

Team A



Grades Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd

St. Joseph Catholic School
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Kindergarten

Religion

The religion text is value-based curriculum. The children actively participate in reading and singing at liturgy. The children attend liturgy every Wednesday with their 7th & 8th grade buddies. The buddy program teams a kindergarten student with an older student as a positive role model and friend. Their buddies come to the classroom periodically to read with them and help in various ways. The kindergarten students read and sing at the last Mass of the school year.

Guidance

The guidance program helps the children improve their decision-making skills. The children will use their abilities and skills for their own happiness and for the good of others. They will have a more loving relationship with God and will be guided to know themselves better and positively accept themselves as who they are. The children will be guided to form positive and lasting interpersonal relationships.

Mathematics

Kindergarten mathematics is based on sequence and order.

Goals

- Free students to think for themselves
- Provide an environment that allows the child to discover order, patterns, and relationships to master necessary skills

Concepts presented at this level

- Matching – colors, shapes, and sizes
- Classifying
- Conservation of numbers
- Numeration (sets)
- Patterning
- Geometry
- Counting
- Reasoning
- Problem-solving
- Graphing
- Telling time
- Coin value
- Numbers out of sequence
- Beginning addition and subtraction

Language Arts

Language development is a holistic process of involving speaking, listening, reading and writing. Our language program integrates elements of the whole process through meaningful experiences.

Children are provided many opportunities to see how reading and writing are useful before they are instructed in letter names, sounds, and word identification. Basic skills develop when they are meaningful to children.

1. Become aware of the printed word
2. Be able to identify beginning and ending sounds and rhyming words.
3. To learn the names of the letters of the alphabet, their phonetic sound and the letter formation.
4. Introduce auditory and visual discrimination of letters and sounds
5. Combine literature with real life situations. Introduce the difference between fact and make believe.
6. Introduced to vocabulary words.

Reading Readiness

Reading instruction develops concepts and background knowledge, as well as skills and strategies. We read for pleasure, to satisfy and inspire curiosity, and to fulfill our potential. Our kindergarten reading readiness program emphasizes:

Early Reading Skills:

Following oral directions
Shape recognition
Color recognition
Print awareness
Letter recognition-out of sequence
Rhyme
Parts of a book
Retelling the story
Opposites
Class relationships
Left to right progression
Patterns
Part-whole relationships

Comprehension Skills:

predicting outcomes
story details
time, sequence of events
realism/fantasy
problem solving
critical thinking

Word-Study Skills:

auditory and visual
discrimination
initial consonant sounds
vowel sounds

Handwriting

Many children's interest in reading begins with writing. Our writing program is the D'Nealian model. It's very easy to write and leads into cursive handwriting at the second semester of second grade. Recognizing that handwriting is an individual product, we look for legibility and highly motivated writers.

Children in Kindergarten learn pre-writing skills, such as shape discrimination, eye-hand coordination, fine motor coordination, and left-to-right progression. Students learn to write first and last names. Later, they learn to print letters, words and numbers.

Social Studies and Science

The social studies and science program is designed to help students understand how they are linked together with people in the community. The students increase their awareness of the socialization processes such as cooperation with others, interaction with other individuals, respect for self and others and valuing similarities and differences among people. The children are exposed to the wonders of God's work with units of study such as butterflies, ladybug, seeds and plants, the environment, and trees. Also included are observation, classifying, measuring, and recording data.

Physical Education

Physical Education at St. Joseph Catholic School is an integral part of the comprehensive school program.

- Develop and maintain a suitable level of physical fitness
- Become competent in management of the body and acquire useful physical skills
- Acquire desirable social standards
- Acquire needed safety skills and habits
- Enjoy playing with classmates
- Acquire wide experience in a variety of physical education activities
- Skills development such as locomotion (walk, run, hop, skip, stop, dodge, etc.), control of the body (on the floor, across the floor, etc.) game skills and exercise techniques appropriate for age level.

Music

Rhythm

- To recognize the steady beat in singing, listening and moving
- To recognize and move with the strong beat
- To respond to short and long sounds

Melody

- To match tones singing a melody pattern
- To identify alike patterns
- To recognize high and low

Form

- To investigate the contrasts created by form
- To discern when a verse has ended

Tone Color

- Explore tone color through melodic instruments and electric keyboards
- To distinguish between speaking and singing voices
- To grasp the basics of how to play tone bells

Expressive qualities

- To recognize fast and slow tempos
- To use locomotion, move to show fast and slow tempos
- To discriminate between loud and soft

Performance

- Christmas program
- Arts Festival

Technology

The technology program incorporates the use of computers, educational software, and Internet sites into the regular curriculum. In technology class, students learn to use painting and drawing programs to create pictures that reinforce concepts learned in language arts and other subject areas. Handwriting skills are improved upon, as the kindergarteners write the letters of the alphabet, numbers, and their first and last names. Basic computer operations such as opening and closing documents, starting and quitting applications, and printing are learned. The students utilize hands-on, interactive educational software and internet sites to learn concepts in math, reading mechanics and comprehension, logical thinking, categorization and discrimination, and interpretation of information in a fun and creative manner.

Grades 1 and 2

Goals

- To promote responsible Christian behavior
- To gain/maintain a positive self-concept
- To provide a well-rounded curriculum and a warm environment for learning
- To teach independent study skills

Strengths

- Small group instruction
- Student participation in liturgies and prayer services
- Gym, music, art instruction
- Parent/student/teacher conferences
- Continuous progress
- Variety of assessments
- Teacher/student ratio
- Resource room
- Strong volunteer program
- Family atmosphere
- Daily prayer

Religion

Series entitled This Is Our Faith

Grade 1, Units include: God's Gifts, Jesus' Life, Holy Spirit, Baptism, Mass and the Bible.

- Identifying feelings
- Discussion of how behavior affects our relationships with peers
- Health education

Grade 2, Units include: Our Church Celebrates Sacraments, Reconciliation, Mass, Eucharist, and the Eucharist is Jesus with Us.

- Discussions of anger control and conflict resolution
- Health education

Spelling

Words are grouped by common vowel sounds, word families, consonant blends, contractions, and compound words for weekly spelling list. Listening to sounds and visualizing the words as well as writing them are strategies used to learn correct spelling. At this early developmental stage, inventive spelling is allowed.

Language Arts

Reading – Small group instruction is used for all reading classes. Students are grouped and paced in a continuous progress environment. Instruction is geared to learning styles and needs.

Grade 1:

- **Word Study Skills**
 - Identifies words through context, word parts and phonics
 - Understands meaning of words
- **Comprehension**
 - Setting a purpose for reading
 - Using prior knowledge
 - Main ideas
 - Sequence
 - Drawing conclusions
 - Predicting outcomes
 - Characters
 - Setting
- **Study Skills**
 - Introduction to table of contents
 - Titles
 - Interprets pictures
 - ABC order
 - Introduction to dictionary

Grade 2:

- **Word Study Skills**
 - Identifies more complex word through context, syllabication and phonics
 - Gaining a sight vocabulary
- **Comprehension**
 - Setting a purpose for reading
 - Using prior knowledge
 - Main idea and supporting details
 - Comparing and contrasting
- **Study Skills**
 - Dictionary skills
 - ABC order
 - Table of contents
 - Independent reading

Handwriting

During handwriting, correct formation of the letters, posture and spacing are emphasized. We encourage the use of the D'Nealian handwriting program.

- Book 1 reviews the readiness skills and introduces all manuscript letters, both capital and lower case.
- Book 2 review Book 1 skills and introduces all the cursive letters, both capital and lower case.

Basic Writing Skills

Grade 1

- Punctuation in writing (.?!)
- Capitalization – names, days of week, months, beginning of a sentence
- Story writing – beginning, middle and ending that tells a problem and solution
- Daily oral language

Grade 2

- Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs
- Grammar, tense and usage
- Story writing – paragraphing
- Sentence structure – edit for run-on sentences, spelling, capitals, and punctuation
- Daily oral language
- Journals

A resource reading, spelling, language, writing teacher is available for grades K-4

Social Studies

Grade 1

Units studied:

- Families
- Need and wants
- Places we live
- Our country's history
- Special Americans
- Map skills

Grade 2

Units studied:

- Living in a neighborhood
- Working together
- Working for needs and wants
- Living on the earth
- America long ago
- Celebrating America
- Map skills

- Charts, graphs, diagrams, time lines

Math

Children work in small and large groups for daily instruction.

Grade 1:

- Writing and recognizing numbers to 100
- Concepts of addition and subtraction
addition/subtraction are introduced
- Basic facts 1-12
- Introduction of time, money, place
- value of ones and tens
- measurement
- charts and graphs
- calendar
- estimation
- problem solving

Grade 2:

- reading and writing numbers in the 100's
- concept of trading in
- Basic facts 1-18
- reinforcement of time, money and
- measurement
- charts and graphs
- estimation
- problem solving
- familiar fractions

Science

Harcourt Science textbooks and hands on experiments are the basis for our science program. The textbooks familiarize students with non-fiction science material and aid in study skill strategies (vocabulary, graphic organizers, chapter review, and critical thinking). Hands on experiments provide opportunities to observe, experiment, explore, and record information.

Grade 1

- Earth Science
 - weather, seasons, space
- Life science
 - Needs of living and nonliving things
- Physical Science
 - Forces of work, classifying matter, properties of magnetism

Grade 2

- Earth Science
 - Living things
- Life Science
 - Solar System
- Physical Science
 - Exploring matter

Technology

- Computers available in every classroom
- Instruction in technology class focuses on the operation of computers, the use of painting, drawing, and word processing programs, and utilizing educational software and internet sites
- Students learn to use computer programs independently
- TV/VCR/United Streaming are used as media support to lessons
- Video cameras and overhead projectors are used as teaching tools
- Use of calculators as a tool

- CD's, audio tapes, and tape recorders are utilized

Music

Performances include Christmas Program and Spring Arts Festival

Grade 1:

Rhythm

- To recognize and define the steady beat
- To establish steady beat from notation
- To recognize strong and weak beats
- To distinguish sounds of different duration
- To explore and identify similar and repeated patterns

Melody

- To begin reading music using solfege (Sol & Mi)
- To recognize and imitate melodic patterns
- To define phrase length in performing or movement
- To discriminate upward and downward direction of music

Form

- To recognize AB form
- To comprehend verse and refrain

Tone Color

- To explore sounds and how they are produced
- To explore tone color through Orff instruments and electric keyboards

Expressive Qualities

- To discern tempos getting faster and slower
- To recognize different dynamic levels

Grade 2:

Rhythm

- To show a steady beat in listening and movement
- To discover meter in 2 and 3
- To recognize notation
- To explore long and short patterns

Melody

- To recognize like and unlike phrases
- To identify steps, leaps and repeats in notation by singing and reading solfege (Sol, Mi, & La)
- To recognize phrases in listening, moving and instrument playing

Form

- To determine AB and ABA form in listening

Tone Color

- To recognize the tone color of different instruments
- To explore tone color using Orff instruments

Expressive Qualities

- To recognize dynamic levels
- To recognize different tempos
- To relate to the mood of a piece

Art

Introduction to basic art concepts

- Color and perspective
- Line and texture
- Use of a variety of media
- Art appreciation

Physical Education

Physical Education is an integral part of the total school program.

- Develop and maintain a suitable level of physical fitness
- Become competent in management of the body and acquire useful physical skills
- Acquire desirable social standards
- Acquire needed safety skills and habits
- Enjoy playing with classmates
- Acquire wide experience in a variety of physical education activities
- Skills development such as locomotor (walk, run, hop, skip, stop, dodge, etc.), control of the body (on the floor, across the floor, etc.), game skills and exercise techniques appropriate for age level.