

## **Curriculum Information**

Our Pre-K 3 classroom is designed to actively engage students in a variety of activities while interacting and socializing with teachers and peers. Social and emotional growth is of primary importance in a three-year-old classroom. Children will learn to work as a part of the class, follow simple rules and routines, manage transitions and identify feelings of themselves and others. Important concepts in religion, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies will be introduced and built upon under different themes throughout the year while focusing on the 5 developmental domains. The arts, technology, and physical activity will also be a part of each day.

### **Developmental Domains**

- Approaches to Learning
- Physical Development and Health
- Social and Emotional Development
- Communication, Language, and Literacy
- Cognition and Knowledge of the World

In our room, learning centers will be used to reinforce concepts and give each child the opportunity to make choices while working with peers/adults on different academic and play activities. Children will have the opportunity to work in large groups, small groups and independently throughout the day.

All learning activities are planned to be meaningful, engaging and age-appropriate, and are geared to help each individual child reach objectives and be successful in our classroom environment.

### **Religion**

This year we will be using *Seeds*, a liturgy based approach to catechesis. Each lesson is built around the theme of the Sunday Gospel. The children will hear the Gospel during the week, retell it in their own words, and explore how they can live the Gospel through stories, songs, and activities. The children will meet Jesus over and over again in His work of healing, teaching, and telling of God's love for all. They will begin to recognize their place in the Church community and understand how, even as young children, they can follow Jesus.

## **Language Arts**

Language Arts include listening, speaking, reading, phonics and writing. In our class, children will be engaged in a language-rich environment that offers pre-reading and pre-writing activities using a variety of materials to develop a strong literacy foundation, a life-long appreciation of literature, and a love of reading. We will be reading a variety of texts, exploring rhymes and poetry, and singing many songs.

Children will be encouraged to develop the following language arts skills:

- Name recognition
- Letter recognition
- Differentiation of letters and numbers
- Rhyming
- Retelling stories
- Responding to literature through words, pictures and play
- Asking questions about stories
- Making connections between self, text, and the world
- Following rules for conversation
- Following two-step directions

## **Mathematics**

Mathematics will be introduced through concrete experiences (use of manipulatives, graphs, counting) and daily activities (calendar, games) which support the development of mathematical thinking. Children will practice math skills each day in groups and individually.

Children will be encouraged to develop the following mathematical skills:

- Number recognition
- Counting in sequence
- Counting to tell how many
- Number relationships
- Measurement
- Comparisons
- Sorting
- Patterns

- Understanding of positional words
- Shapes- identification, description, composing and decomposing
- Problem solving
- Basic understanding of addition and subtraction

## **Science**

Science topics are integrated into the curriculum. Children will have the opportunity to explore and experiment with things in their natural environment which will indulge their natural curiosity. Hands-on activities help students test ideas while using their senses and simple tools to enhance learning. They will learn to process information based on prediction, observation, investigation, and discussion.

## **Social Studies**

As children begin to see differences in the world around them, they will begin to embrace what makes them unique while valuing others for their differences. In our classroom, we will focus on building relationships while learning to communicate effectively, solve problems and cooperate with others. Children will become more aware of rules, families, communities, holidays, traditions, and our country.

## **Arts**

The arts include music, drama, and art. These areas enable young children to learn, express themselves through their senses and grow in self-confidence. Children in our class will have the chance every day to explore different art forms and materials.

## **Technology**

The use of technology in the classroom provides an additional way to reinforce and enhance concepts and skills. Students will be given the opportunity to view appropriate websites, videos, games and activities on a laptop via our Promethean Board to expand classroom learning. We will also have access to an iPad with age-appropriate apps.

## **Physical Activity and Health**

Each day, children will engage in physical activities to develop balance, flexibility, stamina, and coordination. They will play indoors and outdoors (weather permitting) every day. Children will also be taught the importance of relaxation as a balance to physical exertion. Additionally, we will practice and reinforce basic hygiene routines as a way to combat germs and remain healthy.