



# Welcome to Pre-K!

Dear Pre-K Families,

This is going to be a great year at Sacred Heart School! I am so excited to be developing and teaching the Pre-K program for next year. At Sacred Heart we believe in the education of the whole child. Our goal is for your children to grow emotionally, intellectually, spiritually, physically and socially while in Pre-K. We want to create in them a love of learning in a classroom where they feel listened to, cared for and safe. The Pre-K classroom will be a warm, nurturing and structured environment where all children can reach their full potential. The curriculum will be child-centered, and children will learn by doing, through discovery, experimentation and exploration. Materials will be very hands-on, addressing as many senses as possible, encouraging each child to learn and grow through all stages of development. The individual differences of the children in my class will be acknowledged and appreciated. Children will be taught that they are able thinkers who can make decisions, solve problems and get things done. They will grow in self-esteem and confidence, creating a positive self-image in an environment that encourages them to care for themselves and those around them. -Mary Davis

## Curriculum Goals for the Pre-K Year

### Reading and Language Arts

- Knows letter sounds
- Identifies upper and lower case letters
- Writes first name (Begins with capital, followed by lower case)
- Loves books! Listening to them, looking at them and pretending to read them
- Rhymes words
- Sings songs and recites poetry
- Sequences events of a story
- Develops handwriting skills
- Retells stories and distinguishes fiction from non-fiction
- Dictates stories

## Mathematics

- Compares the number of things in two sets to determine "fewer," "more," and "same number"
- Determines "big," "bigger," "biggest"
- Counts objects up to 20
- Writes numbers 1-10
- Arranges items one after another in a series or pattern and describes their relationship
- Fits one ordered set of objects inside another through trial and error (ie. nesting cups)
- Distinguishes and describes shapes
- Sorts and matches objects
- Picks out an item that does not belong in a group
- Completes 6-8 piece interlocking puzzle

## Art

- Holds scissors properly and cuts with ease
- Holds pencil with tripod grip
- Names and matches at least 10 colors
- Recognizes the works and names of some of "the great masters" such as Van Gogh and Michelangelo

## Music/Movement

- Acts upon movement directions, especially ones which cross the midline
- Feels and expresses a steady beat
- Skips, jumps, hops and marches
- Sings songs
- Plays simple musical instruments

## Practical Life

- Buttons, ties, snaps and zips
- Puts on clothes, coats and shoes independently
- Pours liquids
- Cleans up own messes using broom and/or paper towels
- Avoids danger
- Covers mouth when sneezing or coughing, uses tissue effectively

## Religion

- Understands that God made each of us and that we are special and loved
- Develops knowledge of and participation in the Church's liturgical season of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.
- Develops an appreciation for some of the gifts God has given us: family, animals, trees, water and light
- Develops a positive attitude about God's love and goodness through bible stories, music and prayer
- Understands that God has blessed each of us with special talents and abilities that we should be proud of and share with those around us
- Develops an understanding of several critical virtues and how to live them out in their lives, focusing on responsibility, honesty, self-control, courage, friendliness, attentiveness, work, obedience, perseverance, thankfulness, and compassion

## Social/Emotional Development

- Works and plays cooperatively
- Follows school and classroom rules
- Respects teachers, classmates and other's property and personal space
- Listens attentively to stories and others without interrupting
- Sits quietly and keeps hands to themselves
- Works without disturbing others and respects other's work
- Controls and manages temper and feelings, especially when angry, frustrated or in disagreement with classmates or teacher
- Follows 3-step directions

## Geography

- Map and globe exploration
- Location of the continents

## Science

- Knowledge of various animals, their physical make-up and habitats, focusing on penguins, frogs and turtles, identifying the different parts of each animal and its function
- Exploring nature and the world around them