

St. Joseph School Kindergarten Goals and Curriculum

Goals

- To provide each child with a positive Kindergarten experience in a Christian setting
- To aid each child in achieving full potential in all areas at his/her own rate through a carefully planned curriculum

Curriculum

Religion

Our Kindergarten Religion program gradually introduces children to the simple truths of faith in the Apostles' Creed at their level of experience and understanding. The program helps them see the religious dimension of what they experience every day. They will be aware of God's love through good persons, events, and things in their lives, and they will appreciate their own uniqueness. Through various activities, the children will have a greater love of God and will desire to pray and perform acts of kindness. We will attend Mass with the rest of the school on Fridays and holy days. The children will have a fourth-grade buddy to sit with at Mass. Throughout the year we may do other activities with our buddies. We will attend Adoration on Wednesdays in the church, and also learn the basic prayers of our faith and how to say the Rosary.

Reading/Writing/Language Arts

At St. Joseph School, the Open Court Reading Program is used in grades Pre-K through 4. The goals of the program for Kindergarten are:

- to introduce students to the alphabet and how it works
- to provide students with an introduction to how the sounds of the language work together
- to give students early reading and writing experiences at which they can be successful
- to help students focus not only on the importance of learning but also on the joy that learning brings to our lives

The Kindergarten Open Court instruction will focus on the following to reach these goals:

- letter recognition
- phonemic awareness (sounds that make up words)
- writing (class books, journal writing, individual writing)
- Big Books, read alouds, story time selections
- workshop time (small group, partners, or teacher and student work and activities) – provides reinforcement of skills and provides opportunities for students to engage in listening, speaking, and thinking activities.

Math

The Kindergarten Math program includes:

- number sense
- concepts and operations
- measurement
- geometry and spatial sense
- algebraic thinking
- data analysis and probability

Lessons will include whole-class and small-group activities that introduce concepts and provide opportunities for children to work together to solve problems, reason and think, and communicate their ideas to teachers and peers. They will begin to make connections between the mathematics they are learning in school, and the mathematics they encounter in their daily lives.

Science

Through a variety of activities, the Kindergarten Science program includes the following units which will be studied:

- Life Science
 - Animals
 - Plants
- Earth Science
 - Earth's Land, Air, and Water
 - Weather and Seasons
- Physical Science
 - Objects Around Us
 - Investigating Water

Social Studies

The Kindergarten Social Studies program consists of eight topics. Through a variety of activities we will learn the following throughout the year:

- Economics – Basic human needs are met in a variety of ways.
- Citizenship – Our beliefs and principles help make up our national identity.
- Geography – People and environments surround us and are ever changing.
- Government – People work to make the laws that influence our lives. Citizens work together to govern.
- History – Historical figures and ordinary people help shape our lives.
- Culture – We learn about ourselves and our families through the customs we share and celebrate.
- Science, Technology, and Society – Technology has changed how people live together in the world.
- Social Studies Skills – Many special skills are needed to better understand the world around us.

Music

Music is a channel for creative expression in two ways: the manner in which sounds are communicated by the music-maker, and the emotional and physical response that sound evokes from the listener. Music will be used throughout the day with a variety of activities. Singing, listening to music, using rhythm instruments, making instruments, dancing, and other rhythmic activities are ways of developing a love and appreciation for music.

Physical Education

Body coordination, as appropriate to the child's physical development, is enhanced through large muscle activities of walking, running, jumping, and hopping. Arm-eye coordination is practiced by throwing a large ball or bean bag, catching, and aiming at a target. Rhythm and movement provide an outlet for creative expression and the joy of using the body in dance, games, and organized play. Kindergartners will have time each week to participate in various activities in the gym or outside.

Technology

Students will be exposed to and use technology in the classroom as well as attending computer classes each week in the technology lab.