



Mercymount Country Day School

*Preschool - Pre-K
Additional Information*



Revised, July 2024

WELCOME!

Welcome to Mercymount Country Day School Pre-Kindergarten Program.

We hope the following information concerning our program will help answer any questions you may have about our philosophy, methods, policies and programs.

ACCREDITATION

Mercymount Country Day School is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and by the Rhode Island Department of Education to conduct educational programs for Pre-Kindergarten children. Many of the school's policies are required by the state, the RI Department of Education, and the Diocese of Providence.

PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

In Mercymount's Pre-Kindergarten program, we strive to create a pleasant, safe and challenging environment for each child by providing a variety of learning experiences and activities. We endeavor to give the children an opportunity to think, create, explore and discover the world around them as well as the gift of their own uniqueness.

We also hope to instill in our children a Christian way of life based on Christ's invitation to always do the loving thing.

The children are encouraged to grow spiritually, mentally, socially, emotionally and academically through proper guidance, careful selection of materials, and a well-planned program.

It is our aim to provide a loving environment where self-confidence along with a positive self-image is realized.

Mindful of the maxim "that nothing grows unless you love it," we seek to create an atmosphere of love and learning where the goals and objectives of our Mission statement may be brought to fruition.

MISSION STATEMENT

Faithful to Catholic educational tradition, Mercymount Country Day School sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy, ensures the development of strong academic skills, nurtures creative abilities, creates a sense of community and promotes social responsibility. In the spirit of Catherine McAuley, we affirm that each child is a unique gift of a loving God, open to God's presence in others and in all creation.

CURRICULUM

Mathematics

The purpose of the Mathematics program at Mercymount is to provide students with well-developed mathematical skills. The Pre-Kindergarten Math program is designed to provide young children with an introduction to the most basic of mathematical concepts, and to make them aware of how these concepts are at work in their everyday life. Students will:

- engage in early math concepts, counting and matching
- become familiar with a simple graph
- count by ones and match quantities with numerals
- compare sets using appropriate language
- identify, describe and reproduce patterns
- sort and classify objects
- name, describe, sort and draw two-dimensional shapes
- write and identify numbers

Language and Literacy

The purpose of the Language program at Mercymount is to provide students with the tools and strategies necessary to become lifelong learners. Through speaking, listening, reading, and writing, students will become articulate, effective communicators with a deep appreciation for the written word. Students will:

- listen to stories to learn new information, develop vocabulary and appreciate literature
- express themselves using painting, drawing and writing materials
- display listening skills and identify and express feelings
- demonstrate an awareness of print concepts
- identify and produce rhyming words
- recognize letters of the alphabet

Science

The purpose of the Science program at Mercymount is to encourage students to understand the world around them by using their senses to observe and gather information. The Pre-Kindergarten Science program is designed to help the students understand the world through experiments and hands-on activities. Students will:

- begin to understand the effect that people have on their environment
- apply science knowledge and skills to solve problems
- describe and communicate observations through drawings and graphs
- identify properties of objects and classify according to these properties
- make predictions and plan investigations

Social Studies

The Pre-Kindergarten Social Studies program is designed to help the students understand that they are part of a family and a larger community. Through this recognition, they will become aware of the need for rules, rights and responsibilities.

Students will:

- know the important rules of the classroom
- verbalize “place names” such as their address, and familiar places in the community
- understand their role and value as a member of the classroom community
- demonstrate an awareness of time (yesterday, today, tomorrow)
- show an awareness and appreciation of the similarities and differences among people

Religion

The purpose of the Religion program at Mercymount is to provide students with a knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and to deepen their faith in the Catholic Church. Using the standards set forth by the Diocese of Providence and the Sisters of Mercy, students learn about their faith through Scripture stories and Mercymount’s religious education program. Students will:

- learn traditional prayers
- practice Christian values of faith, charity, honesty, love and mercy
- attend prayer services and Mass on holy days
- share in the collections for the poor and those in need

Spanish

The purpose of the Spanish program at Mercymount is to provide children with exposure to a second language. Learning a second language is beneficial to a child’s cognitive development, development of communications skills, and develops cultural awareness. Utilizing the values of Catholic social teaching and the Sisters of Mercy, students will have an opportunity to learn Spanish through play and immersion. Students will:

- learn Spanish songs as a medium to hear the correct pronunciation of Spanish words, as a means for utilizing the language, and for simple enjoyment.
- will begin to develop a Spanish beginner’s vocabulary.
- will learn to pronounce Spanish sounds and syllables correctly.
- will learn basic greetings, questions, and responses, 10 colors, numbers 1-10, common animals, classroom objects, and family words.
- will also learn simple food, clothing, and community items.

Creative Arts

The purpose of the Creative Arts program at Mercymount is to provide students a vehicle for expressing their ideas and feelings. Through visual arts, drama, music and movement, children will enhance their creativity, a critical skill for later success. Students will:

- create art using a variety of media
- participate in pretend play
- re-enact familiar stories
- explore a variety of music and musical instruments

Social and Emotional Students will:

- learn acceptable group behavior (i.e. sharing)
- learn to relate with peers and adults
- learn awareness of the feelings of others
- develop self confidence
- create a good self-image (positive reinforcement)
- learn to communicate their feelings in socially acceptable ways
- learn self-help skills to become independent of parental help
- listen when others are speaking
- develop the ability to control impulses
- show persistence in tasks
- participate in finding solutions to conflicts

Sample Day in the Life of Pre-Kindergarten at Mercymount

Morning - 8:35 - 11:40

- Morning greeting
- Learning Centers
- Snack
- Recess
- Specials (TBD)

Midday - 11:45 - 1:30

- Story time
- Lunch
- Rest

Afternoon - 1:30 - 2:50

- Quiet activities
- Closing circle
- Dismissal

FOOD

Students will be required to bring a lunch and drink each day. Lunch will be eaten in the Preschool/Pre-K classroom. Students will not take part in the cafeteria lunch program. No peanut or tree nut products please.

Students should also bring one nutritious snack and juice box or water each day. Students participating in the After-Care program will be provided with a second snack. Students should also have a reusable water bottle.