

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is not only your child's first step into formal education, but also the firm foundation on which to build a successful life-long learner. Here at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic School we take this idea a step further by creating an environment that nurtures spiritual and moral growth as well as being supportive and developmentally appropriate. Skills successfully mastered in Kindergarten prepare your child for a successful academic career as well as a gratifying and productive life. In addition to providing a comprehensive, interdisciplinary program of developmentally appropriate curriculum that meets both the Texas Catholic Conference Education Department and the Texas Education Agency standards (TEKS), we offer activities and opportunities specifically designed to meet the individual needs of your child.

Although each curriculum area has specific objectives to be taught, our morning opening integrates all disciplines for a more kid friendly approach to organizing difficult concepts like the passage of time, the science of weather, the utilization of money, the importance of history, and the reading of maps, charts and graphs all the while, developing strong literacy skills. The Language Arts curriculum is a balanced approach to reading. We use the Saxon Phonics program in addition to oral language, reading, writing, and research activities such as nursery rhymes, predictable and decodable books, and journaling. Our Saxon Math program is supplemented by many "hands-on" activities. Kindergarten children must use their five senses to comprehend many concepts of math; therefore, "learning by doing" serves the primary purpose of education by allowing children to learn through experience. The science curriculum uses discovery learning and the natural curiosity of children to explore our world through the experimental process. We observe changes in the environment, identify properties and patterns of natural and man-made objects, classify plants and animals according to different attributes, understand energy, force and motion as it relates to the child, conduct classroom and outdoor investigations while using scientific problem solving, and many other activities. Social studies classes focus more on community, culture and geography. Children study families, community helpers, school rules, laws, safety procedures, and state, national and world happenings and holidays to encourage a positive self identity, awareness of others, good citizenship and good stewardship. Although library, music, art, drama, technology and

Spanish are considered electives and are incorporated into the other curriculum areas, they are no less important. They are essential tools used to understand concepts with greater ease and make learning more enjoyable for your child. In addition to physical mobility, growth and development, physical education teaches hygiene, fair play, taking turns, and many other important social skills. Finally, and most importantly, is our Catholic religious education program. St. Catherine Catholic School is dedicated to providing the children of our area with opportunities to learn about Christian values and morals through Bible story study, explanation, and application of service to others. In daily Religion classes and weekly Mass celebrations children discover God, Christ and the Holy Spirit and how the Trinity is revealed through the sacraments, traditions and celebrations of the Catholic faith.

Let us join you in giving your children the best possible opportunity to be their very best.