

St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School's Kindergarten curriculum is fully aligned to the Archdiocese of Milwaukee Standards and the Wisconsin Model of Early Learning Standards. The WMELS address approaches to learning, health and physical development, social and emotional development, language development and communication, and cognition and knowledge development. St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School provides a full day Kindergarten program. A foundation of successful schooling is formed during the Kindergarten years through expanded opportunities for positive development and learning experiences. Kindergarteners are active participants in our school liturgies once a week.

The Whole Child

A complete Kindergarten experience revolves around developing the skills of the whole child. At St. Mary's Visitation, it is our goal to provide an opportunity for children to grow not only academically, but spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically. We instill in children the Catholic Values, social skills, manners, independence, and the routine and structure of school. St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School endeavors to provide an atmosphere of high expectations that challenge the individual and promote lifelong learning so each student can reach the fullness of his or her individual potential. Through partnering with parents, we are able to meet these expectations and goals.

Religion

Religious education at St. Mary's Visitation encompasses not only formal religion classes, but also an education in Catholic beliefs and values that is integrated in every aspect of the academic curriculum. Kindergarteners learn about their Catholic faith through Scripture stories, prayer, discussion and reflection, music, and weekly liturgies. The Kindergarten Religion curriculum we use is called *Spirit of Truth* from Sophia Institute Press and Catholic teachings are discussed and integrated across all subject areas. The following topics are the focus of the Kindergarten Religion curriculum:

- Experiences prayer as talking to God
- Begins to learn The Lord's Prayer
- Values and cares for God's creation
- Is familiar with the story of the Golden Rule
- Learns about several Saints
- Recognizes Christian symbols
- Recognizes Mary, Joseph, and Jesus as the Holy Family

English Language Arts

Reading

Kindergarten students experience different genres including poems and fables, informational, fiction and nonfiction, and classic stories. In Kindergarten, we utilize *Amplify Core Knowledge Language Arts* to foster individual student's knowledge and skills. Reading fluency and focusing on background knowledge will develop and improve as students are presented with the following skills and knowledge through the year:

- Rhyming
- Retell and identify literary story elements
- Ask and answer questions
- Developing and understanding key vocabulary
- Compare and contrast
- Orally blend and segment sounds
- Nursery rhymes and fables

Writing and Grammar

Kindergarten students will use a combination of drawing, writing, and dictating to compose opinion, narrative, and informative pieces. Kindergarten will use *Voyages in English* by Loyola Press which systematically combines grammar and writing into a single consumable book, ensuring students master the mechanics of language while developing strong writing skills.

Speaking and listening

Kindergarten students will listen to others when speaking and participate in collaborative discussions. Students will use language and vocabulary to express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly. Kindergarteners will retell, recall stories, and use their own illustrations to explain overall comprehension.

Mathematics

Kindergarten students use the mathematics curriculum through *Savvas enVision*. Kindergarten students develop knowledge of mathematics and the ability to apply math skills through manipulatives, calendar, patterns, problem solving, and counting strategies. In Kindergarten, students will learn the following topics:

- Write, recognize, and order numbers up to 100
- Know number names and the count sequence
- Count to tell the number of objects
- Compare numbers
- Name, identify, and draw shapes
- Analyze, compare, create and compose shapes
- Know and understand base ten operations
- Sort and classify objects into categories
- Measure and compare length, height, and width
- Identify patterns

Science

Kindergarten will work collaboratively with each other and use hands-on experiences to understand science and the world that God created around them. Students will take a look at the *HMH Science Dimensions* curriculum to assist with communicating, explaining, analyzing, and understanding. In Kindergarten, students will study:

- Motion of an object
- Use a variety of senses
- Prove or disprove predictions
- Plants and animal survival
- Ask questions and draw conclusions
- Environment

Music

Kindergarteners will attend to music class twice a week where they will explore rhythmic and melodic phrases, perform music and show audience etiquette, identify fast and slow tempos, demonstrate high and low pitches, how to connect with our faith and sing music at Mass. Also, students will develop an understanding of music through daily movements and music within the Kindergarten classroom.

Library

Kindergarten students will visit the school library to listen to read alouds and choose a book based on interest to be checked out each week.

Social Studies

Kindergarten students will develop awareness on community and the people around them along with the integration of our Catholic Social Teachings. The focus will be on:

- Community
- Past and Present
- Recognize symbols, songs, and tradition of our state and country
- Follow rules
- Discuss importance of laws

Physical Education

In Kindergarten, students will explore and demonstrate factors that contribute to a healthy lifestyle. Students will participate in physical education twice a week to show competency in motor skills and movement patterns. They will also exhibit responsible social behavior that shows respect to self and others. Students will also work collaboratively and cooperatively.

The Arts

In Kindergarten, students will be introduced to various artists including Alma Woodsey Thomas, Wassily Kandinsky, and Hundertwasser. They will be using different art materials such as:

- tempera paint
- oil pastels
- watercolor pens
- colored pencils
- markers

The Playroom and Recess

In Kindergarten students benefit from recess twice a day where they interact with others which offers cognitive, social, emotional, and physical benefits. Students also have the opportunity to be creative and enhance play for 30 minutes once a day in our playroom.

ST. MARY'S VISITATION

Catholic School † Elm Grove, WI

St. Mary's Visitation Catholic Parish School exists to direct children toward God and toward Christian service to society through Catholic religious formation, academic challenge and continuous improvement.