



St. Michael Catholic School

Pre-Kindergarten Program

St. Michael Catholic School provides a quality Catholic education to all of our students. We offer full-day programs for children ages three and four. Both programs allow students to become familiar with the classroom experience and provide the necessary foundation needed to experience success in our Kindergarten program.

Pre-Kindergarten 3-Year Old Program Overview

Our PreK-3 program provides an opportunity for children to begin developing their social skills in a small group setting. With an 8 to 1 student teacher ratio, children develop group skills under close teacher supervision. The children begin the process of moving from parallel play to cooperative play, while being introduced to basic reading and math readiness skills. The full-day program allows for focus on the development of gross and fine motor skills. The primary goal of is to help the children develop the skills necessary to experience developmental success in an atmosphere of love and respect. Rooted in the Catholic faith tradition, the children also develop a basic understanding of care for self and others.

Pre-Kindergarten 4-Year Old Program Overview

The PreK-4 program provides a more formal preparation for the traditional classroom experience. Experiential in its approach, the program allows for free exploration of number concepts, patterns, letter recognition, and pre-reading activities. In addition, through the use of integrated units, students begin to make connections between learned information and personal experience. Free play in and out of the classroom also helps the children continue to develop social skills necessary in a group situation. They continue to focus on developing gross and fine motor skills. The PreK-4 program also concentrates on the development of the intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual needs of the children.

Instructional Materials Include

- Sadlier/Oxford Religion Series "Discovering God's World"
- Rowland Reading Foundation "Happily Ever After"
- "Everyday Counts Calendar Math"
- "Handwriting without Tears"

Schedule

The students in our Pre-K 3 and PreK-4 Programs have the opportunity to develop skills in and out of the classroom. All children in both programs spend time each week in the library, P.E., art, and music. In addition, our PreK-4's have the opportunity to attend weekly computer class. Students eat lunch together in the cafeteria and have daily recess. Naptime is a critical time for the students as they learn the importance of quieting their bodies and minds in order to succeed in developing their gifts. The 3-year olds begin attending weekly Mass with the rest of the school community beginning in January, while the 4-year olds begin attending mass in October. The school day begins at 7:55 a.m. with an all-school assembly. The school day ends at *3:15 p.m., with the exception of Wednesday when the school is dismissed at 2:15 p.m.

*Families do have the option for a daily early dismissal, however, a full day is encouraged in order for the child to experience the program to its fullest.

Assessment Evaluation

PreK-3 and PreK-4 students are informally evaluated by the teachers on a regular basis. Standardized tests are not administered at this age, though developmentally appropriate assessments are used in order to determine a child's progress. Initial assessments are made through conversation, group activities, and observation to determine a child's developmental level. Observations and samples of the child's work are frequently collected throughout the year. Parents are kept apprised of student progress through assessments focused on skills that are: needing attention, transitioning or mastered. Parents receive these reports on a quarterly basis.

Home-School Connection

A close relationship between school and home includes:

- A class webpage
- Periodic "brown bag" lunches
- Weekly "Paw Prints" communication email and other school news
- Read-A- Story opportunities throughout the year
- Holiday events (Halloween carnival, Christmas Program, etc.)
- Scheduled parent-teacher conferences in the fall, and as needed in the spring

Miscellaneous Information

- All students wear the school uniform purchased from Parker Uniforms
- Each child brings an individual snack each day
- Children eat lunch in the cafeteria and may either bring lunch or buy a hot meal
- Each child rests on a mat that is sent home weekly to be laundered

We appreciate your interest in our programs for Pre-Kindergarten 3- and 4-year olds. Please contact us if you have questions, 713.621.6847.