

Kindergarten Curriculum

Religion: At OLPS, our desire is not to have Religion class isolated to only a certain time each day. We strive to create an environment where we talk to God and are mindful of his presence at all times. We begin each day with prayer and throughout the year we learn to recite the Angel of God, Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be. We study God's word daily by listening to and discussing Old and New Testament stories and we build a solid foundation as we learn about many Saints who have contributed to our Catholic faith.

Reading and Language Arts: Kindergarten's Reading curriculum revolves around the units and themes that are covered weekly. The curriculum and instruction are aligned to the Diocese of Alexandria and school standards which meet and often exceed the highest standards in education. Varied and flexible methods of delivery promote student engagement and enjoyment of learning.

With the use of Early Star Literacy, which assesses early literacy skills' development, students are assessed at intervals throughout the school year. This allows us to monitor the child's learning progression throughout the year as well as remediate skills that have not been mastered.

Accelerated Reading is another program implemented for Kindergarten and future reading success. This program is used to enhance a child's reading ability and comprehension. Readiness Skills and Reading Foundations, with an emphasis on phonics and sight words, are the focus of our Kindergarten curriculum and are designed to meet the needs of this age child.

Handwriting: Students learn the correct formation of the upper and lower case manuscript letters using the Handwriting Without Tears method. Emphasis is placed on correct pencil grip, posture, and paper position. Students learn to write from left to right and to space letters and words.

Math: In Kindergarten, we take a hands-on approach to exploring Math concepts. We follow the Diocese of Alexandria Standards as a

framework for our instruction. Students use manipulatives to develop a strong foundation in number sense. We will count to 100, develop an understanding of addition and subtraction, create and extend patterns, identify basic shapes, identify coins, and explore standard and non-standard units of measurement.

Social Living: Through Language Arts and center activities, students are introduced to the following thematic units:

Science: the body, health, nutrition, dinosaurs, seasons, planets, insects, plants, and ocean life.

Social Studies: Columbus, Native Americans, Pilgrims, community helpers, Christmas around the World, geography, U.S. Presidents, and American Symbols.

Art: Kindergarten students will be exposed to many different art opportunities. Creative Art and Instructional Art will be used to strengthen educational lessons. Creative art allows the children to express themselves without the use of words. Students are given the freedom to draw, color, cut, glue and add details from their imagination. Instructional art encourages the students to follow oral and visual directions. Instructional art is an opportunity that can boost self-confidence in a young student. Art in kindergarten is most often tied to a theme or unit. It allows the student to manipulate tools while improving fine motor skills. Stronger little hands become more able to correctly hold writing instruments. Through fun, song, dance, socialization, use of imagination, and hands-on activities Kindergarten's curriculum has been formed.

Specials: Children will visit many "special" places during the week. Library with Mrs. Witcher, Music with Mrs. Koury, Art with Mrs. Carrie, Computer with Mrs. Seeling and P.E with Mr. Jaubert once a week.

