

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

CATHOLIC FORMATION

- Builds upon the PreK program
- Knowledge of Old and New Testament stories and people
- Mass etiquette
- Eucharistic Adoration
- Stations of the Cross

READING

- Letters and sounds through different media
- Short and long vowel sounds and all consonant sounds
- Recognize and read basic sight word lists
- Use phonics skills to decode words
- Read with fluency and accuracy
- Comprehend what is read aloud
- Comprehend what is read silently

WRITING

- Form all upper and lower-case letters correctly
- Copy sentences and paragraphs from the board
- Use appropriate handwriting skills
- Develop use of punctuation
- Compose complete sentences

LISTENING and SPEAKING

- Maintain sustained attention for 25 minutes
- Develop listening comprehension and skills
- Follow oral directions
- Maintain good eye contact
- Respond appropriately in a group setting
- Take turns in conversation and ask questions when appropriate
- Develop oral presentation skills (show and tell and oral reports)
- Use complete sentences when speaking
- Recite poetry and scripture passages from memory

MATH

- Count by rote to 100
- Demonstrate understanding that numeral symbols represent quantity
- Use correct vocabulary to interpret a calendar
- Demonstrate basic addition and subtraction skills
- Demonstrate basic understanding of time, measurement and money appropriate to grade level
- Understand basic properties of geometric shapes
- Understand that patterns can be made by putting shapes together
- Interpret graphs
- Tell time to the half hour and identify money

JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS READ-ALoud PROGRAM

- Critical thinking and writing
- Interpretive reading

SPECIALS

- Library – 1-2 time per week
- PE – 2 times per week
- Music – 1 time per week

LIBRARY

Your child will enjoy reading in our Library program that is integrated with the well-known and praised Accelerated Reader (AR) Program. Elementary students visit the Library weekly with the goal of selecting a quality book at or above their present reading level, and to check it out. Beginning in Kindergarten, your child will hear fiction and nonfiction, and learn the parts of a book.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education program that's designed for lower school students will be a program of individual and team activities that will focus on fitness, coordination, and character building. Through class activities and instructions students will be given the opportunity to learn how to stretch & warm-up, throw & catch, balance and coordination, and a variety of sports. This program is designed to develop an awareness and appreciation for activity and physical fitness through cardio, aerobics, and mini-games of fitness. We focus on character building by creating an environment that can showcase sportsmanship and team work.

MUSIC

As early exposure to music has proven to have life lasting effects for an individual, the aim with our youngest students is to allow them to have a variety of hands on experiences with music. Students listen to and learn about classical music stories such as The Nutcracker. Drums, sand blocks, shaker eggs, rhythm sticks are among some of the instruments that students have access to. Songs incorporating foundational Kodaly singing syllables are taught and sung. Lastly, students learn church and bible songs which are sung as prayers at the start of class.

KINDER PUBLIC SPEAKING EVENTS

- All About Me Presentation
- All Saints Day Report
- Thanksgiving Program
- Christmas Program
- Show-n-Tell
- Australian Book Report
- End of Year Program

EVALUATIONS AND HOMEWORK

In Kindergarten, students are evaluated by the teacher on a regular basis. For each progress report and report card the students will be given both oral and written tests to determine how they are progressing towards mastering each benchmark. Teachers also informally evaluate students through anecdotal records and checklists on a daily basis. Homework is given Monday thru Thursday and is a review of the Math and Reading skills learned, and also includes a daily reading log to track the child's nightly reading to the parent. Homework should be completed with parent supervision. Parents are encouraged to reinforce the concepts reviewed in the homework and in the work, that is sent home in the blue folder on Tuesdays.

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Kindergarten-aged children need guidance and support to gain the responsibility needed to be successful at school. Parents are encouraged to gently help your child grow in the following areas:

- Allow your child to take on personal responsibilities and to face the rewards and consequences for his/her actions
- Encourage independence - after the first few weeks of school, allow your child to walk to class by him/herself unless it is absolutely necessary for you to be with them.
- Remind your child that you know he/she is capable of doing well in school.
- Help your child understand that you will back up the teacher's rules in the classroom.
- When reading to your child, ask questions about what has been read. Have him/her predict what will happen in the story. Also, ask about lessons learned from stories that have been read to promote active listening.
- Minimize television viewing and computer games on school days. Promote active outside play, arts and crafts, and encourage the use of the imagination.
- Children thrive on consistency, so have a set structure in your morning and evening routines making sure your child goes to bed on time.
- Check your child's homework and work with your child to help him/her complete their homework.
- Class begins promptly at 8:05 a.m. so give your child enough time to get to school and be ready to begin the day before the first bell rings at 8:00am.
- Communicate with your child's teacher any questions or concerns you may have. You are your child's first educator and his/her teacher will always support you in that role.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

The Highlands School Aftercare Program provides each child with the opportunity to develop a strong work ethic through allotted homework times, trying to instill independence in problem-solving and time management while still aiding the students as necessary to the best of the staff's abilities. In addition to this work ethic, the students are encouraged to socialize not only with their classmates but with children in other grades, extending their bonds and friendships to others with similar interests and enabling them to interact with various age groups in a comfortable, friendly environment. The students are able to interact both in centers—the games and other crafts the students may play each day—and in outdoor activities from tag to soccer to football, weather permitting. The Aftercare Program has daily prayers that often allow the students to voice their own prayer intentions and thus practice praying for those in need within the community. As a whole, the Aftercare Program is dedicated to the development of the students in its care: academically, socially, physically, and spiritually.

