

# Our Philosophy



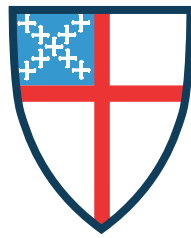
Our philosophy is influenced by the Reggio Emilia project approach to teaching that features child-directed learning. Children are celebrated as individuals, and their learning is a personal journey supported through a partnership between the child, his/her parents and teachers.

*"Reggio Emilia's philosophy of respecting the child as a protagonist, collaborator and communicator in his or her learning resonates with me as both an educator and a mother."*

**Deirdre Churchill**

St. Mark's Preschool Board Member  
Former Principal, Winnetka Public Schools

Teachers act as documenters, observers and researchers, and the environment, as a "third teacher"; learning is facilitated through exploration and project work. An emergent curriculum, it builds on the interests, passions and play of children while also encompassing developmentally appropriate concepts and skills. Teachers thoughtfully and purposefully introduce knowledge and materials the children need to grow both academically and emotionally.



# Our Religious Affiliation

St. Mark's Preschool is a member of the National Association of Episcopal Schools. In the Episcopal tradition, our school emphasizes the love for all of God's children. In keeping with the Vision of St. Mark's, we believe in inclusiveness and seek diversity as an integral aspect of the preschool experience. Children of all faiths are welcome.

An Episcopal education begins with the premise that we are all explorers, and we invite our families and students to explore and celebrate the differences among us. Parents are always welcome to attend activities that involve the discussion of God at our school.



*Celebrating each child,  
each experience, every day.*



A preschool inspired by the Reggio Emilia philosophy of early childhood education.

**St. Mark's Preschool**

393 N. Main Street  
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-5068

(630) 858-1020 x234

email: [preschool@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:preschool@stmarksglenellyn.org)

web: [www.stmarksglenellyn.org/preschool](http://www.stmarksglenellyn.org/preschool)

## Our Director & Teachers



Our Director, **Meghan Kaplan**, holds a Masters in Childhood Education from Brooklyn College and has completed the NYC Teaching Fellows Program. She also holds a B.A. in Spanish from Dominican University in River Forest.

Her teaching experience in both kindergarten and first grade makes her adept and committed to teaching the skills preschoolers need to be successful in the "grade school" classroom. Ms. Meghan comes from a family of educators and her creativity, organization and dedication are a real asset to our program.

**Savannah Stewart** holds a B.S. in Early Childhood Education from Wright State University in Ohio and a special education endorsement from the State of Illinois. A life long learner, Ms. Savannah enjoys taking art and art education courses at Columbia College in Chicago. She loves teaching science and nature activities, and her questioning mind and artistic eye keep wonder and creativity in abundance in our classroom.

**Holly Pelsor** holds a B.A. from Benedictine University in Elementary Education. Ms. Holly loves working with preschoolers and her teaching style works hand in hand with Reggio's child-directed learning. Her nurturing nature, calm guidance and ability to thoughtfully encourage students to challenge themselves enables her to keep preschoolers happily engaged in their projects and pursuits.

## The Classroom

We offer both a morning and an afternoon mixed age classroom of three and four year olds. Our approach places a strong emphasis on the arts as part of the curriculum. Our space includes a dedicated art studio and visiting artists and musicians from the community share their talents with our students.

Children enjoy the outdoor classroom including our outside playground, weather permitting. Additional opportunities to run and explore large motor skills are found in our multi-purpose room, another extension of the classroom environment.



## Schedule & Tuition

Classes are held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays. The morning session begins at 9:15 a.m. and ends at 11:30 a.m. The afternoon session begins at 12:45 p.m. and ends at 3:00 p.m.

Our school calendar is aligned as closely as possible to the Glen Ellyn School District 41 calendar. School will begin the second week of September.

The cost for the school year will be \$2,250 a year (\$250 per month X 9 months). We happily offer a sibling discount. Payment may be made for the full year, in three installments, or monthly.

## Frequently asked Questions



### *Will there be a religious component to the school?*

Our students will be introduced to Episcopal values through grace, stories from the Judeo-Christian tradition and visits to our chapel with their teachers and St. Mark's clergy. Each activity at the school will celebrate and be respectful of all the children's faith traditions.

### *Will my child be kindergarten-ready?*

Yes! Enriching and integrated experiences in areas such as art, science, math, literacy, dramatic play and music, in a play and project-based environment, will create a strong foundation for kindergarten.

### *How do I sign up my child or get more information?*

Please phone the preschool at 630 858-1020 x234 or email us at [preschool@stmarksglenellyn.org](mailto:preschool@stmarksglenellyn.org). You may also visit our preschool website at [www.stmarksglenellyn.org/preschool](http://www.stmarksglenellyn.org/preschool).

**St. Mark's Preschool is licensed by the State of Illinois' Department of Children and Family Services.**