

## PEACE PRESCHOOL HISTORY

Since our doors opened in 1983, we have proudly served hundreds of children and their families by providing quality Christian education.

**Quality Christian Education** allows us to educate the whole child spiritually, morally, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and physically.

**Peace Lutheran School is a Nationally Accredited School.** We are proud to have achieved accreditation through the National Lutheran Schools Association (NLSA) since August 2001. NLSA is a national, rigorous accrediting process designed to evaluate schools on the basis of their unique purposes as Lutheran schools. The evaluation rates academic quality along with the school's spiritual dimension. The administration continually strives to meet and exceed the minimum educational standards in order to ensure continuing accreditation and academic excellence.

**At Peace Lutheran A Child Has Identity.** Compared to many schools, Lutheran schools are small, giving the teachers the opportunity to work with and to know each child as well as their families.

**Peace Lutheran School is a Safe and Caring Place.** Our staff is committed to the caring and nurturing of young children. The staff consists of Christian teachers and assistants. Each one has earned the degree or certification necessary to meet the high standard of their position. The staff recognizes that each child is a unique gift from God.

**SCHOOL MOTTO:**  
*Growing Together With Jesus*

# Peace Lutheran Kindergarten Handbook



750 NW 23rd Lane  
Okeechobee, FL 34972  
863-763-7566

Karen Smith, Director

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
750 NW 23rd Lane  
Okeechobee, FL 34972  
Pastor John C. Hirst

Sunday School and Bible Study: 9:15 A.M.  
Sunday Worship Services: 8:00 A.M. & 10:30 A.M.

Dear Parents:

Raising a child is THE most important challenge parents have to face. Our children encounter pressures today far different from the ones we faced as children. We are delighted that you have chosen Peace Lutheran School to assist you in this education process. Your concern for quality education, with solid Christian foundations, will have a lasting influence on your child.

May God bless your family and make this year a wonderful school year for your child.

In His Name,  
Pastor John C. Hirst

P.S. If you're looking for a "church home" in Okeechobee, I invite you to Peace Lutheran on Sundays to worship with us.

*Mission Statement*  
*Through caring and sharing,*  
*Peace Lutheran School*  
*educates and prepares*  
*children to live*  
*as loving Christians*  
*in God's world.*

**VOLUNTEERS:**

There are volunteers from the church congregation and community who come in for various programs and presentations. Parents wishing to volunteer their services should contact their child's teacher or the Director.

**DRESS CODE:**

Uniforms imprinted with the school logo are required for children in kindergarten. Shirts may be purchased through our office for \$12.50 each. Shirts may be purchased in navy, cardinal red, or white. White shirts must be worn to chapel on Thursday. Boys may wear khaki or navy shorts or long pants (not jeans). Girls may wear khaki or navy pants, shorts, skirts, or jumpers. Pants, shorts, skirts and jumpers may be purchased through the retailer of your choice. Children may wear modest play clothes of their choice on Fridays.

For safety reasons, we **do not allow children to wear flip-flops, high heels, "heelies", crocs, or open backed shoes.** We recommend your child wear tennis shoes.

**EQUIPMENT/TOYS:**

The school furnishes equipment for the preschool program, including appropriate materials for the recreational needs of the child. Children are **NOT** to bring toys, gum or other items from home unless written permission is granted by the teacher.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

All records of students and personnel are strictly confidential. Although a roster of names, addresses and phone numbers will be made available within each class, they may not be used for any commercial purposes. A Christian, loving concern should be the spirit behind any conversation or written material.

**PHILOSOPHY:**

The administration, faculty, and staff of Peace Lutheran School believe that its relationship with children is established in Christ. "Whoever welcomes one of these little ones in My name welcomes Me" (Mark 9:37). We believe education is valuable and that the initial educational experiences of a child contribute greatly to his or her future success. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). We are committed to providing a comprehensive early learning education in a safe, nurturing, Christian environment.

The goals for the students of Peace Lutheran address both spiritual and educational needs. We strive to prepare the students to live life in the proper relationship with God and expose them to the basic academic areas through an integrated approach. To achieve these goals a combination of Faith Alive, Story Hour, Scripture Bites, Open Court, Saxon Math, and additional pertinent curricular materials, developmentally appropriate for children are used. Every attempt is made to meet the individual needs of students during their tenure at Peace Lutheran. It is our intent that the children will exit the program at Peace Lutheran with the necessary skills for entry into the next level of education in a program in a faith-based or public school with a strong Christian foundation.

**CURRICULUM:**

It is our goal that the kindergarten children acquire a strong foundation in reading and math, while instilling a love for Christ. To accomplish these goals, a combination of Open Court, Saxon Math, and Faith Alive are implemented.

In addition, children will receive instruction in Social Studies, Science, Spanish, computer, art, and music.

**ADMISSIONS:**

Peace Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, nationality or ethnic group.

Enrollment, registration fee and all designated forms must be completed in full before the student's enrollment is complete.

Kindergarten students must be 5 years old on or before September 1st. Any exception must be approved by the Board of Education. A birth certificate, up-to-date shot record and school physical are required before starting school.

**SPECIAL REQUESTS:**

Here at Peace Lutheran we strive to provide your child with a well qualified, nurturing staff who recognize and respect each child as a unique gift from God.

Many factors are considered before assigning each child a teacher. While parental input is considered, special requests cannot be guaranteed. Final placement will be at the discretion of the Director.

**REGISTRATION:**

Parents will receive a Parent-Student Handbook and an Enrollment Form which should be completed and returned, accompanied by the registration fee and the first semester supply fee.

Peace Lutheran School charges a one-time registration fee and a first and second semester supply fee in addition to the monthly tuition. These fees include art supplies, work books, teacher materials and supplementary teaching materials. **These fees are non-refundable in the event of a withdrawal.**

**ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER CHANGES:**

It is important that we have your current address and your home, cell and work telephone numbers at all times. This information is especially important in cases of emergency. Please notify the School Director or your child's teacher immediately upon

**a health official or a professional hair consultant stating your child is free from lice and/or nits in order for he/she to return to school.** Because of the possibility of head lice being spread, please be aware of items being brought to school. Please do not send brushes, combs or hats to school with your child.

**Illness-**If your child is not feeling well or is showing signs of illness (coughing, runny nose, constant sneezing, nausea, diarrhea or fever, etc.) **please do not send your child to school.** Should your child become ill at school, it is vital that we contact you and that you make arrangements to have your child picked up as soon as possible. *We reserve the right to send any child home if we feel that the child is not well enough to be in school or is endangering the health of another child.*

**Medicine-**Prescription medicine brought to Peace Lutheran School must be in the original container with the name of the physician and child labeled on the bottle. Written authorization must include directions as to the amounts and times to be dispensed. A proper measuring utensil should be included. Please give all medications directly to the School Director.

**FIELD TRIPS:**

Field trips will be planned periodically through the school year. Field trips are correlated with the education program. They are considered to be an extension of the classroom and are a part of the enrichment program. Learning takes place when the child is actively involved. A written note, along with a permission slip will be sent home prior to all school trips. These slips must be signed and returned if you want your child to participate. All drivers must have a valid drivers license and proof of insurance. No vehicles will leave the parking lot until all students are loaded and all vehicles will travel together.

Car seats are required as deemed necessary by law.

**DISCIPLINE:**

There are times when children need to be reminded that self-control, consideration of others, clean speech, and obedience to authority are an intrinsic and desirable part of Christian life and learning. The children are then reminded of the great love from Jesus, who showed the world God's forgiveness. We can do no less. Depending on the age of the child, the nature and seriousness of a given offense, one of the following strategies may be utilized:

- Redirection
- Removal from situation
- Peace time and prayer
- Loss of privilege
- Appropriate counsel from teacher or Director

Our goal is to help children lead God-pleasing lives. We believe that this is only possible through the help of the Holy Spirit and cooperation of the parents. Please be advised that no form of corporal punishment is ever used at Peace Lutheran School. Corporal punishment is a method of discipline that must be decided by each individual and is best administered by the parent.

**LUNCH/SNACKS:**

Lunch is from 12:00-12:30. Children will need to bring their own lunch AND drink—kitchen facilities will not be available. Friday or the last day of school for the week is Cowboy's Day. Children's menu may be purchased for \$3.00. Your child will also need to supply their own morning snack.

**HEALTH:**

**Head lice**-If your child is found to have head lice, either the lice or the nits, you will be called and must immediately remove your child from school. The student will not be allowed to return to school until treatment for head lice has been applied and all nits are removed from the child's head. Your child's teacher will check your child upon return to school. **If the problem persists, Peace Lutheran School must receive written notification from**

changing your home/work/cell telephone numbers or any other information that the school should have on file.

**RELEASE OF STUDENTS:**

It is extremely important that you, as parents, understand and support our policy on releasing students. On the Enrollment/Registration form are spaces for you to fill in the names of those people who are allowed to remove your child from Peace Lutheran School. **IF YOU HAVE NOT** included someone's name on the list and have not written or called us, **DO NOT** expect us to release your child to that person! Telephone requests can be honored in extreme cases. **PLEASE** give the name of the person who is to remove your child from the school to your child's teacher. Proof of identification will be required.

Children should **ALWAYS** be brought into the classroom and picked up from the classroom by an **ADULT**. This is for the safety of the child and to allow for the legal signing in and out each day.

**TUITION:**

Peace Lutheran School's annual tuition is divided into ten (10) monthly payments, including all holidays. Payments are due on the first school day of each month. The monthly tuition payments are past due after the 10th of each month. A late charge of \$10.00 will be assessed after that day. We now accept Mastercard, Visa, American Express and Discover.

<i>Yearly Tuition</i>	<i>\$ 4,250.00 (subject to change)</i>
<i>Monthly Tuition: 10 payments</i>	<i>\$ 425.00 each (subject to change)</i>
<i>Registration Fee</i>	<i>\$ 35.00</i>
<i>Books and Supplies</i>	<i>\$ 400.00 payable in 2 payments</i>

Full-day students: 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. (Monday-Friday\_

Extended-day care is available to students for an additional \$5.00 per day.

Extended-day Students: 8:00 A.M. to 5:15 P.M. (Monday-Friday)

Members of Peace Lutheran Church are exempt from the registration fee. If you have more than one child enrolled in the school, the first child is full price and the second is discounted 10%.

### **SCHOOL CALENDAR:**

Peace Lutheran School will follow the schedule of the Okeechobee County School System. A copy of the calendar will be available to parents prior to the opening of school. Parents will be notified of any exception to the calendar.

### **COMMUNICATION:**

Various means of communication will be held with parents. These communications will include, but not are not limited to, upcoming monthly events at school, updates to school calendar and other important information that you may need to know. This will include monthly newsletters, teacher's letters, flyers, e-mail, etc.

In the event of inclement weather or other reasons school must be closed, please tune into local broadcast systems for updates. We will follow the same closings/update schedule as the Okeechobee County School System.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

In order to receive the full benefit of our curriculum, children should be here on time and attend regularly. School begins at 8:00 a.m. **If you arrive after 8:00 a.m. you must sign in at the front office and someone will take your child to the classroom. Your child will be marked tardy. Now that your child**

**is in Kindergarten, it is imperative that he/she arrives on time. Class begins at 8:00 sharp at which time the doors will be locked.**

Because your child's health and well-being is of great importance to us, please call the school office if your child is absent from school for more than one day.

### **DROP-OFF/PICK-UP:**

Children should not be dropped off at school before 7:30 A.M. Children should be picked up no later than 15 minutes after their day has ended. You will be charged \$5.00 for each additional 5 minutes your child is at school.

Early morning drop-off is available (7:00 A.M. to 7:30 A.M.) for an additional \$25.00 per month or \$5.00 per day.

### **PARKING:**

- Enter only: Road east of church
- Proceed to parent parking areas
- Park in designated areas only
- DO NOT park in Pastor's space, crosswalk or **NO PARKING ZONE**
- Use crosswalk when necessary
- Outside doors to classrooms will be locked
- Road in front of Fellowship Hall to NW 7th Ave. is closed
- Exit only: Road between church and Fellowship Hall
- Do not leave car running
- Do not leave children unattended

**These rules are for the safety of our children.**

### **EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Okeechobee Xplosion offers a tumbling class for an additional \$40 per month per student. They come to our facility for this class.