

St. Thomas Aquinas Early Childhood Center Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Parent Agreement

Thank you for choosing St. Thomas Aquinas Early Childhood Center for your child's 2016/2017 school year. We look forward to the year ahead and are excited to have you as part of our St. Thomas Aquinas ECC family. The items outlined below are specific to St. Thomas Aquinas ECC and your participation in the VPK program here at our center.

The most important element of the VPK program is to have your child in school consistently, attending regularly and arriving on time. In addition to providing a secure and meaningful school experience for your child, you are setting the foundation for his/her future school years by the routines you established at this age.

With regards to the attendance policy, there have been major changes. Your child can only miss up to four days a month. After that the school does not get paid. This could put St. Thomas Aquinas ECC in a very difficult financial situation. There are no longer allowances for vacation days as in the past. These policy changes have been mandated by the state. Please keep absences to a minimum. Parents are encouraged to bring their children to school even on occasions where you might need to pick up early due to appointments, etc. Those days will still count as attended days.

Additionally, St. Thomas Aquinas ECC's status in the VPK program will be monitored based on the results of the assessments that your child will complete in his/her first month of kindergarten. If your child is excessively absent, he/she may not be well prepared for kindergarten, which will not only affect your child's school readiness, but will also reflect poorly on our center. Your cooperation in the area of attendance is greatly appreciated.

Please read the items noted and complete the information at the bottom of the page, including parent signature/s.

- ◆ We/I understand that St. Thomas Aquinas Early Childhood Center is, first and foremost a Catholic Early Childhood Center, where our Faith is infused throughout the curriculum in all classes.
- ◆ We/I understand the attendance requirements set forth by the state's Voluntary Pre-K program that my child must meet to remain in the VPK program for the 2016/2017 school year. **IMPORTANT:** The child's first day of school is considered their enrollment date.
- ◆ We/I understand that to meet the number of hours required for VPK, my child should arrive to school on time and remain in school until the end of his/her day.
- ◆ We/I understand that, as a VPK parent, I must sign the attendance verification form at the end of each month to remain enrolled in the VPK program at STA ECC.
- ◆ We/I understand that enrollment in the VPK program allows my child to attend St. Thomas Aquinas ECC without paying registration or tuition fees for the 540 hour VPK portion of our program.
- ◆ We/I understand that if I fail to meet the state's VPK requirements, and if I wish to remain at St. Thomas Aquinas ECC for the remainder of the school year, I will be required to pay monthly tuition payments as outlined in our current fee schedule.
- ◆ We/I understand that any additional fees incurred, including extended day fees, returned check fees, late pick-up fees, etc. are my responsibility and will be paid according to the policies and procedures outlined in the STA ECC Family Handbook, distributed and signed for at the start of the school year.
- ◆ We/I understand that all school policies and procedures outlined in our Family Handbook, as well as classroom procedures outlined by our individual classroom teachers, apply to all students, including VPK enrolled children.
- ◆ We/I understand that if St. Thomas Aquinas ECC does not continue in the State VPK program, and I wish to retain my child at St. Thomas Aquinas ECC, I would be responsible for all registration and tuition fees as outlined in our current fee schedule.
- ◆ **We/I agree to have my child assessed within the first 30 days of kindergarten.**

Please sign and return this form to the ECC office.

*BOTH PARENT SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED (if applicable)

Child's Name (please print) _____

Today's Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____