



GENERAL INFORMATION

Children may enroll for Kindergarten if they are five years of age by August 1.

An important key to readiness for Kindergarten is to ask: is my child able and interested to sit for 10 - 15 minute activities?

Kindergarten schedule

St. Mary's Grade School offers a kindergarten program that seeks to provide optimum learning opportunities for our children. Our school day is as follows:

8:15 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (includes lunch)

Our program will emphasize core academics in the morning with greater emphasis in the afternoon on physical and social development and enrichment activities.

After school care can be provided at our on site LaMere Learning Center & Daycare. Call 223-1033 for more information on cost and hours.



Kindergarten Curriculum

Math Readiness: Harcourt Math

Reading: VOWAC - Vowel Oriented Word Attack skills program and Houghton-Mifflin Reading (Big Books)

Religion: Sadlier Program
Children will attend special Masses and programs.

Handwriting: D'Nealian

Music: Children attend music classes twice a week and participate in school programs.

Physical Education: Children have classes twice a week in the gym. Please have your child wear tennis shoes on these days. Health is also offered one day per week.

Computer Lab and Computer Learning Center: Once a week, beginning in October, we will go to the computer lab.

Library: We have library once a week. Children will check out a book and return it one week later in order to check out another.



Social Studies and Science: Units are tied to many themes, including letter and number units, weather, plants, seasonal safety, environment, animals, five senses, Martin Luther King, presidents, Pledge of Allegiance, the calendar, 100th day of school and others.

Science: We will use units from the Scott Foresman Science Curriculum.

Spanish: An introduction to Spanish is offered one day a week.

Newsletter

Monthly Kindergarten Newsletters keep you up to date on activities and learning assignments throughout the year, along with our Sycamore Student Information System.

Snacks

A healthy fruit snack is provided in the morning for a small monthly fee. Children may bring their own healthy snack for the afternoon break.

Attendance

Please call the school office if your child will be absent from school that day, or let the teacher know through a note if it will be an extended absence.



Show and Tell

Please send one item that they wish to show and tell about. You may want to practice what they might say about the item they bring. Please do not send toys to school unless it is a show and tell day. We have plenty of toys and learning games in the classroom.

Birthdays

Each child's birthday is celebrated. They may bring treats, so if a parent wants to decorate cupcakes or do anything special, they may do so. If your child's birthday is in the summer, we will pick a day during May to celebrate your child's birthday.

Name printing

When teaching your child to print their name, remember that only the first letter is capitalized. (Ex: Laura not LAURA). For information on the formation of letters in the alphabet, please use the sample alphabet found at the back of the handbook. (We use the D'nealian method for learning to print the alphabet.)





Childhood Records

Each child's immunization, birth, baptismal, and family information records are needed in the office by the end of the first week of school. Please also include any special learning needs or testing that may have been done for your child. This will give us a good start on identifying methods to provide the best learning environment for your kindergartner.

Medication

If you send medicine to school with your child, it should be brought to school in the original container, with signed instructions from parent or doctor that gives the school permission to administer. (There are forms in the office that must be completed.)

Recess

Ten minutes each morning and afternoon, with 20 minutes at noon. Please label all outdoor clothing and dress appropriately for the weather.



At the end of the day

Kindergarten children are picked up at the 8th Street door. Please look through your child's pack each night and ask your child about his or her day. Ask open-ended questions, such as: Can you tell me three things that happened in school today? What book did you hear in school today? What was your favorite part? Your interest in your child's school day is very important to them. Keep questions positive! Share your day, too! And, have you child get plenty of sleep.

Parent/Teacher Conferences

We will have parent/teacher conferences after the first nine weeks and at the mid-year point. Please feel free to contact me any time if you have any questions or concerns.





INFORMATION ON AREAS OF LEARNING

RELIGION

1. Learn to enjoy Bible Stories.
2. Learn about God's love for all of us. (We are part of God's family.)
3. Learn to pray the Lord's Prayer; start on the Hail Mary, make the Sign of the Cross.

MATH

(Uses manipulative and hands-on activities) We will use individual math booklets that correspond to the concepts being taught.

1. Recognize numerals of 1-30.
2. Recognize values of numbers 1-30.
3. Introduction to number words zero to ten.
4. Write numerals 1 through 30 correctly.
5. Understand concepts such as:
 - a. in front, behind, in between
 - b. more, less, equal
 - c. above, on, below
 - d. same, different
 - e. big, bigger, biggest
 - f. first, next, last



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6. Identify shapes:
 - a. circle
 - b. square
 - c. triangle
 - d. rectangle
 7. Time - Introduction to time to the hour.
 8. Money - Recognition of the penny, nickel, dime and quarter.
 9. Patterning.
 10. Sequential order.
 11. Graphing
 12. Estimation
 13. Calendar and 100-day activities
 14. Introduction to adding and subtracting.

READING

VOWAC phonics-based program incorporated with literature-emphasis.

1. Identify the 26 letters of the alphabet.
2. Recognize the beginning consonant sounds.
3. Say the letters of the alphabet in order.
4. Find rhyming pictures and name rhyming words.
5. Know home telephone number and address





6. Name the days of the week in order.
7. Identify the eight primary colors and the color words.
8. Print first and last name.
9. Distinguish between right and left.
10. We use journals to begin to use inventive writing skills.
11. Understand opposites.
12. Introduction to short vowel sounds.
13. Some basic sight words introduced.
14. Uses comprehension and critical thinking skills.

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

1. Learn to listen and follow directions.
2. Play and work in group situations. (Play is a part of every kindergarten day and a social way to learn about the world.)
3. Express ideas before the group.
4. Participate in singing and rhythmic activities
5. Learn to tie shoes.
6. Learn to hold pencil correctly; hold and cut with a scissors.
7. Learn to skip, hop, gallop, jump
8. Learn to dress oneself (zip coats, tie hoods).
9. Learn to be creative in art activities.
10. Use clear and accurate speech.
11. Will learn to strengthen control of their large and small motor.



READINESS ACTIVITIES (To Do At Home)

1. Read to your child as much as possible. Have the children–
2. Answer questions about the story, such as: who, what, where, how and why.
3. Read nursery rhymes and short poems. Play rhyming games. For example, say three words such as “Jill, see hill.” The child–Identifies which two words rhyme.
4. Ask child to close one’s eyes and talk about the noises that are heard. Help your child to think of noise words: clatter, tinkle, splash, tap, thud, slam, patter, drip.
5. Matching capital and small letters.
6. Use a sand box or magic slate to practice making circles and lines and letters and numerals.
7. Have a child pour enough glasses of lemonade for each member of the family. If some is spilled, have the child use own ideas on how to clean it up.–
8. Keep a scrap book of interesting activities to share with friends. For example, if on a trip, glue in pictures or maps of the area. If swimming or boating, glue in a magazine picture of a boat or a picture the child has drawn.
10. Listen to music and identify changes in volume, pitch or rhythm. Sing along, too!





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11. Talk to child and teach listening skills by playing Simon Says, May I, asking riddles, and giving a series of one, two, or three directions to be carried out.
 12. Other helpful activities: cut pictures from magazines or draw pictures and print words to go with them.
 13. Let child feel things and talk about how it feels. Let child smell new things and discuss the sensation trace different objects. Screw lids on bottles. Do puzzles with six pieces. String beads, buttons or macaroni.

USING NUMERALS

Kindergarten children learn to recognize and use numerals. They learn that each numeral has a name and that it is written in many ways. We do not expect to find it the same way all the time, but we write it the same way each time we use it at school.

At the end of this handbook are examples of the way numerals are written. Practice writing them in this way so that you can use them when you are writing with your child. Keep the examples for your child to use as models when the child begins to do writing.



Play games and have fun with numerals as your child discovers them everywhere. Some suggestions follow:

1. Take a walk and read the numerals on house numbers, street numbers, license plates, and others.



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2. Find numerals that are alike on a newspaper page, such as grocery advertisements, the 9s, 5s, etc.
 3. Find the same numeral in different places at home:
 - the clock
 - television remote control
 - page numbers.
 4. Measure things with hands, string, paper clips, and a ruler.

MAKE LEARNING FUN FOR YOUR CHILD!

D'Nealian Manuscript

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh

Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp

Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx

Yy Zz 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9