLICY

All staff, substitute staff, and volunteers at St. Paul Christian Day School will follow the safe sleep recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) for infants (birth through 17 months) to reduce the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome/Sudden Unexpected Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS/SUIDS). This is not a complete list of the recommendations but are those that apply to the equipment we use and the age group we care for:

* Always put children to sleep on their backs for sleep and allow them to assume a preferred sleep position unless you provide an Infant Sleep Exception form 2710 signed by the child’s health care professional.
* Ensure that sleeping areas are ventilated and at a temperature that is comfortable for a lightly clothed adult.
* If a child needs extra warmth, use sleep clothing (such as sleepers or footed pajamas) as an alternative to blankets.
* Children may use a pacifier during sleep, but the pacifier must not be attached to a stuffed animal or the child’s clothing by a string, cord, or other attaching mechanism that might be a suffocation or strangulation risk.
* Our childcare program is smoke-free. Smoking is not allowed in Texas child care operations (this includes e-cigarettes and any type of vaporizers).
* Actively observe sleeping children by sight and sound.

You can review information on safe sleep and reducing the risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome/Sudden UnexpectedIn fant Death Syndrome (SIDS/SUIDS) at:

<http://www.healthychildren.org/English/ages-stages/baby/sleep/Pages/A-Parents-Guide-to-Safe-Sleep.aspx>

# ABUSE AND NEGLECT

CDS is obligated under law to report any suspected abuse or neglect. The Texas Abuse and Neglect Hotline is 1.800.252.5400 or [www.txabusehotline.org](http://www.txabusehotline.org) and is available to staff and parents. Each year, our staff is required by licensing to take training in preventing and responding to child abuse and neglect. Parents can visit <https://www.texprotects.org/> for more information regarding warning signs of abuse or neglect and prevention techniques. Parents in need of assistance or intervention for child abuse and neglect can contact the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services at <https://www.dfps.texas.gov/>. For a full listing of warning signs for abuse please visit the website listed above. Examples of warning signs that a child may be a victim of abuse or neglect are listed below, this is not a complete list.

* Frequent injuries such as bruises, cuts, black eyes, or burns without adequate explanations
* Obvious malnourishment
* Difficulty in sitting or walking
* Severe depression, anxiety, or aggression

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***Every child is a gift from God. Their love for learning is just beginning and we are so very excited to help grow and nurture that love. Thank you for the opportunity to serve your child and your family. Many blessings.***

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**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

 **SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP**

Sunday School at9:40 a.m.

 Worship Services at 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

For more information contact the church office at 830-980-2813 or visit [www.redroofchurch.org](http://www.redroofchurch.org)

**PARENT STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**POLICY AND PROCEDURE ENROLLMENT AGREEMENT**

**Parent Student Handbook available on** [**www.redroofschool.com**](http://www.redroofschool.com)

I have received a copy and/or have access to the St. Paul Christian Day School Parent Student Handbook online at [www.redroofschool.com](http://www.redroofschool.com). I have carefully read each section of the handbook and I understand the policies, procedures, and regulations of the program outlined in the handbook including Tuition and Fee Payments, Cancellations, the Non Refundable Deposit, and Arrival and Departure protocol, as well as all other sections listed below.

Mission & Vision Admission Paperwork

Board of Directors Tuition and Fees

Curriculum Drop-In Attendance

Staff Development Withdrawal Policy

Special Events Arrival & Departure

Hours of Operation Discipline Policy

School Calendar Potty Training

School Closure Illness

Emergency Plan Medications/Medical Emergencies

Parent Communication Food Allergies & Preferences

What to Bring Vision & Hearing Screening

Attire & Outdoor Play Safe Sleep

 Abuse & Neglect

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**I have read the handbook thoroughly and understand and agree with the terms and conditions that are set forth within. If I have questions, I will direct them to the Director. I accept these conditions for enrollment of my child in St. Paul Christian Day School.**

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Child’s Name Date of Birth

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Signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name (printed) Date Signed

**Please sign and date this form and return it to the Director. This will be kept in our files to show that you have read the handbook and understand the policies of the St. Paul Christian Day School Program.**