

St. Michael Catholic School
Kindergarten



We recognize that parents are the primary teachers of their children. St. Michael teachers work as a team with parents to help guide children to thrive and grow. Our goal is to ensure that each child has a solid foundation of academic and social skills by the completion of the kindergarten year.

Teachers often use techniques that mix learning and play. Children develop a strong base of reading and writing skills using a phonics base approach. Math concepts become real with manipulatives and other sensory materials. Faith is nurtured through reading Bible stories and learning about Jesus and the saints. Children learn that they are a part of God's bigger family.

Curriculum Overview

Religion In addition to learning prayers, students learn about the following:

- God, Our Father and Creation
- The Life of Jesus
- The Holy Trinity
- Mary, Our Mother
- Our Families
- Saints
- Advent/Christmas
- Lent/Easter
- Eternal Life and heaven

Our Catholic faith is integrated into all subject areas of our curriculum. Students learn to put our faith into action through the following practices:

- Daily and meal prayers
- Special prayer services
- Monthly Beatitude
- Attendance at Mass on Friday

The textbook used is *Our Sunday Visitor I Am Special*.

Language Arts Using multi-sensory techniques, kindergarten students are introduced to language and reading skills. Areas of concentration include:

- Phonics and decoding
- Phonemic Awareness
- Pre-Reading skills
- Sight word recognition
- Letter formation and beginning writing

Resources include:

McGraw Hill *Reading*
The Letter People Company
Zaner-Bloser *Handwriting*

Mathematics Traditional techniques help to build a firm foundation of math skills. The use of manipulatives and hands-on activities facilitate learning as well.

Concepts introduced include:

- Sorting and Classifying
- Recognizing patterns
- Number recognition and formation
- Graphing
- Spatial relationships
- Ordinals
- Sequencing numbers
- Number words
- Addition and Subtraction
- Measurement/Time/Money

The text used is Saxon *Mathematics*

Social Studies The world opens up to our young students as they explore these concepts:

- Families, Friends, and Feelings
- Our school community
- The world around us
- Holidays, including Columbus Day, Thanksgiving, and Presidents' Day
- Christmas traditions and the Catholic Church
- Respecting God's Earth and all his creations

The textbook used is Harcourt Horizons *Social Studies*

Science Fun and educational field trips are combined with classroom instruction to enhance learning. A partnership with Lilly helps provide materials for the Kindergarten curriculum. The areas covered include:

- Weather and the seasons
- Matter, heat, light and movement
- Plants and animals
- Plants and trees
- Health and the human body
- Fire and personal safety

The textbook used is Scott-Foresman *Science*

Music Music class includes an introduction to proper singing technique, the concept of "steady beat" and Christian music.

Physical Education Students attend physical education class weekly and receive instruction in the following:

- Running, skipping, hopping
- Jumping, leaping, and galloping
- Start and stop drills
- Ball-handling skills
- The benefits of exercise

Art Kindergarteners attend art class once per week and learn techniques for drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, printmaking and using mixed media.

Computer Weekly computer class includes instruction in the following:

- Logging on and off the computer
- Following directions
- Mouse control
- Basic keyboard knowledge
- The use of educational software

Special Events Examples of events and activities include:

- Grandparents' Day
- Spring Fun Day
- Christmas and Spring program
- Fun Friday math games, cooking experiences and reading
- Trips to an apple orchard, pumpkin patch, fire station and Children's Museum

Full-Day and Half-Day Kindergarten Options

St. Michael offers both full-day and half-day kindergarten programs. The same core curriculum is taught in both programs. The primary difference is that the full-day program has additional time to enrich and expand on the curriculum. Both programs prepare the children for first grade. There is an extra fee for full-day programs.

Accreditation

St. Michael Catholic School is accredited by the State of Indiana. St. Michael Catholic School has been named by the United States Department of Education as a 2005 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School.

Contact us:

St. Michael Catholic School

515 Jefferson Blvd.

Greenfield, Indiana 46140

317-462-6380 www.stmichaelsgrfld.org

