



Holy Cross Stars Academy

Where Every Child Shines

September Newsletter

Good Afternoon Parents,

Welcome one and all to the 2024-2025 school year! First and foremost, I would like to say thank you for the warm welcome and for selecting Stars Academy as your new family! It has been a pleasure getting to meet many of you and reigniting partnerships with our returning families. I am so optimistic that during your time at Stars Academy, you will establish long lasting relations with other families and will be amazed to see your child(ren) blossom into shining stars. I am excited to introduce our new and returning staff, Ioanna Zontanos, Eleni Biskitzi, Samantha Pacheco, Diamanto Andreopoulos, and Joanne Kyriacou. Collectively they have over 20 years of experience working with preschool children, your precious stars.

September is primarily devoted to getting to know each other and settling into our classroom routines. For some children, going to school is a first experience away from home and parents, so this transition may be difficult. We will, therefore, move slowly until all are comfortable with their new friends and surroundings. Following directions, listening, and becoming aware of those around us will be an ongoing endeavor. We will introduce colors and shapes, so our classroom games and activities will be designed to enhance the children's development in these areas. Painting and gluing will also be introduced. Please do not expect a beautifully finished product. In our introduction to school, the proper use of materials is our main concern! Wearing a smock and washing hands after messy work will become a daily ritual. "Please" and "Thank you" will become special "good manners" words. Although projects are designed to teach, we will also provide opportunities for your child's discovery of his or her ability to create! We are looking forward to our special time with your child this year. We anticipate a good start to our school year, with much learning, sharing and fun!

For planning purposes, please be aware of the special dates for this month:

September 8	Grandparents Day
September 9	First regular-schedule day of school
September 14	Exaltation of the Holy Cross
September 17	St. Sophia Liturgy/School Blessing (church attendance for 3- and 4-year-old students)
September 19	Meet the Teacher - 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
September 27	Library Card Applications Due (3- and 4-year-old students only)
September 30	Ashley Farms fundraiser begins

Please remember to label all items of clothing and food items. Just a reminder that we are a nut free preschool when you are packing snacks and lunches. Also, small food items such as raisins and sunflower seeds can be a choking hazard and are prohibited from being consumed in the classroom.

For families that are interested, we do have extended day options, offering care from 7:30 AM through 5:30 PM. Please see Ms. Joanne if this is something you would like to explore.

Please feel free to contact me or Ms. Joanne if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for entrusting your precious angels to our care.

Regards,
Cathy Helfrich
Education Director