



## EC 2 PROGRAM INFORMATION

The program in EC2 is an exciting and challenging curriculum that engages children at a high level. The Early Childhood 2 program facilitates the development of the skills, knowledge and understanding which lead to happy and successful learners. The students follow a play based interlingual English language curriculum which was implemented in response to current research on how multilingual classrooms can achieve the highest standards in an international setting. The learning is divided into units and collaboration between home and school is the key to the successful implementation of our EC2 curriculum. All EC2 classes participate in a Forest School approach to learning. Students in Early Childhood 2 engage in the following learning program and enrichment activities.

<p><b><u>EC 2 Program</u></b> Sensory Play Social Skills Language &amp; Literacy Math Science Social Studies</p> <p><b><u>Enrichment Activities</u></b> Art Music Dance Physical Education Forest School / Outdoor Classroom Library</p>	<p><b>Marymount International School Mission Statement</b></p> <p>Marymount International School Rome is a private, Catholic, English-speaking, co-educational school that aims to further the mission of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary. We welcome students of diverse cultural and religious backgrounds and offer an excellent program of studies and extracurricular activities. We seek to guide students towards the achievement of their full potential by empowering them to think creatively, reason critically, communicate effectively and learn continuously. It is our goal that a Marymount student should desire to celebrate God's love, respond generously to the needs of our world, and promote justice and dignity for all.</p>
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### Early Childhood 2 Sample Schedule

8:30 - 8:45	Welcome	12:30 - 13:00	Lunch
8:45 - 9:15	Morning Meeting / Snack	13:00 - 14:00	Outdoor Classroom
9:15 - 11:00	Inquiry based activities / Literacy / Math	13:30 - 14:00	Physical Education
11:00-11:30	Dance	14:00 - 14:30	Library
11:30-12:30	Forest School	14:30- 15:20	Storytime / Closing Circle / Snack
		15:20	Dismissal

### PLAY

Play is an essential part of the early years curriculum. Through play children make sense of their world and learn the vital skills they need to build on as they grow and develop as unique individuals. Play is the cornerstone of the curriculum, and play enriches a child's language, thinking and conceptual understanding. Well planned and appropriately supported and extended play has been proven to have long term benefits for future academic success. Sensory exploration is a child's way of examining, discovering, categorizing, and making sense of the world. These experiences take place both inside and outside the classroom. Utilizing



the outside space is vital in the early years. Some of the activities planned include exploring loose parts, water play, sand play, playing with dough, clay and making mud pies.

### **OUTDOOR CLASSROOM**

The EC1 students have access to a state-of-the-art Outdoor Classroom every day. The students change into appropriate waterproof suits and footwear to ensure they are prepared for all weathers. Being able to explore and make discoveries in the Outdoor Classroom is enjoyable, creative, challenging and adventurous. At Marymount we are fortunate to have access to a state-of-the-art Outdoor Classroom.

#### **The learning benefits of outdoor experiences are:**

- To improve social skills, behaviour, physical and psychological health
- To have a great impact on children's skills in areas, such as independence, investigative skills, and questioning
- To develop and improve gross and fine motor skills.

### **LANGUAGE AND LITERACY**

In EC2 emphasis is placed on using and extending oral language. The ability to communicate really impacts on all areas of early learning and development. Effective communication helps children learn to think about and make sense of their world. The children follow ten units of study which are planned to ensure optimal engagement and encourage a lifelong love of learning. The teachers model and support the student's development of English by building on their home languages. Learning opportunities are structured to allow children time to work in small groups and individually to develop the following competencies.

- Retell familiar stories in sequence order - beginning, middle, end
- Describe events or experiences in detail
- Use writing as a way to describe experiences or feeling
- Become familiar with different authors through author study
- Draw pictures and explain their thinking
- Generate and answer questions about stories
- Repeat simple nursery rhymes, songs and fingerplays
- Concepts of print: left to right direction, holding a book right-side-up
- Build new vocabulary
- Build listening skills
- Strengthen visual discrimination
- Alphabetic and phonetic knowledge
- Letter formation and name writing

### **SOCIAL SKILLS**

Developing social skills and working collaboratively with others underpins the work in the EC2 classroom. This work takes many different forms. The following list gives examples of some of the learning experiences offered to support the development of social skills.

- Practice problem-solving skills in social situations
- Work in groups or with a partner on a variety of projects
- Share classroom materials with the group
- Take turns
- Practice using manners: please, thank you, excuse me, table manners
- Communicate his/her needs clearly
- Take care of basic needs: clean up, use tissue when needed, etc.
- Explore community helpers both in school and in the larger community
- Participate in projects to help others in need
- Encourage independence in all areas



### MATH

The learning of Math is an integral part of the EC2 curriculum. The EC2 classes follow the NYEngage pre-Kindergarten program. Most of the learning takes place through structured play, however individual student interests and curiosity are also maximised. Adults support and extend student learning by modeling the mathematical language and facilitating the understanding of concepts identified below:

- One-to-one correspondence of objects to 10
- Numerals 0-10
- Sorting by size, shape and color
- Patterns: AB, ABC, AABB, ABB, etc
- Measurement using non-standard and standard units
- Shapes: 2D and 3D
- Same and Different
- More, Less, Same
- Time: Day and Night
- Graphing

### SCIENCE

The science curriculum in EC2 guides enquiry through adult led and student initiated activities. The units of study which focus specifically on science skills in EC2 are Animals, Weather and Homes. At the heart of this curriculum are the hands-on activities scaffolded by adults, who are equipped to provide the vocabulary and exploit every opportunity for developing scientific knowledge and understanding of the world. The curriculum also includes time for the students to make predictions, observe and reflect on the scientific process in many other ways. Some examples include:

- Measure and mix ingredients in cooking activities
- Make observational drawings of flowers and plants
- Explore the five senses
- Investigate animals, where they live and what they eat
- Explore forces and motion
- Explore magnets
- Explore sinking and floating
- Learn to behave like a scientist, predict, observe results and compare
- Record details of experiments through observational drawing

### SOCIAL STUDIES

Social studies learning in EC1 builds on the knowledge the children bring with them from home. In EC2 this work continues and becomes more structured.

In EC2 the academic year begins with a unit called “ All About Me, All About You “ which aims to create unity through diversity. Students develop tolerance, understanding and respect for all those who are part of the Marymount and wider communities. In addition, the children are encouraged to understand that whilst we are all different, there are certain values that unite us.

In EC2, the content of the Social Studies Curriculum includes the following topics:

- Traditional holidays and celebrations around the world
- Feelings
- Homes around the world
- Habitats and climates
- Helping and Teamwork
- Awareness of global issues
- International mindedness



## ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

### FOREST SCHOOL

Our outdoor space is an essential asset in this component of the program. The main goals of Forest School in early years settings include encouraging curiosity and exploration with all of the senses, empowering children in the natural environment, and encouraging spatial awareness and motor development. The children will have regular and frequent time to explore the natural world through guided discovery. Developing concepts will be the key and the staff will observe and document the students' growth as they make connections, carry out investigations and build up their understanding of the world. Emphasis will be placed on natural materials and exploring how things work and connect.

#### **The learning benefits of discovery learning:**

- Encourage active engagement
- Extend and model oral language
- Promote autonomy, responsibility, and independence
- Develop creativity and problem-solving skills
- Tailor learning experiences to individual interests

### ART

The visual arts are a primary means of expression in the early years. Through Art projects children develop an understanding of the beauty that surrounds them and how they can represent this in different ways. Art allows children time to explore, investigate, and communicate their feelings with others.

- Explore a variety of art processes: painting, drawing, sculpture, weaving, collage, etc.
- Use a variety of art materials: crayons, tempera paint, watercolor paint, colored pencils, markers, oil pastels, art chalk, clay
- Experiment with mixing paint colour

### MUSIC

In EC2 the enrichment music program builds on the skills introduced in EC1. Lessons are planned to allow students the opportunity to discriminate between various percussion instruments and experiment with sound. In addition, the students' growing sense of rhythm and tempo are further extended through the use of songs and rhymes. Early music lessons link strongly with mathematical development, as the children begin to recognise pattern. In addition, the learning of songs really stimulates the use of short term memory which transfers to all areas of learning in the early years.

The benefits of having regular music classes has an enormous impact on children's oral language, self esteem and enthusiasm for learning. The students are also given the opportunity to perform for an audience at Christmas which gives them another enriching learning experience.

### DANCE

There are many physical benefits in offering EC2 students dance classes. Through dance the students develop a greater range of movement, whilst developing the ability to work within different spaces. They learn to interpret the effect their movement has on the world around them. Dancing also improves a child's coordination, especially at a time when they are rapidly developing in an ever-changing and evolving environment. Good coordination is vital in developing skills learned in other parts of life, such as learning to ride a bicycle and learning how to multitask successfully. Dance and movement patterns also develop kinaesthetic memory. It also develops strength and endurance from an early age. This creates a solid platform for the child's physical development and level of fitness.



- Using Hands To Play – playing techniques, performance method.
- Using Tools To Play – playing techniques with beaters, brushes and sticks.
- Creating, Performing and Responding to music – activities designed to develop musical skills, knowledge and understanding linking with seasonal themes.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

The EC2 Physical Education classes are planned to develop the child's growing sense of self through regular access to structured physical education lessons. The students are given opportunities to move in a variety of ways, and at different speeds, with the objective of developing a growing sense of understanding of what their bodies can actually do. This growing physical awareness and strength is harnessed in EC2 and the teaching expectations begin to become more complex.

### **LIBRARY**

EC2 students have a regular Library Class with the school librarian. The children are encouraged to appreciate and enjoy a wide range of literature and genres. Children are given opportunities to engage with the characters, discuss, predict, reflect and make personal connections. Children are inspired to tell their own stories and use their creativity and imagination through art, drawing, role play and using puppets.