

St. Mary Kindergarten



Language Arts

We begin language arts by learning the letters of the alphabet and their sounds. We use various resources to help the students master the letters and sounds.

Once the students have learned the entire alphabet, we use the Treasures Reading/ Language Arts Program. Treasures uses literature, such as fiction and nonfiction stories, as well as folk-tales and other genres to teach language arts concepts. In addition, Treasures addresses students' individual needs. The students are assessed on their abilities during the first trimester and begin reading mini-readers at their individual levels. The levels are separated into three groups: approaching level, on level, and beyond level. The student's progress is monitored and assessed throughout the year and levels are adjusted based on student abilities.

In addition to the mini-readers, included in the Treasures Program, the students select a book of their choice to read each week. These books are also separated by levels that appropriately challenge students based on their abilities.

The students learn a set of sixty sight words throughout the year, as well as number words and color words. Each week the students are introduced to two new words and are assessed on his or her comprehensive list. The students progress at their own pace and are not given new words until they have mastered the words given the previous week.

Handwriting

We use the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum. Handwriting Without Tears uses tactile techniques and tools to introduce and teach the letters of the alphabet. The students are not just engaged in paper pencil writing. They use chalkboards, wood pieces, play-doh, magnets, and body movement to help them learn the correct strokes to write each letter of the alphabet. The program uses a developmentally appropriate teaching order to teach handwriting. Capital letters are taught first, because they are developmentally easier, then followed by the lowercase letters. Letters are also grouped, based on similarities to help students learn and remember the correct strokes.



Religion

We use combined resources from the Spirit of Truth and Blest Are We religion series. Activities and instruction are based on scripture, as well as Catholic teachings. We use both music and prayer to actively engage and motivate students to learn more about their faith. In addition, the students also learn and memorize the following prayers: *Grace Before Meals, Glory Be, Hail Mary, and Our Father.*

Math

We use a combination of math curricula, including *Go Math* and *Everyday Math*. During instruction, we use a variety of whole group, small group, and independent activities. Instruction is open-ended and encourages student involvement, including exploration, hands-on experiences, and on-going practice. Once concepts have been introduced, they are practiced and reviewed regularly to help students retain the material.



Science and Social Studies

Our Science and Social Studies Curriculum is theme-based. We use a variety of materials, including literature, manipulatives, and visual aids when teaching. We also integrate Science and Social Studies with other subject areas, including language arts and math. The following are the themes we teach throughout the year: All About Me, Butterflies, The Four Seasons, Apples and Johnny Appleseed, Pumpkins, Nocturnal Animals, Halloween, Our World/ The Continents, Food Guide Pyramid, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Snow, Polar Animals, Magnets, Solar System, Valentine's Day, Presidents' Day, Five Senses, Dr. Seuss, Weather, St. Patrick's Day, Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales, Easter, Earth Day, Plants/Seeds, Dinosaurs, and Oceans.



Learning Centers

Throughout the year, we use a variety of learning centers that help the students develop social and cooperative skills, as well as independence. The following are the learning centers students are engaged in during the year: Block Center, Housekeeping, Puppets, Puzzles and Games, Math Center, Listening Center, Phonics Center, Technology Center (computers and iPads), Reading Center, Art Center, and Discovery (Science and Social Studies) Center.



Daily Schedule

7:25-7:50	Morning Work
7:50-8:00	Morning Message
8:00-8:30	Language Arts
8:30-9:00	Snack Break
9:00-10:00	Language Arts Centers
10:00-10:30	Specials (Spanish, P.E., Media Center, Music,
	Art)
10:30-11:00	Math
11:00-11:30	Religion
11:30-11:50	Calendar
11:50-12:40	Lunch, Recess, and Restroom Break
12:40-1:10	Theme (Science & Social Studies)
1:10-1:40	Learning Centers
1:40-2:05	Pack-Up, Review, Dismissal