

# ST. ANNE & ST. JUDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

## Kindergarten K5 Curriculum

**Language Arts:** *The Rowland Reading Program*, a comprehensive core reading program designed specifically for the primary grades, is utilized in our kindergarten. The focus is on the 26 letters of the alphabet. Students systematically learn how to read and write these letters and the letter-sound associations for them. The systematic, explicit phonics instruction at the heart of the program is designed so that children learn to decode words with continuous practice until they reach fluency. Throughout the program, every word children meet contains only sound and symbols that have been expressly taught. Children approach unknown words with confidence knowing they have the tools to unlock them. Reading phonetically controlled vocabulary encourages children to build the habit of decoding, rather than making guesses, until they can read automatically.

**Shared Reading:** Each day the children read and reread familiar stories, songs, or poems from a "Big Book" (a book with an enlarged format that contains rhyming, repetitive or predictable texts). Because of the rhyming, repetitive, or predictable text, the students quickly remember the stories and are easily able to join in reading with the group. In this case, strength is certainly found in numbers! As children read together, they support each other and individual mistakes are not noticed. This is a great confidence builder for the children.

**Guided Reading Groups:** A small group of children work with the teacher while the other children in class work independently on literacy activities. Students have frequent opportunities to apply reading skills and strategies as they read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books.

**Handwriting, Spelling, Grammar:** At the same time children are taught to decode, they are also taught to encode, or write, letters for the sounds they have learned. Handwriting, spelling, and simple grammar and mechanics are seamlessly integrated into the reading instruction so children see from the beginning that they can read what they write and write what they read. In addition, when a new sound, word, or skill is introduced in the program, children always "hear it, see it, say it, and write it." In this way, all the skills children need to read and write are taught in multiple modes—visual, auditory, and kinesthetic.

**Writing:** Writing is an important component of our language arts program. The children are provided the opportunity to express original ideas through drawing and writing. They are encouraged to do their own writing beginning the first week of class and progress through various stages of writing throughout the school year; from scribbles to random letters to writing the letters that stand for the phonetic sounds they hear. The more the students write, the better their writing and spelling become.

**Mathematics:** The *enVision Math Program* produced by Scott Foresman, is a hands-on, success-oriented series that enables children to develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of mathematics. Each lesson is built on prior learning and uses a multisensory approach. New learning is presented in increments, with time to provide practice between increments. The children use hands-on materials, engage in discussions, and work together to help one another learn. Subjects covered in class are number sense and numeration, concepts of whole-number computation, fractions, money, geometry and spatial relationships, measurement, data analysis and statistics, patterns, and algebra. The math instruction includes the "morning meeting" during which students practice skills related to the calendar, counting, patterning, number recognition, time, money, and estimation.

**Religion:** The children begin their day in the all-school Morning Assembly singing a Christian song and reciting the "Our Father." In class they recite prayers before snack time, lunch, and at the end of the day. *Faith First* is the textbook used by the class. This program has been developed to provide kindergarten children with a readiness for future catechesis. *Faith First Kindergarten* is based upon the four parts of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The key teachings of the Catechism have been appropriately woven into the units to meet the learning and faith development needs of kindergarten children.

**Science and Social Studies:** Science and social studies are taught in units throughout the year. Examples of these units are All About Me, My Community, The Human Body, The Four Seasons, Plants, The Pond, Insects, Nocturnal animals, Transportation, Dinosaurs, and The Ocean.

**Music, Physical Education, Library:** Classes in each area are attended weekly. Specialists in each field of study instruct the students.