

Little Saints / 3-Year-Old Program

Our Little Saints spend their day learning early literacy and math skills through play and developmentally appropriate learning centers and social interactions. The teachers follow the *Orton-Gillingham alphabet order and hands-on approach when it comes to teaching letters and letter sounds. Students will introduce numbers 0-20, all basic 2-D shapes, and colors. Little Saints will learn and explore through play, song, dance, science and outdoor activities. In addition to the in-class offerings, our 3-year-olds attend weekly music and art enrichment classes. Daily learning is guided by the Louisiana Birth to Five Standards.

Social emotional growth through exhibiting Christ-like behavior is practiced through sharing, working together in groups and modeling appropriate behavior.

*Orton-Gillingham - a multi-sensory approach to teaching reading fluency and foundation skills.

Pre-K

Our Pre-Kindergarten program focuses on getting learners acquainted with the way school works. Our teachers foster the development of the whole child. The children are exposed to activities that promote social interactions, following directions, as well as fine and gross motor physical development. Children learn through many modalities such as centers, literacy stations, calendar time, teacher table and outdoor play. Letters and letter sounds are presented using the *Orton-Gillingham method which provides a solid foundation for early literacy skills.

Religion takes place in class on a daily basis through the reading of bible stories and prayer and meets all of the Diocesan Pre-Kindergarten Religion Standards.

Pre-K students attend PE, art, music and library on a weekly basis. The curriculum is guided by the Louisiana Birth to Five Standards and Handwriting Without Tears is used as a resource to develop fine motor and writing skills.

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Kindergarten

Once students get into kindergarten, they are provided more structure with the realization that students still need to move and have creative outlets through free-play. Whole group learning time is increased and incorporates more written activities. As well as whole group learning, students take part in literacy/math stations, centers, teacher-led small groups and partner work. In kindergarten, many students begin reading, although mastery is not required to move on to first grade.

Kindergarten students attend PE, art, music, and library on a weekly basis. They also have a religion teacher come to their class for 30 minutes each day.

1st Grade

During the 1st grade year, our students begin test-taking and homework. Letter grades will be given for math and English language arts. Teachers ease their students into taking tests over a period of time. They continue to spend time building foundations for reading fluency and comprehension as well as writing and math. Social studies and science units are alternated throughout the year which will reinforce literacy and critical thinking skills.

First graders attend PE, art, music, and Media Lab (library infused with technology) on a weekly basis. They also have a religion teacher come to their class for 30 minutes each day.

2nd – 4th Grades

Students in 2nd-4th grade will begin departmentalizing. They will have one teacher for English language arts and another teacher for math. This eases them into transitioning from class to class as well as allowing the teacher to focus on her particular subject areas. It also helps with the transition of 2nd graders to the Upper School for 3rd grade.

Second through fourth graders attend PE, art, computer lab, media lab, and music on a weekly basis. Third and fourth graders also have Spanish once a week for a semester. They also have a religion teacher come to their class for 30 minutes each day.

5th – 8th Grades

Fifth grade is the bridge from elementary school to middle school. Students begin to switch teachers for every subject including religion. Honors math starts in 5th grade and honors literature starts in 6th grade. Eighth grade students may be eligible to take Algebra I for high school credit. Students also have a choice when it comes to enrichment. There are a variety of elective classes that vary from semester-long to year-long. There are various art and computer electives as well as PE, musical theater, band, and choir electives. Some grade levels can choose study skills and STEAM classes.

Textbooks/Curriculum

*All textbook series and each subject area follows the Louisiana State Standards and Benchmarks adopted by the Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Math:

Grades K-8 Pearson Envision 2.0

Reading and English:

Grades K-2 - Houghton Mifflin Harcourt *Into Reading*

Grades 3-5 - Pearson *MyView*

Religion:

Grades K-8 Sadlier *We Believe*

Science:

Grades 2-8 McGraw Hill *A Closer Look*

Social Studies:

Grades 2-4 Harcourt *Social Studies*

Grades 5-7 McGraw Hill *Discovering Our Past*

Grade 8 Clairmont Press *Louisiana History*

Handwriting:

Grades K-3 Zaner-Bloser