

St. Mary's Catholic School
PRE-SCHOOL I PROGRAM

CHRISTIAN FORMATION: The purpose of pre-school religious education is to introduce children to God's love by relating it to their limited and very egocentric life experience. St. Mary's Catholic School encourages children to learn and use Christian values: sharing, loving, helping, caring and praying together. The children in Preschool I are learning to honor God by praying each day and by taking part in special liturgies throughout the year.

LANGUAGE ARTS: The curriculum helps the child to transfer thoughts into words by providing opportunities in the following: labeling, combining words, describing, opposites, position words, and songs. Language arts curriculum also includes learning about self, the five senses and logical thinking, using pictures, story comprehension, relationships and deductive/inductive reasoning.

MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, SOCIAL STUDIES: Many opportunities are made available through motivating materials for the child to explore, investigate, and discover Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. This curriculum includes recognizing colors and shapes, counting, classifying, patterning, and comparison activities. Tools from a variety of learning strategies are implemented, including Montessori activities, puzzles, online games.

GROSS MOTOR SKILLS: Hand-eye coordination as well as body coordination and balance are developed through various activities emphasizing large muscles. Included in these activities are: block play, climbing, jumping, running, and dance.

FINE MOTOR SKILLS: Finger strength and dexterity are developed through gluing, using scissors, playdough, etc. Activities for small muscles are developed through: stringing beads, pegboards, screws and bolts, puzzles, coloring, painting, and tracing.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: St. Mary's feels it is most important at this age to learn sharing, group play, and routine in an environment that encourages independence and self-confidence through positive reinforcement and love. This curriculum provides opportunities to interact with the parish and local community through field trips and school activities.

ACTIVITY UNITS

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER:

I Am Special Unit (to God, myself, family, friends, home)

- Measure Child's Growth
- Begin Basic Math: numbers 1-5
- Begin Basic Colors: Red and Orange
- Shapes: Circle and Square
- Sharing and turn taking games
- Letter of the Week
- Animal of the Week
- Letter of the Week

OCTOBER:

What Can We Be? and Fire Safety

- Field Trip to Fire Station
- Imaginative and dramatic play
- Halloween themes
- Color: Yellow
- Shape: Oval
- Numbers 1-5: review
- Letter of the Week
- Animal of the Week

NOVEMBER:

Fall Activities and Thankfulness

- Native American History, Culture, and historically accurate stories
- Thanksgiving Themes
- Numbers 1-5: Review
- Color: Green
- Shape: Rectangle
- Letter of the Week
- Animal of the Week

DECEMBER:

Advent Activities and Christian Christmas Themes

Christmas Story

Christmas Activities

Advent Wreath and Calendar Activities

Focus theme: giving and receiving

Shapes: Rhombus

Colors: Blue

JANUARY:

Winter Activities, Snow Activities

Snow and Snowflake Activities

Learning about the 5 Senses

Introduction to Technology

Color: Purple

Shape: Triangle

FEBRUARY: Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day
Personal Safety and Health
Dental Health and Nutrition
Shape: Heart
Colors: Red, white, pink and purple

MARCH: Read Across America, Dr. Seuss
Rhymes and Meter Introduction
Transportation and Travel
St. Patrick's Day
Introduction to Spring
Shapes, colors, and numbers: Review

APRIL: Rain and Butterflies
Weather Cycles
Farm Themes
Easter and the Easter Story
Growing Beans
Caterpillar to Butterfly Kit

MAY: Measure Child's Growth
Mother's Day
Water Activities/Seashore
Flowers and Insects