

Saint Cecilia Catholic School PreK

Curriculum Night

Welcome to Saint Cecilia Catholic School PreK program. Learning is a joyful experience for 4-year-old and young 5-year-old children at Saint Cecilia. Our Pre-Kindergarten program provides the perfect balance of structure, caring, discipline and nurturing as students embark on their first experiences with what will become the foundations for math, science, social studies, art, language, music movement and dramatic play.

Our older students serve as role models for Pre-Kindergarten children. We have buddies in the 3rd/4th grade class. Buddy activities include reading together and working on the class service project.

We visit the public library regularly.

Pre-Kindergarten students work on

- Making friends and collaborating with others
- Expressing themselves and listening attentively
- Writing, reading and numbers
- Developing fine motor and gross motor skills

Our day includes...

Morning Meeting - We gather as a whole class each morning to greet one another, share news and enjoy a quick song, game or story and prayer

Rule Creation - We work with the students to create classroom rules that allow all members of the class to meet their learning needs.

Interactive Modeling - We teach children to notice and internalize expected behaviors through a specific modeling technique.

Positive Teacher Language - Adults use words and tone to promote children's active learning and self discipline.

Logical Consequences - Students learn to respond to undesired behavior in a way that allows them to fix and learn from their mistakes while preserving their dignity.

Guided Discovery - Teachers introduce materials using a format that encourages creativity and responsibility.

Classroom Organization - The classroom is set up in ways that encourage independence, cooperation and fun.

Learning Choices - Student motivation is increased by offering activities with varied levels of difficulty and allowing students teacher-structured choices in their work

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

- **Writing** - Our writing curriculum integrates the Handwriting Without Tears program as well as playful instruction to help your child develop proper letter formation from the beginning. When developmentally ready students will begin labeling pictures and stories as the year progresses.
- **Literacy** - Zoo Phonics is used for our reading and literacy curriculum. 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 in PreK will learn to count, measure, identify and create patterns, use number and word symbols, and more. Students will begin writing number words, extending number sense and creating more advanced patterns.
- **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. Students also take part in all school prayer circles and attend Mass on the First Friday of every month, Holy Days of Obligation, and special occasions.
- **Art** - Children use a variety of art materials including crayons, markers, tempera paint, watercolor paint, colored pencils, markers, oil pastels, art chalk, and clay to create. Drawing and creating is one of the earliest methods children learn to express how they feel. Students are given plenty of opportunity to freely create, draw, paint and express.
- **Science** - Our science program blends a mix of the PreK curriculums as well as class directed interests. Themes include plant and animal lifecycles, space, weather, butterflies, spiders and more.
- **Music and movement** - Music and movement are used all day long. Music and movement will feature songs that go along with our current themes, holidays and special occasions as well as songs that are just plain fun to sing.