



St. Raphael the Archangel School

PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM 2017 - 2018

At St. Raphael the Archangel School it is our Mission to be a faith-filled, Catholic community serving God, families and children by instilling the core values of Faith, Community, Achievement and Leadership.

Erika B. Nygard, M.Ed.
Director, Pre-Kindergarten

LANGUAGE & LITERACY

The children in our program will be able to engage with language in a natural, encouraging environment. Small group sessions will be pulled to help students with alphabetic knowledge and phonemic awareness. Learning will take place through whole group and small group reading, literacy games, book making, daily journaling, writer's workshops, poems, letter chants, student-led storytelling and acting, and independent exploration, and will progress at the pace of the students. Students will also have the opportunity to attend weekly Library sessions where they will be able to read, listen to stories read aloud, and check out books to take home. Content covered in our program includes: oral language, print concepts, knowledge of alliteration and rhyming, phonological and phonemic awareness, vocabulary, comprehension, understanding and applying the writing process, and the development of fine motor skills. Individualized assessments will be used to track the growth of each student.

Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines:

- Listening Skills
- Communication Skills

- Phonological and Phonemic Awareness
- Alphabet Knowledge
- Comprehension
- Word Recognition Skills
- Reading Readiness
- Emergent Writing
- Background Knowledge and Vocabulary Skills
- Book Knowledge and Appreciation

MATHEMATICS

Throughout the year, the children in our program will develop life-long reasoning skills through the exploration of mathematical concepts. Through the use of open-ended materials, children will begin to engage in tasks that require both abstract and spatial reasoning—concepts such as woodworking and block construction. Our classroom is equipped with a woodworking table (with hand tools), as well as a full set of unit blocks for limitless combinations and exploration. Learning will take place through both small group and whole group instruction and will include fun, interactive projects that engage the child on multiple levels. Math

enrichment will also be supported through a Smart Board system—via interactive games and activities. Content covered in our program includes: sorting, patterns, counting, problem solving, identifying and comparing numbers, comparing attributes (both physical and geometrical), basic addition and subtraction (drawing and acting out number stories), calendar, place value, tally marks, data collection (surveys and observations), graphing, geometry, measurement, introduction to calculators, basic shapes, and more than/less than concepts.

Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines:

- Number Concepts and Operations
- Patterns and Relationships
- Spatial Relationships and Geometry
- Measurement

SCIENCE

Our science program is centered on allowing children to explore the world around them. We believe that science is most easily accessible in nature, and want to nurture that deep connection to nature that is so essential to the early

development of a child. Science will take place daily through observation and data collection, as well as nature walks, experiments, documentation, and journaling. Our classroom is also equipped with a full-size sensory table for sand and water exploration. A more intentionally focused science block will take place one day a week to help children come to understand the world around us—in its most basic form, as well as its complexities. Children will engage in deep project work in areas of their own interests, ranging anywhere from the study of endangered animal species to the mechanics and creation of robotics. Content covered in our program includes: understanding the basic needs of humans, plants (tending to a class garden), and animals (caring for a classroom pet), life cycles, weather patterns (types of clouds, types of wind), caring for the earth (conservation, responsibility), exploring matter, magnets, movement and motion, and the development of hypotheses and the scientific method.

Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines:

- Observation
- Investigation
- Scientific Concepts
- Personal Health and Wellness

- Self-Help Skills

SOCIAL STUDIES & SPIRITUALITY

Throughout the year, children will develop both socially and emotionally. Children will learn that community is important—we each have a job to do to make sure our classroom is a success. Children will learn how to foster peer relationships; they will discover how to help each other learn, grow, and reach their fullest potential. Preschoolers must learn how to take care of their friends; and in doing so, we become stronger as a community. Likewise, children will learn that they were made to *enjoy God, His love, and His creation*. Children will also learn that they were made to *spread that love* to others—that they are to be the image of God wherever they go—that they should treat others the way they want to be treated.

Finally, preschoolers will learn that they were created to be an advocate for those who do not have a voice; they must learn to *seek justice*, and find ways to help those around them. Students will also have the opportunity to attend Mass each week.

Content covered in our program includes: early faith formation (prayer, tradition, biblical stories), community helpers, world

cultures, family stories, needs and wants, taking care of the earth, American heroes (Martin Luther King Junior, Cesar Chavez, Benjamin Franklin), and national and state songs.

Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines:

- Personal Information
- Community Relationships
- Sense of Self
- Collaboration
- Feelings and Emotions
- Classroom Community
- Catholic Identity
- Care for the World and Others

THE ARTS

The preschool years are an excellent time to gain exposure to a variety of artistic mediums. Throughout the year, children will be exposed to different styles of music, dancing, song writing, instrument exploration, rhythm, rhyme, and syncopation. They will also have the freedom to express themselves through instrument-making (drums, shakers, rubber band guitars). Our classroom is also equipped with a Light Box for visual, artistic

stimulation. Children will also have the opportunity to paint freely at the Art Easel or make a creation out of recycled materials. Throughout the year, children will be given access to paints, clays, and a variety of other mediums, as well as open-ended materials for independent exploration. Students will learn how to use art as a form of expression. In addition to the artistic opportunities offered in the classroom, students will attend both weekly music classes and monthly art classes with highly qualified teachers on our staff. Content covered in our program includes: the use of different materials, media, and tools for creative expression, the understanding and application of both two and three dimensional art works, exposure to different textures and tactiles, the demonstration of self-expression through music, dance, drama, and the arts, and the appreciation of expression in peers.

Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines:

- Creativity
- Appreciation
- Fine Motor Development
- Gross Motor Development

TECHNOLOGY

Throughout the year, children will gain exposure to technology in their everyday lives. Our classroom is equipped with a state of the art interactive Smart Board with unlimited access to information, games, and curriculum support. The Smart Board will help guide student project work, as both a source of information, as well as a hands-on approach to learning. The interactive nature of the Smart Board allows children to learn both independently and in small groups. Our classroom is also equipped with a Makerspace station which will help guide early STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) exploration. In this station of the room, children will have access to a wide variety of open ended materials, recyclables, and loose parts. Here, students will design imaginative creations, map out their steps, and bring the plan to completion in Makerspace. This early exploration will help guide students toward a growing field in our society. Content covered in our program includes: understanding the process of planning, executing, and presenting a project, learning how to engage in new materials in a variety of ways, team building and cooperation with peers, creative problem-solving, and innovation and collaboration.

Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines:

- Discovery
- Adaptability
- Imagination and Exploration
- Attentiveness and Persistence
- Response and Application

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Students in our program will gain valuable exposure to the Spanish language throughout the course of the year. Children will not only encounter basic Spanish in the everyday curriculum, they will begin to understand Spanish on a more intentional level. Pre-Kindergarten students will receive weekly Spanish lessons with a qualified foreign language teacher on our staff. The early years provide a rich environment for language acquisition and are an excellent time to immerse in the foundational skills of a different language. Children will be introduced to the language in a variety of engaging ways, including hands-on activities, games, conversations, and songs. Content covered in our program includes: the introduction to foundational Spanish skills

(numbers, letters, nouns, verbs), as well as basic conversational skills (high frequency words and phrases).

Pre-Kindergarten Guidelines:

- Listening Skills
- Communication Skills
- Alphabet Knowledge
- Comprehension
- Word Recognition Skills
- Background Knowledge and Vocabulary Skills