

## Saint Cecilia Catholic School

### Explorers Curriculum Night

Welcome to our Explorers program. Our curriculum emphasizes fun, friendship and discovery. Children learn to solve problems and think independently, as they encounter core subjects such as math, social studies, religion, pre-reading, music, art and movement. They engage in constructive play and practical learning that includes cooking, gardening, building and creative art projects.

In preschool, children learn about the world through play. Subject areas aren't separate in their minds or in the classroom. The objects preschoolers find on a nature walk, like feathers, rocks and leaves, might help them figure out math concepts like "big, bigger, and biggest" or motivate them to visit the book corner to find out more about birds. Teachers may introduce children to basic concepts such as shapes, letters, and colors, but preschool is about learning much more than what a circle looks like. It is where children first develop a relationship with learning.

Explorer students learn

- The world through hands-on activities
- Their unique gifts and capabilities
- Their role in a community of caring

We have a well developed curriculum to meet the needs of the whole child.

- **Writing** - Our writing curriculum introduces the Handwriting Without Tears program as well as playful instruction to help your child develop proper letter formation from the beginning. Explorers will use manipulatives and hands-on lessons to introduce letter formation.
- **Literacy** - Zoo Phonics is introduced to the Explorers. Zoo-phonics teaches the sounds of the letters through the animal names ("a" as in Allie Alligator, etc.), and letter sounds are taught before letter names. The Zoo-phonics Body Signals allow children to put their natural "wiggles" to good use and act as a cue for memory.
- **Math** - Students will learn to count, measure, identify and create patterns, use number and word symbols, and more.

- **Religion** - Age-appropriate Bible stories from the Old and New Testament proclaim God's love and each is followed the next week with a contemporary story - related to the previous lesson's Bible story - connecting God's love to everyday life.
- **Art** - Children use a variety of art materials: crayons, tempera paint, watercolor paint, colored pencils, markers, oil pastels, art chalk, clay to create. Art is used to facilitate learning in math, literacy and writing as well as for personal expression.
- **Music** - Music is integrated throughout everything we do.