



Saint Francis of Assisi School

Experience the Good, the True, and the Beautiful

RELIGION IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The *Image of God* program is a Catholic religion curriculum by Ignatius Press for children ages three and four. This curriculum is centered on an approach found in the writings and teachings of Pope Saint John Paul II. Lessons stress the dignity of each individual as a person made in the image and likeness of God. The *Image of God* curriculum has as its emphasis two key truths: God loves us and He created us for happiness. These key truths form the unifying element of each lesson.

Pre-Kindergarten students will

- Study the lives of the saints
- Celebrate Feast Days and Holy Days
- Learn Bible stories by doing activities
- Participate in weekly All School Mass with an older student who is assigned as their buddy

LANGUAGE ARTS IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Children love being introduced to Language Arts concepts through our reading readiness program. *Happily, Ever After* is a dynamic program that has children's literature at its heart. The 10-unit study gives the foundation to begin reading with beautifully illustrated classic stories from children's literature. From there, our Pre-Kindergarten students move on to the *Superkids Reading Program*, which builds and continues through 2nd grade.

Pre-Kindergarten students will

- Listen to and comprehend stories
- Build their vocabulary
- Retell familiar stories
- Recognize letters (uppercase and lowercase) as well as the individual letter sounds
- Make predictions based on illustrations
- Develop early literacy concepts such as identifying story characters and the setting where a story happens
- Identify and produce rhyming words

FINE MOTOR SKILLS IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Our students are busy everyday developing dexterity with their fine motor muscles. For many children, St. Francis School provides the first opportunity to learn an effective pencil grip through activities that build a wide range of movement.

Pre-Kindergarten students will

- Create push pin artwork
- Learn written stroke patterns (i.e. pull-down stroke, curve stroke, pull across stroke)
- Arrange stickers in patterns
- Write their names
- Use clothespins
- Color inside the lines (mostly!)
- Practice correct scissor use

MATHEMATICS IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN

The Pre-Kindergarten math program at St. Francis School is designed for students to build a strong foundation. Through many hands-on, repetitive activities, our students have the opportunity to master early childhood math skills.

Pre-Kindergarten students will

- Identify colors and shapes
- Practice rote counting by ones and tens
- Recognize numbers
- Understand the calendar: days of the week, today, tomorrow, and yesterday
- Sort objects by shapes, size, color, and other attributes
- Create shapes and color patterns
- Gain familiarity with ordinal numbers, measurement skills, and early addition concepts

SOCIAL STUDIES IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN

In Pre-Kindergarten, students will learn about place, geography, economics and elementary civics. They will come to discover more about local geography and how there is a depth of history embedded in every New England town.

Pre-Kindergarten students will

- Develop a greater awareness of town and New Hampshire state history
- Recognize National symbols such as the American Flag and the bald eagle
- Learn familiar songs that commemorate historical events

- Understand the importance of being part of a world-wide community

SCIENCE IN PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Our Pre-Kindergarten curriculum is based on real-world experiences and hands on learning. Our 14-acre school campus gives rise to studying changes inherent in the natural world. The gift of living in New England is that we get to experience the seasons and the harvest to the fullest!

Pre-Kindergarten students will

- Understand the basic life cycle of living things, the homes they live in and the food they eat
- Observe real-life plant growth
- Be able to classify the four seasons and describe why each one is important and necessary
- Make predications based on past experiences
- Learn about the five senses and how they operate as a whole to give us knowledge
- Experiment with weight and movement