



PRIMARY SCHOOL

AT A GLANCE

 **St. Francis**
EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

Primary School is a Reggio-inspired program where children's natural curiosity, creativity, and developing independence are honored and supported. Through meaningful project work, exploration, and opportunities to build lasting relationships, students experience joyful learning in an environment that celebrates childhood.

2024-25 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



REGGIO-INSPIRED APPROACH

Research has identified specific skills that our children will need to live and work successfully in a rapidly changing world. These skills include the confidence to ask questions, think critically, solve problems, and work with others. Our instructional approach, inspired by the early education programs in Reggio Emilia, Italy, teaches these skills and more through child-initiated classroom projects. Although the Reggio approach is not new, the depth of inquiry and shared responsibility for learning between the child, teacher, and peers make this approach relevant today.

PRE-PRIMARY

Our Pre-Primary program gives children their first introduction to a school setting, as well as to St. Francis. With a focus on social and emotional development, young children learn how to be part of a group, share their thoughts and feelings, and begin working on projects that stem from their ideas and interests.

PRIMARY I

Growing independence and responsibility mark students' transition into Primary I. Children become members of a larger community of learners with abundant opportunities to stretch their thinking and continue to grow socially and emotionally. Students explore and use new materials creatively through expanded time in the studio, project work, and outdoor activity.

PRIMARY II

Field trips, leadership opportunities, and a focus on the St. Francis Way enhance the Primary II year. Students also continue to develop problem-solving skills through collaborative project work. Bridges Mathematics and Rice Early Literacy, time-honored curriculum components and expanded literacy experiences, help students build confidence in their final year of Primary School.

2024–25 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

PRIMARY SCHOOL



EMERGENT CURRICULUM

Our emergent curriculum builds upon the curiosity of the children. Projects are created and become in-depth studies of concepts, ideas, and interests. Students experience learning through play, interaction, and exploration of their learning environment.



ACADEMICS AND ENRICHMENT

Academic skills are taught through a variety of topics. In Primary School, children learn early literacy and math skills, as well as science and social studies concepts. In addition, we have a strong enrichment program that includes motor development, Spanish, drama, music, and visits to the Primary School library.



EARLY LITERACY

Our literacy curriculum is rooted in the professional education initiatives from School Literacy and Culture at Rice University. It emphasizes reading, writing, culture and is based in research-informed best practices in early childhood literacy education. Students learn that their thoughts, ideas, and words are valuable and can be captured as print, dramatized, and read again and again. All learning occurs through meaningful, authentic activities, which help develop each child's phonological awareness and alphabetic understanding.



CHAPEL

Chapel is a cherished and joyful part of the Primary School experience. Our weekly chapel services are filled with songs, prayers, and meaningful Bible stories. Parents are always invited to attend chapel with their children.



ASSESSMENT

Our program is highly individualized to provide for the development of each child at his or her own pace. Primary students are assessed using teacher observations, benchmarks, and portfolios. Parents also receive a detailed narrative report about their child's progress twice a year.



PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent-teacher conferences are held multiple times each year. These collaborative conversations provide opportunities to highlight student growth, explore portfolio work samples, and set goals for the future.



PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parents have many opportunities to become involved, such as serving as a Homeroom Parent, volunteering for class activities, visiting as a guest reader or through events with the St. Francis Parents Organization. Special days on campus include Mothers and Others, Grandparents and Grandfriends Day, and Fathers and Friends.



LICENSING (PRE-PRIMARY)

Our Pre-Primary program is licensed through the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services. The school adheres to Child Care Licensing Minimum Standards. A copy of these standards is available in the foyer of the Pre-Primary building and online at www.dfps.state.tx.us/Child_Care/Child_Care_Standards_and_Regulations.

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