

I am Mrs. Coffey-Slattery, and I will be your child's kindergarten teacher. I am Catholic, and attended 12 years of Catholic school. My teaching career began in 1998. I have taught all grades levels from preschool to eighth grade. Earlier in my career, I also worked as a reading and math interventionist. This is my second year at SMS. I am looking forward to helping your child grow in faith, friendships and academic skills during the coming year.

Many parents want to know what their child can do over the summer to prepare for kindergarten. Thank you for being my partner in your child's education! I suggest the following:

Literacy

- Establish a nightly reading routine. Commit to reading a book to your child each night (or at least 5 nights a week). After I teach him / her to read in the fall, you can continue to read a book to your child nightly and then listen as he / she reads one to you. See the attached paper for suggestions of fun activities to do when you read together.

Writing

- Practice writing first and last name appropriately (with each word beginning with a capital letter followed by lowercase letters).

Self-help / independent skills

Set time aside for your child to practice:

- Shoe tying independently
- Zipping & unzipping coats without assistance
- Opening & closing food and water containers that you anticipate packing in his / her lunch
- Opening & closing backpack and lunchbox

Continue working on these skills into the school year as needed until mastered.

Manners and Social Skills

- Kindergarten attends mass twice a week. Talk to your child about church behavior (sitting / kneeling correctly, listening carefully, singing and participating to the best of his / her ability).
- Help your child to transition away from toddler expressions like "potty", "pee-pee" and "poop". Instead model phrases like "I need to go to the bathroom" or "May I go to the bathroom, please?"
- Summer is a wonderful time for family game nights. Playing board games and / or card games helps teach patience, turn taking, how to be a good sport - plus they provide quality time for your children. Many preschool games also teach math or pre-reading skills.

Faith and Social Studies

- Practice the sign of the cross
- Practice the Our Father, Act of Contrition, the Guardian Angel and Saint Michael prayers.
- Practice saying the Pledge of Allegiance with a hand over his / her heart.

CMG training, background check & proof of insurance

- Would you like to join us for a class party, volunteer in our classroom or drive your child on a field trip this coming year? We would like you to do those things too, BUT unfortunately only parents who have completed the Safe Environment Training, background check and paperwork can join us. Those who wish to drive / attend field trips need to provide additional documentation to Mrs. Berry.
- Completing these steps over the summer ensures that you never will miss special occasions in our classroom. We want to include you so please use this link to get started:

<https://www.catholicmission.org/parents/parents.html>