

ST MARY'S
ACADEMY

Kindergarten Benchmarks





Mission

St. Mary's Academy fosters excellence in each child through academic achievement, spiritual development, and service. The Loretto School Values of faith, community, justice and respect provide the foundation for students to be powerful agents of change.

Vision

Inspiring leaders to act with integrity, seek justice, build community, and change the world.

At St. Mary's Academy, children participate in an educational program that is interdisciplinary, focused on the real world, problem-based, hands-on, and collaborative.

Essential Skills

- Global Learning
- Creativity/Innovation
- Social Justice and Equity
- Empathy
- Leadership
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Cultural Competence
- Growth Mindset

What does this look like in Kindergarten?

Students work to lead, create, and change.

A Kindergarten student at St. Mary's Academy:

- Works collaboratively and shows teamwork
- Demonstrates creativity and imagination
- Uses critical thinking to solve problems
- Practices flexibility and adaptability
- Begins to understand global and cultural awareness
- Shows leadership
- Practices a growth mindset
- Shows empathy
- Begins to understand social justice and equity
- Participates in global learning lessons

Social Emotional Development

The development of social and emotional skills is an essential part of Kindergarten. We realize that children develop at different rates and we structure our program to support their needs and allow them opportunities to progress the following skills.

- Works and plays cooperatively in a variety of settings
- Demonstrates an understanding of school and classroom guidelines
- Listens to others while in large and small groups
- Stays involved in a self-selected activity for an appropriate length of time (approximately 15 to 20 minutes)
- Follows simple verbal directions.
- Works independently and/or cooperatively to solve problems.
- Selects and completes a task while working at a learning center
- Chooses a variety of materials and activities from learning centers
- Attends to personal tasks
- Recognizes dangerous situations and takes action to protect self (e.g. uses telephone, knows safety rules)
- Follows classroom procedures and rules
- Respects adults (controls talking, body movement, anger, disturbing others)
- Respects school and property
- Listens attentively
- Works independently
- Stays on task
- Demonstrates problem solving skills
- Neatness in work
- Practices PAWS behavior
- Follows the Loretto School Values
- Learns various calm down strategies

Language Arts

Kindergarten uses the ReadyGen Curriculum which is a comprehensive literature program that uses authentic literary and informational texts to teach reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students are also instructed in phonics using the Orton Gillingham approach. Orton Gillingham is a multisensory approach to teaching reading by explicitly teaching the connections between letters and sounds.

Writing

- Uses proper pencil grip
- Forms uppercase and lowercase letters
- Writes first and last name
- Draws detailed drawings
- Labels drawings phonetically
- Spells simple words phonetically
- Has knowledge of letter-sound relationship (*Spells basic CVC words by identifying the first, middle and ending of words)
- Understands sentence structure (capital at the beginning, spaces between words, lower case letters, ending punctuation)

Reading

- Identifies all letters and sounds
- Identifies rhyming words
- Segments words into individual sounds
- Blends sounds orally to make words
- Understands that words are made of syllables
- Recognizes up to 50 sight words
- Uses a variety of reading strategies to read unknown words
- Retells a story with beginning, middle, and end from memory
- Identifies characters, settings and major events in a story
- Can speak and listen in a group setting



Mathematics

Our enVision Mathematics program combines problem-based learning with visual learning to help students understand math concepts. Students engage in daily problem-based learning experiences where they collaborate to uncover different strategies to solve problems. Through the use of technology and manipulatives, students are provided with visual representations to see math concepts more clearly. Lessons are differentiated through daily activity centers and real-world math projects. Teachers perform regular formative and summative assessments to drive instruction.

Number Sense, Properties and Operations

- Counts to 100 by 1s and 10s
- Counts to 50 by 5s
- Counts to 20 by 2s
- Counts 20 objects using one-to-one correspondence
- Counts forward from any given number within 100
- Makes tally marks to 20
- Adds and subtracts to 10 using a variety of strategies
- Identifies numbers to 50
- Writes numbers to 100 with or without a model
- Reads ordinal numbers to 5
- Reads number words to 10
- Recognizes numbers to 50 in and out of sequence
- Compares numbers to 10 using the terms greater than and less than
- Adds doubles facts to 10
- Adds and subtracts 0 and 1 to and within 10
- Identifies the name and the value of coins (penny, nickel, dime, quarter)
- Counts sets of up to 10, 15, 20
- Understands two-digit numbers

Measurement

- Measures using standard and nonstandard measurement with an understanding of vocabulary such as weight, heavy, lighter, shorter, longer
- Begins to read time to the hour and half hour
- Knows and recites the days of the week
- Knows and recites months of the year

Patterns, Functions, and Algebraic Structures

- Creates a simple pattern (AB, AAB, ABC)

Data Analysis, Statistics, and Probability

- Reads simple pictographs and bar graphs
- Begins to understand estimation by using the terms more or less than, fewer, and/or greater
- Collects, sorts, orders, classifies and describes objects based on different attributes

Shape, Dimension, and Geometric Relationships

- Names shapes (square, rectangle, triangle, oval, circle, hexagon, diamond)
- Identifies angles
- Names 3D shapes (cube, cylinder, cone, sphere)
- Identifies a line of symmetry





Science

Kindergarten uses the Next Generation Science Standards. These science lessons are supplemented by weekly experiments from the lower school science teacher, where students have the opportunity to learn and engage with the scientific method.

Kindergartners regularly participate in STEM projects. Students work as a team as they learn the design process while responding to various challenges by building and creating using recycled materials.

Students also experience the life cycle of different plants with an indoor garden throughout the year.

Students actively participate in the following science units:

- Pushes and Pulls
- Weather and the Effect of Sunlight on the Earth's Surface
- Plants and Animals
- Interdisciplinary STEM projects

Computer Science

In Kindergarten, students experience technology integration through:

- Access to 1:1 technology devices
- The use of technology as a tool to amplify classroom curricular content
- Understanding beginning computer mechanics, components, programs, and apps
- Developing fine-motor mousing, swipe, and beginning keyboarding skills
- Applying computational thinking, programming, and robotics abilities to solve problems
- Exploring the Design Thinking Process, practicing immersive empathy, and demonstrating a growth mindset
- Applying Digital Citizenship knowledge to use technology safely and ethically
- Working together to create and share products using digital tools
- The creative use of technology as positive agents of change in local and global communities

Social Studies

In Kindergarten, our students begin to see themselves as members of a community who can influence change and make a positive impact on others. They learn about the ways they relate to each other, their families and their communities. As part of the Loretto School Values, we teach children to use faith, community, justice and respect, as the foundation from which they can grow and affect change.

Community

- Identifies how we are similar and different as people
- Creates and follows classroom rules
- Identifies what it means to be respectful, caring and collaborative
- Identifies the important members of the community
- Participates in service learning projects

History

- Introduction to important notable figures
- Gains a basic understanding of timelines

Cultural Traditions and Holidays

- Learns about important holidays celebrated in our community and around the world
- Shares family traditions
- Compares families, traditions and celebrations of other cultures

Geography

- Learns basic map skills such as ordinal directions and where we are located on the map
- Participates in an interdisciplinary unit that incorporates science and geography
- Understands the difference between maps and globes and the different features of each
- Recites phone number and address

Religion

Kindergarten students are taught to embody our four Loretto Values of Faith, Community, Justice and Respect. While we are a Catholic school, students are taught to be accepting of all religions. Our four Loretto Values help drive our students to be exemplary leaders that will carry them through the rest of their educational journey. Students pride themselves on following our values, and they are expected to model them daily.

- Participates in prayer in mornings at lunch
- Learns about the creation story and other popular Bible stories
- Learns about Jesus and Mary
- Learns and celebrates popular Saints
- Participates in Mass and Prayer Services
- Knows and uses the Golden Rule
- Participate in service learning projects





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