

St. Thomas Aquinas Early Childhood Center

8320 Old C.R. 54 • New Port Richey, Florida 34653 • Telephone / Fax (727) 376-2330

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Dear St. Thomas Aquinas Early Childhood Center VPK Parents:

St. Thomas Aquinas Early Childhood Center has been participating in VPK since August 2007. While the funds which the state offers falls below our financial needs, we are hoping that with continued increased enrollment we will be able to offset the lower income per child. We also rely heavily on the generosity of our families throughout the school year, as there will be many opportunities for families to support our program – both financially and with service of time and talents. We will again this year continue our VPK Pledge Program.

Our greatest asset is our experienced, dedicated teaching staff. Because of their educational backgrounds and years of teaching experience, we insist on compensating them justly. Seventy-five percent of our income goes to salaries. We will not compromise our program by lessening this standard. Our staff are educational professionals, with greater experience and education than the state currently is requiring (or paying) for the four year old VPK program.

As you plan for the upcoming school year for your child's participation in the Voluntary Prekindergarten Program:

Your child's four year old, VPK program (total 540 hours), will be free of charge to your family. This includes tuition and registration fee for the 2016/2017 school year.

Children must meet the age requirements set by the state – four years of age on or before September 1, 2016. Note: if your child turns five on or before September 1, 2016, they are not eligible as they are technically kindergarten age. They may still participate in our four year old program, but not as a VPK student and must pay regular tuition.

All four year olds participating in our wrap-around services (Early Drop and/or Lunch Bunch), would pay applicable fees, including the \$100 wrap-around service fee at time of registration.

Parent Responsibilities

As a parent, you have the responsibility to comply with Date of Birth Verification Requirements by providing a copy of an original or certified copy of the child's birth certificate.

As a parent, you have the responsibility to comply with Residential Address Verification Requirements by providing a copy of at least one of the following that show name and

residential address of the parent with whom the child resides: driver's license, utility bill, bank statement, insurance policy.

As a parent, you have the responsibility to ensure your child participates in kindergarten screening that will occur when your child enrolls in kindergarten.

As a parent, you are responsible for your child's VPK transportation.

As a parent, you are responsible for complying with the VPK attendance and other program policies and to comply with all of the VPK provider's policies.

It is your responsibility to register with the state and obtain your child's VPK Certificate. This can be done at the Early Learning Coalition, 7334 Little Road, Suite 102, New Port Richey, FL 34654 (east side of Little Road by the Government Building behind Choice Fitness). Their phone number is (727) 569-1004. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Tuesday. No appointment is necessary.

Please fill out and bring with you the attached VPK Application Form along with the following necessary documents: original birth certificate or original certificate of baptism or an immunization form signed by the doctor, and documentation that you are a Florida resident – driver's license, utility bill, bank statement or pay stub. **St. Thomas Aquinas ECC. must receive the State of Florida VPK Eligibility and Enrollment Certificate by August 1st for your child to remain registered at St. Thomas Aquinas ECC.**

Thank you for choosing to enroll your child at St. Thomas Aquinas Early Childhood Center. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call us.

God Bless,

Alicia Mumma
Director