

## KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

St. Matthew Catholic School's Kindergarten curriculum strives to reach every child. It is an integrated program that emphasizes kindness, working together, and lays the groundwork for future academic success. The Language program includes daily reading lessons, learning centers, guided reading, and beginning creative writing. The Mathematics curriculum emphasizes counting, patterning, sorting, classifying, comparing and using a variety of manipulatives and hands on activities. Kindergarten students attend PE twice a week as well as Spanish, Art, Library and Computer (Success Maker) once a week. Guidance classes are offered every other week.

The primary years are a period of tremendous growth academically and developmentally. Kindergarteners are constantly exploring their environment and are enthusiastic learners.

We, as their teachers look forward to being the facilitators that provide a positive and nurturing environment. We strive to help each child reach his or her God-given potential.

### RELIGION

The religion program in Kindergarten is rooted in scripture and faithful to the Tradition of the Catholic Church. We teach that Jesus calls to each child, "Follow me". They look to the church, their families and teachers for help in answering "yes" to Jesus. We use the Sadlier We Believe Religion series along with weekly lessons from Promise Gospel Magazines. Mass is attended on a weekly basis.

### LANGUAGE ARTS

St. Matthew's Kindergarten uses Harcourt School Publisher's Storytown Reading Series. This includes a systematic and explicit instruction of the key elements of reading which include phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and text comprehension. The students are introduced to high frequency words and sight words which enable them to read the decodable and leveled readers. Handwriting practice and creative writing are emphasized.

### MATHEMATICS

The Kindergarten Math curriculum is Silver Burdett Ginn The Path To Math Success. Daily lessons meet the guidelines for Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). The children are encouraged to use manipulatives and hands-on problem solving techniques. Counting, number recognition and problem solving are included in our daily lessons.

## SCIENCE

Kindergarten children are eager to learn about the world around them. In our Science curriculum they will have opportunities to interact and explore things about the natural and physical world. Science becomes more meaningful when the children develop an understanding about the world in which they live. We will provide them with experiences to help achieve this.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

The children will have a sense of identity and belonging in the Social Studies curriculum. They will be provided with opportunities to express emotions through their families, communities and cultures. They will learn about events past and present. Time For Kids weekly magazines also provide many interesting and current event lessons.

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