



Dear St. Paul Catholic Preschool Families,

My name is Abbie Johnson and I am honored to accept the position as Director of the Preschool. I am excited to be joining such a wonderful school and parish that has such dedication to nurturing the children of our community. Over the course of my teaching career I have taught in both public and private school settings, but always in Early Childhood Education. It is my mission to spend time with you and each of your children; to get to know them and you, to know their personalities, learning styles, and what interests them. I will work to make sure your children know I, with the rest of our amazing staff, will be here to encourage them in all they do and to reassure them they are safe and loved.

I am not only excited to begin working with your children but with you, as primary caregivers. I have a strong belief that learning begins at home and you are their very first, and most important teacher. I welcome you anytime to stop by and brag about something new your child is learning or doing, to seek advice, or even a hug when times get a bit more difficult. We will celebrate all successes, both large and small and I will be here for you and your family through it all.

My primary goal is to ensure that we continue with the excellent quality of education your children are already obtaining from attending St. Paul Catholic Preschool. During the hiring process I attended both the Open House and Spaghetti Dinner. What I found most inviting was the warm, welcoming feeling I received from everyone I met. It was clear while touring the classrooms that Teachers and Assistants, as well as parent volunteers, were highly engaged and committed to the mission of "...encouraging the spiritual, intellectual, and emotional growth..." of all children and families. It was also evident at the Spaghetti Dinner how everyone within the school and parish works together in order to help the Preschool continue to be as successful as it is. Parents and children alike seemed relaxed and genuinely happy to be involved in such a fun event. It was at that moment I knew I wanted to become part of the St. Paul Family.

Part of my teaching philosophy has always been that all children can learn, it may be at different rates, but they will get there. Each child is unique in their learning styles, personalities, and interests. I believe it is our job as educators to help nurture those attributes and foster a safe learning space for all aspects of a child's development. I have a Bachelor's of Science in Elementary Education with a specialization in Human Development from Indiana University. Throughout my career I taught 4-year old Preschool, Kindergarten and First Grade, for a number of years. I believe in age appropriate activities and learning through play in order to allow children to use their creative side while developing an imagination, dexterity, physical/cognitive growth, and emotional strengths. Play is extremely important for healthy brain development, it is through these activities that children will learn at an early age how to engage and interact with their peers and the world around them. Like you, my greatest achievement through all of this has been my family. My husband and I have three beautiful children; Ethan (17), Emalie (11), and Lucas (8). I have often been told by parents that I treat their children as if they were my own, this is absolutely the case. Please know that while in my care I will work to ensure your children are safe, feel loved, and have the best experience in school as I possibly can.

Once again, I am extremely blessed to be granted the opportunity to bring all my experiences, both professionally and personally, to St. Paul Catholic Preschool and its wonderful community. I can not wait to get to know you and your families.

I look forward to meeting you all very soon!

In His Grace & Blessings,

*Abbie Johnson*

St. Paul Catholic Preschool Director