

## **Information about St Mark Montessori Preschool**

We offer a 2, 3 or 5 day program. The 2 day program is Tuesday Thursday, and the 3 day program is Monday Wednesday Friday. The tuition for these programs is \$194/month for 2 day, \$264 for 3 day and \$408 for 5 day. There is also a \$60 registration fee and a \$200 Kindermusik and materials fee. The children are in school from 9:00 – 12:30. They go to Kindermusik for a half-hour once a week and they go to Atrium, which is their spiritual formation class for a half-hour once a week. There are 30 children in the class each day. There are 2 certified teachers and 2 assistants. We do not have lunch at school, but each child brings a snack that he or she can eat whenever he gets hungry. There is always water available to drink. The school year goes from the day after Labor Day to the Friday before Memorial Day. Special events include: Father's Night, Christmas program, Pajama Day, Easter Egg Hunt, End of Year Celebration, and a field trip.

### **Daily Schedule:**

The children are dropped off in front of the church between 9:00 and 9:15. A teacher brings them into the classroom where they hang up their schoolbag, put their snack on the snack shelf and change into their indoor shoes. We wear slippers in the classroom because it is quiet, clean, and comfortable, and since we spend so much time working on the floor, slippers keep fingers from getting hurt if they get stepped on. When they have their slippers on they find their name at the morning circle. During morning circle, we read some stories, have a morning prayer, we sing a good morning song, stretch and then the teacher presents lessons on any new materials that are on the shelves that day. Each day we change out 2 or 3 different activities to keep it interesting. After morning circle we dismiss the children one at a time to find work in the classroom. They spend the next hour and a half choosing work in the classroom. There are several different areas in the classroom. There is practical life, which includes activities like using tools, pouring, sorting, and dressing frames. There is a language area which starts very simply with sequencing and matching and goes through letter sounds, matching pictures with initial sounds, matching words with pictures – all the way through reading. The math area also starts simply with one to one correspondence and making sets, and then moves through 1 – 10 work, the teens, 1 – 100 work, the decimal system, and that goes all the way through addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. The Montessori curriculum is individualized so each student works at his own pace. The geography and science area includes activities such as puzzle maps of the continents, and simple science projects like sink or float, magnetic or non-magnetic. The sensorial area is work having to do with the senses. The materials are different colors, shapes, sizes as well as textures, smelling jars, etc. After work time we ring the bell. The students put their work away, roll their rugs and come to a second circle time. They each have classroom jobs to do. We also do some large movement activities, the calendar, the weather, and show and tell. Then we dismiss them one at a time with some control of movement activity. They change back into their shoes, and we spend the last half-hour of the day on the playground or in the garden. Their parents pick them up there between 12:15 and 12:30.