



## Kindergarten Curriculum

For many children, Kindergarten is their first venture into the world beyond home for a full day. To a five year old, this is a very exciting journey. We will try to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Kindergarten gives children an opportunity to work and play with others their own age. It's a big step toward learning to "get along" with others.

In Kindergarten, your child will experience the pride and excitement of learning, creating and completing his/her own work. Your child will learn to appreciate stories and books, and to think about the wonderful world outside. Children will explore, experiment, and learn responsibility through both group and individual activities. There are so many new and exciting things to learn and do!

### Our journey into kindergarten includes the following objectives:

**RELIGION:** Our developmental program is based on Scripture and rooted in the teachings of our Catholic faith. In our series, we begin our experiences by realizing that all of creation is a gift from God, who created all things out of a deep, abiding love for us. Children will realize that their feelings, talents, and senses are gifts from God. We celebrate God's love for us and our love for Jesus and others by attending school masses, learning Bible stories, understanding the sacraments, and learning prayers in a reverent and attentive manner.



**READING READINESS:** This area of concentration is approached by using a literacy program known as Super Kids Reading, which focuses on a variety of activities to enrich the recognition of letters, sounds, and formation of the alphabet. The children learn listening and comprehension skills through the listening tapes which are provided with this series. We attempt to accomplish a letter a week. Upon completion, the children bring them home to share and review their experiences.

**PHONEMIC AWARENESS:** The program encourages the children to learn how to listen, which enables a better understanding of the names and sounds of the letters of our alphabet. The children engage in short daily drills. This consists of consonant and vowel sounds which are presented by oral instruction and then repeated by the students and written on the chalkboard or wipe off board. These lessons will strengthen their listening skills.



**LANGUAGE ARTS:** Various language skills are developed through poems, songs, and finger plays. Many of these activities are integrated into the curriculum and worked in through the units covered through out the year.

**MATH:** Our program believes that various approaches to problem-solving strategies help children to build a true concept of what math is and what it means to "do" math. Through the use of manipulatives, the children will problem solve, develop number recognition, reasoning skills, sort, measure, and graph. Students begin to link concrete ideas to abstract mathematical concepts. Young children possess a natural curiosity for their surroundings. Manipulatives help to develop coordination and motor skills as well. They are useful in geometry for strengthening vocabulary and visualizing shapes. Children can relate counting, ordering, and place-value concepts to understand our numeration system. By the end of the year they will be introduced to simple addition and subtraction problems.



**FINE MOTOR:** The children develop fine motor skills through the use of play dough, finger painting, cutting, watercolor printing, and other manipulatives used in the classroom. Printing skills are practiced in our letter books and encouraged in creative writing skills.



**SCIENCE:** The science curriculum is based on themed units and integrated into the curriculum. Many of the science lessons provide a balance of exciting hands-on activities and engaging content resources. This enables the students to explore and problem solve cooperatively. In addition, we use a supplementary magazine called the Scholastic News to enhance other topics as well.

**SOCIAL STUDIES:** The social studies curriculum is also based on themed units. They will learn about community, understanding of self, other people, feelings, safety, health, families, and different holidays. Our Scholastic News also contributes to the awareness of these topics.

**MUSIC:** Our children will learn many songs in kindergarten. They will sing every morning, when we gather for calendar awareness. Many songs they will learn are also integrated into the themed units. The children will attend a class with our music teacher who enriches them with various facets of music. We are also blessed to share in the wonderful liturgies at church to sing various hymns.



**PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** Twice a week, your child attends physical education class. They participate in many gross motor skills, which enrich their healthy development.

**COMPUTERS:** Weekly, we attend computer class. The children are introduced to the world of technology. They are introduced to the keyboard. They learn the basic components of the computer. This instruction familiarizes them so that they can become more comfortable with this technological tool.

**Art:** Students attend a formal class on the history of art, as well as individual art projects reflecting the masters artwork.

**FREE CHOICE:** Playtime is very essential to the children because this will assist them to learn necessary social skills. They learn how to get along with others, work out strategies together, skills to clean up, and organizational skills as well.



**Our program also includes the following:**

- Library visits to take out a book per week.
- **Show and Tell:** which encourages sharing experiences.
- Circle Time/Calendar/Weather/100 Day Routine every morning.
- Rest time: We encourage a period of rest after lunch.
- Lunch and snack time-Parents are asked to provide a small snack. At lunchtime, parents choose either a hot or cold lunch for their child.
- Student of the Week
- Birthdays and Holidays
- Buddy Time-We share reading experiences with the fifth graders. We also take part in craft projects with our seventh grade.
- Art and Craft Projects every week.
- Parent Reading on a weekly basis
- Visits by the Police and Fire Departments
- Field Trips planned to the Pumpkin Patch, Theatre and Zoo
- Dedicated teacher aide to assist with the learning process.
- 100 Day Celebration
- Kindergarten Graduation at the end of the school year.
- Christmas Pageant at Palos Farm
- Spring Play
- Breakfast with Moms and Dads
- Early Learning Resource Center
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Buddies
- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Buddies

I hope this has presented a helpful guideline to the many wonderful activities that we offer to make learning a delightful experience for their future journey.

1/17/18 cm

