

PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRESSION OF LEARNING

ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART



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DEAR PRESCHOOL AND LOWER SCHOOL PARENTS,

Welcome to the new school year, we look forward to partnering with you! The Prekindergarten Progression of Learning provides parents with an overview of the curriculum, concepts, and skills introduced at each grade level.

Each semester, faculty will consistently connect with you to share the curriculum and programs, provide information on your daughter's growth and progress, and gather your feedback and questions.

- In August, Sacred Heart will host Preschool and Lower School Open Houses.
- Throughout the year, grade-level teams will host parent events on academic, social, or emotional topics designed specifically for each grade level.
- Mid-semester, faculty, and parents will meet on campus for Parent Teacher Conferences to discuss the goals and progress of your daughter. Faculty will share student work samples, student self-reflections, and grade-level tools for reporting.
- At the end of each semester, progress reports can be accessed via the parent portal with optional conferences available.

Most importantly, enjoy the Prekindergarten journey with your daughter and her teacher!

Sincerely,

Shara Hammet
Preschool and Lower School Division Head

PRESCHOOL & LOWER SCHOOL INTEGRATED APPROACH TO LITERACY AND WRITTEN LANGUAGE

The foundation of Literacy and Written Language begins in Prekindergarten. Faculty use resources such as books, songs, poems, and photographs to work on key skills in Pre-K classrooms. The use of various text formats enables our youngest learners to develop literacy skills as well as content area knowledge and social skills.

Well-planned read alouds are a cornerstone of our prekindergarten classroom instruction. Throughout the day, faculty use books to support language development, including phonological awareness and early concepts of print, and to assess and support literacy skills in students.

The development of literacy continues during the play process. Playtime is central to the work that students take on in a Pre-K classroom. From studying a boat and then building it to role-playing favorite characters, books bring new energy and life to the fun. In addition, carefully selected books inspire discussions as well as role-play about topics such as collaboration and decision-making. The characters from the books become relatable models of the type of community members valued in the preschool classroom.

A wonderful tradition in prekindergarten is the author/illustrator study! Children learn how oral storytelling, photographing, videotaping, conventional pen to paper work, and even playing with blocks can all be part of a writing experience. Each year, the Pre-K faculty chooses several authors and illustrators to study. The books chosen for this unit inspire our young authors as they learn about the writing process, individual authors and illustrators, and how books are made. This unit motivates Pre-K students to apply information learned to make books of their own.

Finally, texts support inquiry and content-area learning. Prekindergarten children can independently study texts to gain knowledge, develop vocabulary, and formulate ideas about topics studied.

PreK Students build the foundation of early literacy through Foundations and Heggerty. The students use music, movement, and multisensory manipulatives to learn core readiness skills including recognition of capital and lower-case letters, writing, the ability to hear and manipulate parts of spoken language (phonological awareness), and attaching sounds to alphabet letters (phonics).



THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, PREKINDERGARTEN STUDENTS WILL BE ASSESSED ON HOW THEY:

- Recognize and name all uppercase letters
- Fluently produce sounds for all uppercase letters
- Isolate and pronounce the initial sound in spoken words
- Produce words that begin with a given sound
- Engage in conversations using complete sentences
- Recognize rhyming words
- Recall and sequence events in stories read aloud
- Identify characters, setting, and major events
- Understand the difference between author and illustrator
- Make predictions
- Use correct grip consistently
- Write names with left to right directionality
- Form uppercase letters correctly, using top to bottom, left to right progression
- Draw and dictate a story

OVERVIEW OF LITERARY AND WRITTEN LANGUAGE CONCEPTS & SKILLS

During Prekindergarten, students will be introduced to many written language concepts and skills. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Recognize uppercase letters
- Identify sounds
- Phoneme awareness
- Rhyme and alliteration
- Word awareness, syllable awareness
- Grip and fine motor skills
- Top to bottom progression, left to right when writing uppercase letters
- Recognize book parts
- Distinguish print from pictures
- Recognize beginning, middle, end
- Make predictions
- What happens next
- Dictate information
- Sequencing
- Retention of information and nursery rhyme
- Information literacy: what is information
- Visual literacy, cultural literacy, and ethical literacy
- Inquire, think critically, and gain knowledge
- Problem solve through design, implementation, and reflection
- Active listening
- Lifelong love of learning and reading

PRESCHOOL & LOWER SCHOOL APPROACH TO MATHEMATICS

The Academy of the Sacred Heart faculty facilitate lessons that encourage mathematical engagement, apply the creative use of visual models, and encourage students to problem solve and persevere through complex problems. Teachers facilitate whole and small group instruction, work one-on-one with students, and foster collaboration by providing students with many opportunities to actively engage with their peers.

Prekindergarten uses Dimensions Singapore Math as the core curriculum. This curriculum provides carefully constructed learning experiences that develop a deep understanding and critical thinking skills at increasingly rigorous levels.

What is the Singapore Math™ Method?

The Singapore Math method is focused on mastery, which is achieved through the intentional sequencing of concepts. Students in prekindergarten through fourth grade learn to think mathematically, relying on their depth of knowledge gained in previous lessons and units. Because students think through concepts and apply them in new ways, students are pushed to greater engagement and broader thinking as they approach variations of problem types previously encountered.

The use of the concrete, pictorial, and abstract progression includes the use of concrete materials such as counters, connecting cubes and visual representations such as ten frames and pictorial models to make connections and develop a deeper mathematical understanding.

Mathematical problem solving lies at the heart of the Singapore Math Approach along with the development of key aspects including concepts, skills, processes, metacognition, and attitudes.

The development of mathematical habits are integrated within the grade level activities, explorations, practice, and discussions each day. This includes the ability to:

- Persevere in solving problems
- Construct viable arguments
- Use tools strategically
- Make use of structure
- Use mathematical models
- Use precise mathematical language
- Look for patterns

This focuses on the importance of processes and proficiency in mathematics and builds the student's problem-solving and communication skills, as well as the ability to reason, make connections, and see relationships.

THROUGHOUT THE COURSE OF THE YEAR, PREKINDERGARTEN STUDENTS WILL BE ASSESSED ON HOW THEY:

- Identify numbers 0 to 10
- Demonstrate one to one correspondence while counting objects up to the number 10
- Recognize the last number counted as the quantity of a set
- Count out objects when given a number from 1-10
- Combine two groups to make a total
- Identify and extend a repeating pattern
- Identify one more or one less
- Compare two objects
- Compare two sets of objects to see which has more, fewer, or equal to
- Represent data using a simple graph
- Identify shapes by name
- Sort objects by attributes, such as color, size, and shape
- Describe the relative positions of objects using terms such as above, below, beside, in front of, behind, and next to

OVERVIEW OF PREKINDERGARTEN MATH CONCEPTS & SKILLS CONCEPTS

During Prekindergarten, students will be introduced to:

- Rote counting 1-10
- Recognize, name, and describe 2D and 3D shapes
- Recognize and name numerals 1-10
- Understands ordinal numbers
- One to one correspondence to count objects up to 10
- Sorting
- More or less
- Smallest to largest
- Weight
- Length
- Estimation
- Graphing



SOCIAL STUDIES

The Academy of the Sacred Heart Preschool and Lower School Social Studies Program is an integrative approach that incorporates civics, economics, geography, and history with designated social studies time allotted each week across all grade levels. Curriculum and programs are aligned with the mission goals and criteria of the school through which students form the foundational skills that prepare them to participate respectfully and intelligently in society. Hallmarks of the program include:

- Meaningful, tangible, and engaging learning opportunities
- Strong foundation for inquiry using research, debates, discussions, and projects of all varieties
- Access to multiple resources-including, but not limited to, books, images, speakers, and field trips
- Students as digital citizen and global citizens
- Informational, visual, cultural, and economic literacy
- Partnerships and collaboration among faculty, enrichment teachers, and community resources

ENRICHMENT HUB

Please visit the Enrichment Hub on the parent portal resource page where you can learn more about Religion, Art, Music, Science, Technology, P.E., Library, and French classes. The Enrichment Hub details the skills and concepts introduced at each grade level and even gives you a tour of the enrichment classrooms!

Highlights from Prekindergarten*

Author/Illustrator Study • Author Tea • Global Education Unit
Introduction to Design Thinking • Rosary Campus Field Trip
May Crowning in Rosary Chapel • Palette Art Show
Mater Innovation Lab

**Subject to change*



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