



**Bishop McHugh Regional Catholic School**  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Little Storm Preschool Prepares Students for Lifetime of Learning**

(Cape May Courthouse, N.J.) July 1, 2015 – Parents seeking a nurturing environment for their child’s first formal educational experience are invited to visit the Little Storm Preschool at Bishop McHugh Regional Catholic School, 2221 Route 9 North (mile marker 20), Cape May Court House, N.J. during summer office hours, Tuesday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

“A child’s best learning tools are their head, hands, and heart, they examine the world around themselves, discover the world inside themselves, and master new skills that are the building blocks for their future,” said Principal Tom McGuire. “Bishop McHugh prepares students starting at age 2 for a lifetime of learning.”

Importantly, Bishop McHugh does so in a safe, secure environment. A message on the Little Storm blackboard—written by one of the teachers and read to the children daily—reminds students that they can explore their curiosity with the support of a caring staff. “When you enter this classroom, you are scientists! You are explorers! You are important! You are loved! You are respected! You are a friend! You are the reason we are here.”

#### **An Engaging Curriculum**

Little Storm Preschool follows the Preschool Teaching and Learning Standards (2014),

working toward the Benchmark Standards for Elementary Catholic Schools. The curriculum includes developmentally appropriate activities in language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, art, music, Spanish, sign language, life skills, physical education, social play and Faith. There is a focus on meeting each student's individual needs while fostering a responsibility for self-discipline and peace. Teachers prepare students for the challenges of the 21st Century using the latest technology such as iPad minis and Smart Boards. They challenge students to develop and work to their full potential while stressing higher-order thinking skills.

Parents are kept apprised of their child's progress via one-on-one meetings to review the student's portfolio of work. Student progress measured against formative, benchmark and summative assessments (Anderson's Preschool Progress Reports) based on age.

### **Project-Based Learning**

The preschool also participates in Project-Based Learning, one of the Exceed programs at Bishop McHugh. Project-based learning enables students to solve real world problems and challenges using multiple areas of the curriculum, from Science to Technology, Religion, Engineering, the Arts and Languages and Math. PBL projects start with an essential question posed to the students. The two-year-olds were asked, "How can we, as scientists, explore the colors around us by constructing a rainbow?" The three- and four-year-olds tackled a different challenge: "How can we, as emerging scientists, learn about life cycles through observation of a caterpillar's transformation into a butterfly?" Projects were documented and displayed in the classroom and on the class web page.

### **Three Levels of Instruction**

Little Storm Preschool offers three levels of developmentally appropriate instruction:

- PreK2 is specially designed for two-year-olds and helps transition your child into a school setting. Life skills include potty training for those students who are

developmentally ready. Early literacy activities help build a love for “reading,” and the understanding of how to interact with literature. Group work teaches cooperation, sharing and social skills in a gentle, affirming manner. Afternoon naps are included for those students who stay the full day

- PreK3 is the three-year-old class that builds on basic literacy and mathematics concepts in a wonderfully engaging, developmentally appropriate way. Students are encouraged to achieve at their own individual levels. Semi-structured and structured learning occurs throughout the day. Afternoon naps are included for those students who stay the full day.
- PreK4 is the four-year old class that prepares students academically for kindergarten. Early reading, decoding and writing are a focus this year. With a mix of independent and group work, students are taught in an engaging, hands-on manner that fosters a love of learning and curiosity about the world around them. Afternoon naps are offered for those students who stay the full day, as needed, in the early part of the year.

### **The PreK2 Advantage**

“Parents naturally teach their children as they go about their daily activities,” noted Principal McGuire, “from pointing out interesting things in their surroundings to working on skills such as counting or the ABC’s. Our PreK2 program gives children that additional advantage of learning in a social setting.”

That includes learning how to communicate with others, about emotions and empathy, about the different behaviors required in different types of activities, and about making connections. It’s at the PreK2 level that children discover their first friendships. Guided by an expert staff, the children learn to nurture those relationships. Students also build their confidence in exploring—and succeeding in—a setting other than home and independent from mom or dad. “It’s an experience that will help give them that extra boost of confidence as they start other new

experiences,” noted Principal McGuire.

### **More Than a Preschool**

In addition to the preschool program, Little Storm students and their families may participate in a wealth of school-wide activities at Bishop McHugh, which serves a student body that extends through eighth grade. Family programs include an ice cream social, family fun night, laps for learning, movie nights, pep rallies, monthly liturgies, Halloween tailgate party, breakfast with Santa, casino night, fashion show, golf outing, mother’s prayer group, and numerous student performances. An active parent volunteer program also is in place.

### **Enrollment is Now Open**

Little Storm Preschool enrollment is open now. Parents may choose between two, three and five day programs running half or full days for PreK2 and PreK3. Parents may choose between half and full days and four or five day options for the PreK4 program. After care also is available. Enrollment is limited, and available exclusively on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, call (609) 624-1900, ext. 22 or email [principal@bishopmchugh.com](mailto:principal@bishopmchugh.com).

Bishop McHugh is a PreK-8 regional school a student-centered curriculum grounded in the Gospel values. It is located on a 10-acre campus in Cape May Court House, N.J. Transportation is available for enrolled students, including from Upper Township. For more information, visit <http://bishopmchugh.com/mchugh/>. The community is invited to “Like” Bishop McHugh on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BishopMcHughRegionalSchool](http://www.facebook.com/BishopMcHughRegionalSchool) and follow Principal McGuire on Twitter at [@BMRCSPrincipal](https://twitter.com/BMRCSPrincipal).

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