



PreK Villarreal & McCarthy Class Notes

2025-2026

Welcome to SHCS PreK!

We are excited about the opportunity to get to know you and look forward to a happy and productive school year!

Our most important goal is to develop in your child a joy of learning!

Arrival and Dismissal

- Students may arrive no earlier than 7 AM and go to the cafeteria (Enter through the gate near the main office stairs). Car Line begins at 7:30 AM. School starts at 8 AM.
- Students dismiss at 3 PM and must be picked up by 3:15 PM. After 3:15, the remaining students will be taken to Extended Care.
- **Car Line:** Drop-off and pick-up car lines begin from Hall Avenue and travel east on Walnut Street (drop off students in front of the gym). During dismissal, prominently place your family sign on the passenger visor and do not block driveways on Walnut St. (be mindful that this is also a neighborhood). Please stay off your cell phone. During arrival, only drop off students when Sacred Heart staff opens the door.
- **Walking:** Enter the parking lot on Walnut Street. Enter through the gate at the bottom of the front steps (do not use the main office entrance). You must exit the parking lot on Southern Avenue (right turn only). Please follow the directions of the crossing guards.
- **Extended Care** - \$15 per day, from 3:15 to 5:30 PM. Students have snacks and are involved in many activities, including homework time and outside/inside play. Parents come to the main office to pick up students for extended care and must be picked up by 5:30 PM. No cell phone use during pick-up to ensure the transition runs smoothly.

Parent and Child Separation

- One of the most difficult and important contributions that a parent makes to his/her child's school career is helping your child deal positively and quickly with the necessary separation of the school day.

Parent and Child Separation

- **Parents may not enter our classroom at arrival and dismissal times.** Please be prepared to follow and demonstrate approval of this class regimen starting on the first day of school. When parents say their goodbyes at the door, they are showing the children that the classroom is a "safe and secure place."
- Teachers have a very important role in welcoming children to the class and starting their day positively. No matter how hard a parent may try, it is very hard to resist the urge to engage the teacher and distract her from this task. It is also difficult for the teacher to remain undistracted by the parent's presence.
- **Being a good student requires a great deal of self-discipline and confidence.** It is very important, therefore, for the student to believe that, at school, **he** is primarily responsible for his learning and success. The parents are his guests in this environment, and their job is to support his efforts and the efforts of his teachers.
- As parents, it is important to remember that the class does not wish to alienate parents or even keep them at a distance. But, they do need students to develop independence and comfort in a classroom setting. Once this is accomplished, parents can serve in important and specified volunteer roles.

Lunch and Snack

- **Lunch** is from 10:45 to 11:15 each school day.
- We will dine in the cafeteria.
- Your child may bring a lunch from home or order from the cafeteria.
- A cafeteria menu will be posted on the Sacred Heart School website. The menu is available at <http://www.shshattiesburg.com/>. Click **Parents** at the top of the page > scroll down to **cafeteria menus** > Elementary Lunch Menu <https://www.shshattiesburg.com/cafeteria-menus>



- **Snack:** Please send an afternoon snack for your child each day in his backpack. Please do not put it in a lunchbox. Easy to open, non-messy foods like pretzels, apples, veggie straws, goldfish, and graham crackers.
- An emergency cafeteria snack (fresh fruit only) will be charged (\$1- \$2) to your account if your child forgets his snack. Please do not make this a habit.

Lunch and Snack

- **Water Bottle:** Please send a filled water bottle each day. Water stations are available for refilling. If your child does not have his water bottle, a bottle of water will be charged to his lunch account.

School Mass

- The PreK-6th grade students will attend the first school Mass in the church on Thursday, August 7th.
- School Masses are on most Thursdays that school is in session. All students wear church uniforms on Mass days.

Uniforms

- The dress code information is available at <http://www.shshattiesburg.com/>. Click **Parents** at the top of the page > scroll down to **Handbooks and Dress code** > 2025-2026 Dress Code (PreK-12) to open up the PDF for the current dress code. Pre-K students are expected to follow the dress code. You will receive a notice of any dress code infringements.



Communication

- **Student Folders** A student folder with student and class information will be sent home daily. Please return each day.
- A class webpage is updated weekly. The web address is <https://lvillarreal7.wixsite.com/mysite>
- The Remind messaging app will be the primary way to disseminate information and receive communication from parents.



Payments

- Any payments sent to school with your child should be in an envelope marked with name, grade, purpose, and where it should be directed (cafeteria, office, PTO, etc.) It should be placed in the clear sleeve in your child's folder. It is best to send checks instead of cash.



Rest Time

- Our students expend a great deal of energy during the morning! They need to recharge their batteries in the afternoon. Research has shown that young children need “mental breaks” during the day and that sufficient rest contributes to academic success. Our class will pray a decade of the Rosary, listen to music and stories, and sometimes work in small groups or individually with the teachers on skills.
- Please talk positively about this time, and reassure yourself of its importance.
- You may send a **small** blanket (infant receiving blanket size/no bigger than the mat) and a **very small** stuffed animal that does not light up or make noise. Do not send a pillow as our storage space is very limited. Teachers will make the final decision of whether or not the items comply with an appropriate size.

Restroom

- Children are allowed to go to the restroom throughout the day. We have a restroom attached to our classroom, and we also utilize the restrooms for boys and girls on our floor.
- Please let us know if your child has any problems.
- Teachers are not allowed to assist the children with toiletry needs, such as wiping. We can help them learn to tuck in shirts, snap, and buckle. Please practice these skills at home too.

Personal Items

- Please do not allow your child to bring toys or other valuables to school.
- A **very small** stuffed animal is allowed for rest time.



Birthdays

- Your child's special day will be recognized with a birthday song, crown, and prayer.
- If you choose to send a special treat for the class to celebrate, it must be store-bought (no home-baked treats). No drinks.
- Please message me if you plan to send a birthday treat for the class.
- Parents may join the class during birthday treat time. The time varies, so please communicate with us if you plan to celebrate with us at school.

