

St. Martin's Episcopal School Early Childhood Program



Creativity

STEAM Learning
Experiences

Critical Thinking

Decision Making

Innovative Thinking



St. Martin's
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Welcome to St. Martin's



St. Martin's Early Childhood program emphasizes hands-on, real world learning experiences. Teachers encourage students to explore, discover and play as part of their overall daily learning activities. This approach to education increases academic achievement, helps student-learning and enhances students' appreciation for the natural world.

We approach innovation from a child-centered perspective and design our program so that creativity is happening in all aspects of the school day allowing students to better enjoy learning. A great emphasis is placed on the development of all areas of literacy; written language, spoken language and listening skills, while focusing on beginning writing and reading readiness skills.

Our math program is a developmental program that encourages an interest in mathematic concepts. Basic concepts are introduced and taught through interactive experiences that emphasize the use of mathematics in our every day world. This "hands on" approach to math has proven to be both effective and fun.

Technology is integrated into and supports every aspect of our program in a meaningful and appropriate way. Our program is enhanced by special subject areas that include Spanish, French, Guidance (character education), Movement & Music, Art, Religion, Science, Library, Reading and Computer.

St. Martin's is truly a special place and I invite you to learn more about our Early Childhood program.

Cindy Alexander, Early Childhood Principal



Beginners

Beginners classes work to promote a positive sense of self, nurture growing independence and honor each child's unique individuality. Special attention is paid to each child's cognitive development through lessons in language arts, math readiness and inquiry based thematic social studies and science. Through intentionally planned activities and learning center experiences, teachers facilitate the development of cognitive, expressive and receptive communication skills, as well as fine and large motor skills. In full realization that children learn as much from their interactions with each other through socialization, play and small group experiences we intentionally value these as part of our curriculum.



Pre-K

The goal of the Pre-K program is to prepare our students for a smooth transition to kindergarten. While still focusing on social and emotional development, Pre-K has a more academic purpose. Teachers carefully plan exciting activities to engage students in learning the phonemes of each letter and simple diagraphs. This phonemic knowledge will provide a pre-reading skill necessary to fully begin reading. Math skills build readiness and a solid recognition of numbers. Pre-K students will gain an understanding of the concept that both print and numbers have a left to right order. Students participate in patterning and understand sets of numbers in simple addition and subtraction concepts. Teachers also plan fun science activities to build curiosity and engage students in critical thinking skills.



Kindergarten

Kindergarten teachers strive to create a joyful and focused environment that inspires a love of learning and a spirit of discovery. Our Kindergarten program teaches the first major steps in the mastery of reading, writing and mathematics. It includes working on skills in observation, experimentation and communication, problem solving, critical thinking, and creative expression. Kindergarten students work in large and small groups with two teachers and attend an enriched Reading/Computer Lab to set the stage for future academic success. Our Kindergarten students become the leaders of chapel and acolyte at our weekly service. They continue to grow in their relationship with God and the church as a welcoming community.

Elizabeth Beckwith
Lead Science Teacher

Felicia Mitchell
Assistant Science Teacher



Elizabeth Beckwith



Felicia Mitchell

St. Martin's EC Science Lab

Children engage in scientific thinking at a very young age. From birth, children want to learn and they naturally seek out problems to solve. The mission of the Early Childhood Science Lab is to encourage students to seek and discover, ask questions, probe for answers, conduct investigations, and collect data. Students (Beginners through Kindergarten), use clip boards, observe and draw pictures of EC Science Lab Animals.

St. Martin's Science Lab is a 'Maker Space,' with a magnetic wall, iPads, building materials and age appropriate electrical circuits. It is home to a diverse range of species, including a Bearded Dragon, a Blue Tongued-Skink, and a Corn Snake; numerous native turtles, a variety of amphibians and Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches. There are also two touch tanks, one freshwater and one saltwater. In addition to live teaching specimens, the Lab is equipped with state-of-the-art technology, including a SMART board, a SMART table, and digital microscopes connected to laptops. Each child is encouraged to make discoveries on their own in both the Science Lab and Outdoor Classroom.



St. Martin's Outdoor Classroom

Student learning takes place in a dinosaur excavation site, a pond with fish and frogs, numerous gardening beds, a large shaded gazebo, and a greenhouse. Students enjoy digging in the dirt for worms and watering the plants of the garden. They have fun filling bird feeders, picking weeds, skimming leaves out of the pond and raking them from the lawn. The Outdoor Classroom is a place for children to explore and discover and smiles, giggles and laughter are abundant!

St. Martin's Outdoor Classroom holds many accolades

- Certified Natural Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation
- A "Nature Explorer Classroom" Certified by the Arbor Day Foundation
- Received an honorary mention award at the Southern Early Childhood Association's Exemplary Outdoor Classroom contest





Elizabeth Barton

Elizabeth Barton
Early Childhood Counselor

A character education program is taught weekly by the Guidance Counselor in each of the Early Childhood classrooms. Social aspects are taught along with academics. Six of these social skills are particularly important: learning that it feels good to help other people; developing empathy; understanding that everyone has rights that must be respected; learning to be generous; discovering the value of cooperation; and discovering the joys of friendship.



Nathalie Brown

Nathalie Brown
French Teacher

Stuart Haddow
Spanish Teacher

Early Childhood foreign language instruction is taught with weekly lessons offering a semester of Spanish and a semester of French. Classes are taught using multisensory methods and EC students learn by playing games and having fun.



Stuart Haddow



Mimi Deupree

Mimi Deupree
Music and Movement Teacher

Through creative curriculum, experiences in Music and Physical Education provide the foundation for success in future music classes and sports programs. Learning through play is the goal. Students sing, clap, march, dance and play simple rhythm instruments. In movement, children play non-competitive games with kicking, throwing, bouncing or dribbling a ball, catching and striking skills and more.



Suzanne Ford

Suzanne Ford
Art Teacher and Innovator

The art experience is well integrated with the curriculum and frequently intersects with the language arts, science and social studies curriculum. Students learn from the Project Approach in the classroom and also in the Outdoor Classroom.



Kathy Koporec

Kathy Koporec
Early Childhood Reading and Computer Lab Teacher

Ms. Koporec is an Associate member of the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators. The Reading and Technology Lab provides students with weekly guided instruction in small groups. Students are taught using a multi-sensory approach and reading skills are enhanced by using desktop computers, iPads, a SMART Board and a SMART Table. An introduction to coding is part of the Kindergarten experience.



Jennifer Lennon

Jennifer Lennon
Pre-K Teacher and STEM-Certified Educator

St. Martin's provides students with hands-on intrinsic learning experiences. In EC classrooms, the Art Lab, Computer Lab, Science Lab and the Outdoor Garden, STEAM activities allow students the opportunity to create, try, problem solve and try again. Students have a natural curiosity and freedom to explore and STEAM activities give students opportunities to explore and create without realizing they are learning. STEAM is a fantastic way to keep students interested in knowledge, expanding their horizons, and fostering lifelong learning.



Whitney Ludvigsen

Whitney Ludvigsen
Assistant Chaplain and Religion Teacher

In Early Childhood chapel and Religion class, we make space for encountering the Living God. This is accomplished in a graceful and inclusive manner, which is a hallmark of the Anglican approach to education. Childhood faith is characterized by awe, love, and curiosity, and these gifts are nurtured and developed throughout our program. Each week in chapel, students are guided through a simple liturgy that includes prayer, song, and story. In Religion class, we deepen our understanding and appreciation for the stories of the Bible, and engage in creative responses through weekly art projects.

