

PreK-4 Curriculum

The experiences and skills that children develop during the early years are critically important to their success later in school. What children learn during the first few years of life helps to lay the foundation for their future growth and development. In order for children to reach their full potential during those early years, it is important that the adults around them provide an environment and experiences that promote growth and learning. Our curriculum is aligned to the Birth to Five Early Learning Development Standards of Louisiana to ensure that our Pre-K boys and girls are on the right track for Kindergarten.

Religion - We begin EVERY day with our morning offering. We will discover our Catholic Faith through the PK Catholic Living religion book and also follow the standards of Catholic Faith Formation Curriculum. We learn prayers such as Angel of God, Our Father, Bless Us Oh Lord, and Hail Mary. Bible stories, songs, and basic facts and concepts regarding our Catholic religion are introduced and reinforced throughout the day. We begin attending Mass in January with a 6th grade buddy!

Center Based Learning – Students will explore center based learning for longer periods of time each day. This experience will allow more time for individualized, unstructured exploration. During this time, small group learning will take place with the teacher in a rotation fashion. Centers will transform each week focusing on units of study, letter of the week, and will involve the four modalities of learning: visual (seeing), auditory (hearing), kinesthetic (moving), and tactile (touching.) We believe that children learn best through play and real-world experiences.

Language Arts – We use the Jill M. Caudron Alphabet Stories phonics program. When we introduce letters and their sounds, we focus heavily on phonemic awareness - the ability to identify, hear, and work with the smallest units of sound known as phonemes - and the meaning of print . . . letters make words, words make sentences, and sentences

express thoughts. Both of these play a critical role in helping children learn to read and spell.

Handwriting Without Tears – We focus on playful learning to develop coloring, drawing, early math, literacy, and handwriting readiness skills. We'll be using music, dough, magnetic stamps, chalk, and wood pieces to build letters and numbers. We'll make capitals with chalk, slates, and dough and learn about beginning sounds and rhymes as we develop early literacy.

Math – We incorporate many strategies to recognize and sequence numbers 1-10. We use set mats with various objects to count, sequence, pattern, form one-to-one correspondence, and solve simple addition and subtraction problems. The children are exposed to math vocabulary such as plus, minus, equal, greater than, less than, equal to, greatest, and least and also counting to 31 with the calendar.

Social Living – Social Studies and Science are taught each week in the form of units. Seasonal units are presented along with the letter of the week. We do not teach the alphabet in sequence, but correlate with seasons, holidays, and special days throughout the year. The units are cross-curricular so the children are able to fully learn in all areas. The integration of experiments allows the children to learn independently with hands-on experiences. Through these experiments the children are also learning new vocabulary and language skills.

Specials: Children will visit many “special” places during the week. Library with Mrs. Whitcher, Music with Mrs. Koury, Art with Mrs. Carrie, and P.E with Mr. Jaubert once a week.

