

# **St. Mary School Pre-K Program Goals and Curriculum**

***Mission Statement:*** *St. Mary Catholic School Community empowers students to grow spiritually, academically, creatively, and physically so they may experience, understand, and live their responsibilities to God, family, community, and self.*

## **Program Goals**

St. Mary School Pre-K aims to provide an excellent early school experience while fostering the child's spiritual, social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. God has made each child differently and wonderfully. Development can not be hurried or rushed because all children develop at different rates according to the way that God has made them.

Development is intrinsic and cannot be hurried by experiences. Experiences foster the development that has occurred or is occurring. Trends in child development do exist, but cannot be traced to an exact age in which children will pass from one developmental state to another. Therefore, it is the goal of St. Mary Pre-K to help children enjoy their development and school experience while keeping these overall goals in mind.

### **Spiritual Development**

Children will:

- See themselves as a child of God
- Know that Jesus died on the cross for them
- Love Jesus
- Know that Jesus loves them
- Enjoy worship experiences
- Learn to love others

### **Social Development**

Children will:

- Learn to share and take turns
- Work and play with other children
- Be kind to one another
- Listen and follow directions
- Participate in the activities of the school day

### **Emotional Development**

Children will:

- Build a positive self-esteem
- Become comfortable and happy with the school environment
- Gain more and more independence
- Feel secure in the school environment
- Feel love and acceptance

## **Physical Development**

Children will:

- Develop better motor control (both fine and gross)
- Practice large motor skills (hopping, skipping, jumping, running, etc.)
- Practice small motor skills (cutting, coloring, gluing, grasping, pinching, etc.)
- Use a variety of motor development equipment
- Recognize body parts

## **Cognitive Development**

Children will:

- Learn to count and identify numbers
- Learn to identify and name shapes and colors
- Learn to identify and name capital and lowercase letters of the alphabet
- Learn to recognize and write their name
- Learn to solve problems in work and play
- Learn about themselves and the world around them
- Learn mathematical skills (categorizing, sorting, matching, sequencing, etc.)
- Enjoy the learning process and experience.

## **Curriculum Objectives**

St. Mary Pre-K will use the following curriculum objectives for planning activities, games, events, and lessons. Because we understand that all children develop uniquely, mastery is not required for each objective. These objectives clearly outline the types of things children will have the opportunity to learn and experiences. The daily activities and lessons will aim to provide the opportunity for all children to meet the following curricular objectives:

### ***Religion Objectives***

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Know that God loves them-even when they make bad choices
- Learn that God made them special
- Learn that God made the world
- Learn that Jesus is their best friend
- Recognize the Bible as God's Word
- Learn about the Holy Trinity (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit)
- Know that Jesus died on the cross for them
- Learn that the wrong choices we made are called sins
- Know that Jesus forgives us
- Join in various worship activities
- Sing and remember songs
- Say prayers from memory
- Learn stories from the Bible
- Praise God through music
- Talk about how Jesus grew to be a man who served God, His Father
- Care for others by serving and helping them
- Learn that God gives us all that we need
- Say prayers spontaneously
- Forgive other people
- Learn that God hears and answers our prayers
- Know that God is all-powerful

### ***Social Objectives***

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Express needs and wants verbally
- Share with others
- Participate in a group
- Play near or with other children
- Follow simple directions

- Respond agreeably to adults
- Develop self-control
- Participate during clean up
- Verbally respond to questions
- Begin to move away from egocentrism (being centered on oneself)
- Become more articulate with speech sounds
- Distinguish between good and bad choices
- Become involved in using rules when playing with others
- Take turns during play and games
- Develop closer friendships
- Become more aware of the social world
- Participate in public speaking (talking to the whole group)
- Begin using language to express emotions

### ***Emotional Objectives***

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Develop a positive self-image
- Enjoy school
- Feel happy about learning
- Handle separation adequately
- Accept changes in routine
- Share adult attention
- Express positive and negative emotions appropriately
- Ask for help when having difficulty with a task
- Try new experiences
- Learn to accept their strengths and weaknesses
- Begin to recognize and respect the feelings and needs of others

### ***Physical Objectives***

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Recognize that God made each of us unique
- Participate in outdoor play
- Exhibit ease in body movement
- Use manipulatives adequately
- Run forward, jump in place with both feet together, walk on tiptoes, kick, throw, and bounce a ball, walk on a line, balance, gallop, skip, and move to music
- Move creatively
- Manipulate blocks for building
- Manipulate crayons/markers, scissors, paint brushes, and pencils
- Pour using a pitcher
- Manage own clothing adequately

- Enjoy large and small motor activities
- Turn pages in a book
- Hold crayon with thumb and fingers
- Toss and catch an object
- Begin learning left and right sides of their body
- Write name clearly
- Manipulate buttons, zippers, laces, and snaps

## ***Cognitive Objectives***

### **Language Arts**

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Point to a picture or object
- Recall the names of things in their environment
- Give first and last name
- Recite simple prayers and songs
- Enjoy “reading” books and being read to
- Identify their name
- Identify letters in their name
- Become a better listener
- Enjoy sensory experiences
- Draw pictures and dictate sentences about stories and experiences
- Follow simple directions (1 -4 steps)
- Effectively communicate with teachers and classmates
- Locate and name their major body parts
- Identify each letter of the alphabet
- Expand their vocabulary
- Concepts of print: left to right direction, holding book right-side-up, identify the cover and title page of a book
- Understand that books have authors, illustrators, characters, and stories
- Retell a story
- Pick out a story’s beginning, middle, and end
- Distinguish the different sounds that letters make (phonemic awareness)
- Use words to solve problems more effectively
- Role-play someone other than themselves

### **Math**

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Identify shapes
- Count to 20 or beyond
- Count objects with one-to-one correspondence

- Identify numbers 1-10+
- Write numbers 1-10+
- Complete puzzles
- Match shapes
- Distinguish more and less, short and long, empty and full, etc.
- Build using blocks and other manipulatives
- Separate objects according to size or length
- Name the days of the week and use a calendar
- Name the months of the year
- Develop patterns using shapes, colors, beads, etc.
- Use a graph to show number comparisons

## **Science**

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Recognize the wonders of God and that He made everything
- Recognize and use their senses
- Compare and contrast animals, trees, objects, etc.
- Recognize the 4 seasons
- Describe the weather and what happens during each season change
- Identify morning, day, and night
- Identify things that can and cannot be recycled
- Perform guided, basic, fun experiments
- Identify objects that will sink and float
- Use magnets to explore magnetism
- Make fairly accurate predictions
- Plant and care for something that will grow
- Describe the functions of some of the major body parts (brain, heart, lungs, etc)
- Describe and classify different kinds of landforms (soil, sand, rock)
- Identify animals that hibernate
- Weigh object using a balance
- Explore the world through nature walks and other explorations
- Measure and mix ingredients in cooking activities

## **Social Studies**

Children will have the opportunity to:

- See who they are in the larger world around them
- Love and help other people
- Perceive how others feel (lonely, angry, happy, etc.)
- Follow the rules of the classroom and school
- Play and work with and respect other children and adults
- Communicate verbally more proficiently

- Become more aware of helpers in our community (police, doctor, etc.)
- Read familiar signs from society (STOP, EXIT, HANDICAPPED, etc.)
- Identify and name members of their family
- Seek out involvement in a group
- Name the town or city they live in
- Know parents' first and last names
- Accept that God made the world and everything in it.

## **Music**

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Praise God through song and dance
- Enjoy music
- Clap/tap to a beat produced by a teachers
- Move creatively to music
- Perform musical fingerplays
- Enjoy keeping rhythm using instruments
- Memorize songs-religious and secular
- Play musical games/dances
- Discern between loud and soft, fast and slow, high and low
- Use scarves, rhythm sticks, and bean bags to practice rhythm and movement

## **Art**

Children will have the opportunity to:

- Learn that God is the Master Artist
- Enjoy creating a “masterpiece” of their own
- Become more proficient when using various media (crayons, markers, oil pastels, chalk, brushes, etc.)
- Appreciate their artwork and the artwork of others
- Follow a plan for doing certain projects
- Be creative in open-ended art projects
- Create 2D and 3D art projects
- Add more and more details to their artwork
- Draw a self-portrait
- Mix colors to make new colors
- Identify different textures
- Express their feelings in their artwork
- Learn various elements and principles of art (line, shape, color, space, texture, value, form, pattern, movement)
- Share artwork with the community through art shows and exhibits, and to the world using [www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com)