

PHILOSOPHY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM

Children that form a positive relationship with school early in a warm, sensitive, environment gain a positive self image of themselves and of school.

Each child is their own individual person whose growth occurs in developmental stages that are sequential and continuous. All activities will be based on developmentally appropriate curriculum and quality interactions between children and adults. The program will stress readiness for kindergarten through the development of physical skills, social skills, cognitive skills, and language in such a way that each child's positive self-concept is enhanced. The Pre-K curriculum will lead into the kindergarten curriculum at St. John School.

Very basic religious concepts, such as loving God, ourselves, our families, our friends, and all living things are fundamental to the curriculum. Taking care of God's earth and the gifts God has given us is an integral part of the child's learning environment. We believe that developing a positive self concept, feeling good about oneself and others, is of the utmost importance in nurturing the spirit within each child.

In Pre-Kindergarten, your child will. . .

RELIGION

- Understand that God made every person special
- God created all creatures

- Realize that God is always with us even if we can't see him
- Discuss how God made each of us different
- Because of the birth of Jesus, we celebrate Christmas
- Understand the importance of praying
- Learn simple prayers
- Realize that we can make up our own prayers

PRE-LANGUAGE CONCEPTS

- Discuss and learn about the weekly theme
- Practice using complete sentences
- Understand the importance of open discussion
- Recite the months of the year
- Learn the days of the week
- Count the calendar days
- Recite songs and finger plays
- Discuss their feelings
- Listen to stories
- Tell stories of their own
- Be able to retell stories
- Dress the weather bear and describe the choice of clothing
- Practice listening skills

PRE-MATH CONCEPTS

- Learn how to count by rote
- Learn how to count by touching each item
- Identify numerals
- Work with numbers through games and songs
- Learn to do simple graphing
- Understand the concept of size
- Identify shapes
- Perform sorting activities
- Understand the importance of numbers
- Practice number order

- Work with a number line
- Introduce and work with patterns
- Work with simple addition and subtraction

PRE-WRITING CONCEPTS

- Correct way to hold a pencil
- Identify letters
- Understand concept of right to left when printing
- Practice fine motor skills by printing
- Recognize their own printed name
- Know the difference between letters and numbers

GROSS MOTOR DEVELOPMENT

- Identify parts of the body
- Practice activities using large muscles
- Understand rules when doing large muscle activities
- Understand the importance of daily exercise
- Practice eye-hand coordination

ART

- Identify colors
- Understand the proper way to hold scissors
- Experiment with the primary colors
- Recognize different media
- Be able to use markers, glue, paint, glitter, paper, foam pieces, and stickers
- Create their own project

MUSIC

- Participate in singing
- Learn through songs and finger plays
- Understand a finger play
- Recite words of a song
- Identify musical instruments

- Enlarge their memories by learning songs by rote

HEALTH

- Practice good hygiene
- Understand the importance of hand washing
- Explain dental health
- Know the concept of germs
- Know what the five senses are
- Learn and discuss safety rules
- Recognize and practice classroom safety

SCIENCE

- Discuss the seasons, weather in our environment
- Identify plants, flowers, leaves and trees
- Learn about forest animals
- Learn about magnets
- Understand what is meant by a scientific guess
- Understand texture by having activities using sand and water play
- Learn about caring for a pet
- Learn about science by using simple experiments

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL GROWTH

- Positive methods which encourage self control, and self direction will be used
- Encouraging a spirit of cooperation and working with others is often effective
- Correction will be done in a calm, firm voice with clear direction