

OUR LADY OF PEACE PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

Preschool Growth

The development of three, four and five-year-old children varies greatly from child to child. Since early learning and development are multidimensional, the preschool program is structured to help each child grow and develop at their own pace. By providing developmentally appropriate experiences for the students, it is important for young children to learn through active exploration of their environment in child-initiated and teacher-selected activities.

Since families are the primary caregivers and educators of young children, we encourage and welcome parental involvement.

Religion

Preschool students will learn and explore through our religion series, stories, activities, prayer, discussion, as well as dramatic play in order to develop their Catholic faith focusing on:

- God's Love
- I am Special
- The Holy Family
- We are friends of Jesus
- Simple prayers
- Developing Reverence
- Building a relationship with God
- Attending Mass with our upper grade buddies
- Celebrate the Holy seasons of the calendar including Advent, Christmas and Easter

Our religion series is *Stories of God's Love* published by RCL Benziger.

Language Arts/Reading

Preschool students focus on the following:

- oral language
- vocabulary
- listening skills
- story structure
- writing
- letter of the week introducing sound
- study of several children's authors
- monthly theme with related activities promoting early literacy and language development
- weekly theme with related activities
- letter recognition and formation
- drawing conclusions
- comprehension
- sequencing of events

Mathematics

Mathematical experiences at this early level develop children's ability to observe the world around them and to communicate what they see. A mathematical environment is nurtured through:

- calendar skills
- classifying objects by color, shape and size
- comparing objects according to size

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- identifying and making simple patterns
- counting and recognizing numbers 1-20
- critical thinking and solving problems
- reasoning
- gathering and comparing data

PreK4 is text book based using McGraw Hill 's *My Math* which is the series used in Kindergarten.

Science

Activities are connected to foster awareness of the word of God created by exploring with hands-on activities and projects.

Social Studies

The Pledge of Allegiance and other patriotic songs are learned along with learning facts about famous people, holidays, and our community.

Library

PreK4 go once a week and have an opportunity to choose books and enjoy a beautiful and equipped library.

Technology

Our Lady of Peace realizes the importance of incorporating technology into the school day. Preschool classes are equipped with iPads enhancing lessons and reinforcing early alphabetic and phonemic skills as well as mathematical skills. Teachers are fully trained to assist and help students.

Social Development

It is through activity and play that children learn to be cohesive with their peers. Social development encompasses appropriate verbal and physical communication skills as well as interpersonal relationships. Activities that foster social development:

- free choice play
- circle time activities
- group games
- daily prayer/faith formation
- daily class routines
- structured activities that encourage sharing, problem solving and teamwork

Motor Skill Development

Our prekindergarten program enhances both large and small muscle development, which is of primary importance to a child's self-esteem and to all learning. Developmental goals for the children include experiences which enhance physical development to enable children to:

- develop large body muscles
- develop fine body muscles
- realize self-potential

PreK3 includes a balance of large group, small group, independent activities and free play time. PreK4 prepares students for success in Kindergarten and to be life-long learners.