

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 School



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

Karen Smith, Director

Peace Lutheran School Mission Statement

Through caring and sharing,
Peace Lutheran School
Educates and prepares
Children to live as
Loving Christians
In God's world.

the parking lot until all students are loaded and all vehicles will travel together.

Car seats are required as deemed necessary by law.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular activities will be made available during school hours at an additional fee payable directly to the instructor.

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:

The best clothes for the children to wear are comfortable well-fitted play clothes. Dress your child in clothing that he/she can easily take off and put on in order to use the bathroom. Please label all articles of clothing with your child's name. Peace Lutheran School cannot be responsible for articles not marked.

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.

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.

PHILOSOPHY

The administration, faculty, and staff at Peace Lutheran School believe that our 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 immeasurably to his or her future successes. “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6) Young children are unique creations of God. In order to best meet the needs of the children enrolled in the early childhood program at Peace Lutheran School, we are committed to the following:

- Providing a Christ-centered curriculum whereby children will daily learn about Jesus and His love
- Creating a safe and secure environment in which young children will experience enjoyment and success as activities are planned to match the ages of the children and their individual levels of development.
- Developing the children’s independence and ability to think for themselves while instilling a strong foundation for living in this world and contributing to society using their unique abilities and God’s gifts to the fullest.
- Nurturing the development of the whole child in order that each child might develop his/her full potential spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally, and creatively.
- Providing children with the opportunities to create, explore, and discover in their own individual and unique way.
- Affirming the importance of play as children’s work. Recognizing each child’s unique qualities and fostering healthy self-esteem in order that each child might become all that God created him/her to be.

CURRICULUM:

Peace Lutheran School implements the SCEWD curriculum which is a developmentally appropriate curricula designed for Christian schools. The SCEWD plan (Spiritual/Social, Communication Arts, Wellness, and Discovery) allows for a variety of resources including Saxon Math, Open Court, When I Say Go, Scripture Bites, Story Hour, Faith Alive, Creative Curriculum, and other CPH materials.

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 a health official or a professional hair consultant stating your child is free from lice and/or nits in order for your child to return to school.** Because of the possibility of head lice being spread, please be aware of items being brought to school. All items, such as blankets and pillows should be treated before bringing them 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

LUNCH/SNACKS:

Lunch is from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for those children enrolled in either the full-day or extended-day sessions. These children will need to bring their own lunch AND drink—kitchen facilities will not be available. **All students will need to bring his/her own snack for the morning. Extended day students will need to bring an afternoon snack in their lunch box each day.** A carton of milk is available for 35 cents a day. Friday or the last day of school of the week is Arby's Day—children's menu may be purchased for \$3.00. Apples may be purchased for an additional fifty cents.

NAPS:

Naps are taken each afternoon. Each child must supply his or her own mat. Blankets, pillows or any other bedding will be sent home each Friday for cleaning.

HEALTH:

Personal Hygiene—As stated previously, preschool and Jr. Pre-K children must be able to take care of their toiletry needs including clean-up. They are reminded frequently about going to the bathroom, but accidents can still happen. It is important to always have a clean set of clothing in your child's cubbie. If your child has no clean clothes or is unable to clean up after the accident, you will be notified. If a child has three or more accidents per week, he or she is not potty trained, and additional fees will be assessed.

Children enrolled in the Tiny Tots program do not have to be potty trained, but must wear pull-ups. Children who are or become potty trained during the school year will qualify for the reduced preschool fees.

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

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.

Tiny Tots: Children entering our Tiny Tots program must be 2 years old on or before September 1st. Children in this class should be in pull-ups, but do not need to be potty trained. **Children who are or become potty trained during the school year will qualify for the reduced preschool fees. Any exception must be approved by the director.**

Junior Preschool: Children entering the Junior Preschool program must be three years of age on or before December 31st and potty-trained. **Any exception must be approved by the director.**

Pre-kindergarten: Students entering the Pre-Kindergarten program must be 3 years old on or before September 1st and potty-trained. **Any exception must be approved by the Director.**

All children entering Preschool for the first time must present an immunization certificate and a form from their physician stating they are in good health.

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, teacher materials and supplementary teaching materials. **These fees are non-refundable in the event of a withdrawal.**

ADDRESS/PHONE NUMBER CHANGE:

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 case of emergency. Please notify the Director or your child's teacher immediately upon changing your home/cell/work telephone numbers or any 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! Tel-ephone 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.

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 crossing area when necessary
- Outside doors to classrooms will be locked
- Road in front of fellowship hall to NW 7th Avenue is closed
- Exit only: Road between church and fellowship hall
- Do not leave car running
- Do not leave children unattended

DISCIPLINE:

Proper discipline plays an important part in the life of a Christian. It is desirable for children to learn discipline at an early age.

We believe that the staff must lovingly guide and direct the children to help them learn to cooperate with their peers, respect authority, and exhibit self-control. In some cases, children may not respond to redirection or counsel from a teacher. In those cases, "Peace-time" or a loss of privilege may be appropriate. During Peace-time, children are encouraged to take a break and get peaceful in an area away from the rest of the class. Children may return to the group when they decide they are ready. Caregivers may ask the child if he/she is ready to return after three to five minutes. Children are encouraged to make suitable choices in solving their problems and are returned to the group after a prayer.

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Peace Lutheran School will follow the schedule of the Okeechobee County School System. A copy of the calendar will be made 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 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-mails, 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/updates 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 8:30 a.m. and the doors will be locked at 8:45 a.m. **If you arrive after this time you will need to sign in at the front office and have someone take your child to the classroom.**

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 you child is at preschool.** Early drop-off, 7:00 a.m.—7:30 a.m., is available for an extra charge of \$25 per month. Children must be walked all the way to their classroom.

Fee Schedule for Jr. Preschool and Preschool

Half-day students: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Mon.—Fri.)

<i>Yearly Tuition:</i>	<i>\$ 2900.00</i>
<i>Monthly : 10 payments</i>	<i>\$ 290.00 each</i>
<i>Registration Fee:</i>	<i>\$ 25.00</i>
<i>Semester Supply Fee:</i> <i>1/2 Payments due at registration</i> <i>1/2 payment due February.</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>

Full-day students: 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. (Mon.—Fri.)
3:30 p.m. with grace period

<i>Yearly Tuition:</i>	<i>\$ 3900.00</i>
<i>Monthly Tuition:</i> <i>10 payments</i>	<i>\$ 390.00 each</i>
<i>Registration Fee:</i>	<i>\$ 25.00</i>
<i>Semester Supply Fee:</i> <i>1/2 Payments due at registration</i> <i>1/2 payment due February.</i>	<i>\$ 200.00</i>

Extended Day students: 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. (Mon.-Fri.)
5:30 p.m. with grace period

<i>Yearly Tuition:</i>	<i>\$ 4200.00</i>
<i>Monthly: 10 payments</i>	<i>\$ 420.00 each</i>
<i>Registration Fee:</i>	<i>\$ 25.00</i>
<i>Semester Supply Fee:</i> <i>1/2 Payments due at registration</i> <i>1/2 payment due February.</i>	<i>\$ 400.00</i>

Fee Schedule for Tiny Tots—2 year old children

After the child is potty trained these fees will be reduced to the same as preschool fees.

Half-day students: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (Mon.-Fri.)

Yearly Tuition	\$3250.00
Monthly: 10 payments	\$ 325.00
Registration Fee:	\$ 25.00
Semester Supply Fee: 2 payments Due with registration and Feb. payment	\$ 200.00

Full day students: 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. (Mon.—Fri.)
3:30 p.m. with grace period

Yearly Tuition	\$ 4250.00
Monthly: 10 payments	\$ 425.00
Registration Fee:	\$ 25.00
Semester Supply Fee: 2 payments Due with registration and Feb. payment	\$ 200.00

Extended day students: 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. (Mon.—Fri.)
5:30 p.m. with grace period.

Yearly tuition	\$4500.00
Monthly: 10 payments	\$ 450.00
Registration Fee	\$ 25.00
Semester Supply Fee: 2 payments Due with registration and Feb. payment	\$ 200.00

VPK:

Peace Lutheran School offers VPK for children who are 4 years old on or before September 1st of the current year. Your child can attend for a half day at no cost to you regardless of income.

Regular attendance and punctuality are requirements in VPK. VPK hours are 8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m. Your child may arrive as early as 8:00 at no additional charge. Children who need to arrive at school from 7:30 to 8:00 will be charged \$25 a month. Early morning care, beginning at 7:00 a.m. is an additional \$25 each month.

Afternoon care is offered for a very reasonable rate to you. The monthly charge will be \$200 for your child to stay until 3:30 p.m. If you child need to stay until 5:30 the monthly charge will be \$225.

VPK WRAP AROUND CHARGES

7:00 a.m.—7:30 a.m.	\$25 per month
7:30 a.m.—8:00 a.m.	\$25 per month
11:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.	\$200 per month
11:30 a.m.—5:30 p.m.	\$225 per month

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 Visa, MasterCard, American Express, and Discover debit or credit cards.

Children may be dropped off as early as 7:30 a.m. at no additional charge. Early morning care at 7:00 a.m. is available at an additional charge of \$25 per month.

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