

KINDERGARTEN (K)



Welcome to Kindergarten! Our classroom hours are from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and a student must be 5 years of age before September 1st of the school year. We are so excited about the new school year. We focus on letter recognition, sounds, numbers, colors, shapes, patterning, measurement, time, money and so much more! We learn how to become a kindergartner and how to grow into a first grader with confidence!

Balanced Literacy is our reading curriculum through the use of our Scholastic Guided Reading books. It begins with phonemic awareness, alphabetic knowledge and phonic instruction. It also incorporates reading readiness by reading aloud, oral reading, reading comprehension strategies and story crafting. It also provides vocabulary words to be introduced with each lesson and later in the curriculum as sight words. There are also many activities and games to play with each lesson and story.

We have also implemented Daily Five Workshops. This is incorporating more work on building reading skills that consists of Word Work, Journal Writing, Read to Self, Read to a Friend, Listening to Reading, and Individual work with each student. This is part of our daily Language Arts. These skill building activities are student motivated and cater to each child's needs.

Everyday Mathematics emphasizes concepts to be used in our everyday routines to foster math knowledge and retention. The Core Activities cover a wide range of math knowledge including symmetry, counting, money, time, place value, graphing, geometry, algebra and fractions. Minute Math activities are short math problems and ideas to be used several times a day.

Kindergarten's science curriculum is Discovery Works. Our science units explore all aspects of science. We spend as much time in the lab as possible. We study germs with microscopes! We even do some dissection with parent volunteers! We observe nature outside our classroom and bring things into our room to investigate. We watch the miracle of life by candling chicken eggs to watch baby chicks grow and then hatch in our classroom! We chart weather and study the change of the seasons, and so much more. Kindergarten submits a class project for the school's Science Fair.

Our social studies units coordinate with our letter of the week. These consist of anything from animals to presidents. We read books, do experiments and create art around these units.

Computers also play an important role in the classroom. We have three computers that are equipped with a variety of phonics, reading, and math games. The children are learning basic typing skills, rhyming, comprehension, critical thinking, and basic math skills. These are incorporated in our Daily Five activities and are available during center time.

In addition to classroom activities, students receive instruction each week in Music, Library, P.E., Godly play, Spanish and Art. We also attend chapel each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. It is a great start to our day at school.

The goal at St. John's is for each child to grow in maturity, knowledge and in spirit. Our promise is to foster good self-esteem and positive learning experiences. St. John's small class size helps us to focus on each child and meet his or her individual needs. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning and fun. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns! Thank you for the opportunity to teach your child!