



International School
of the Sacred Heart

Kindergarten Curriculum Guide

3 – 5 year old girls and boys



Growing with Courage and Confidence

Since 1908

Our Five Goals

of the Sacred Heart Philosophy of Education



Believe

A personal and active faith in God



Learn

A deep respect for intellectual values



Serve

A social awareness which impels to action



Connect

The building of community as a Christian value



Grow

Personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom

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Welcome



Welcome to our coeducational Kindergarten!

We welcome boys and girls in K3 (three-year-old program), K4 (four-year-old program), and K5 (five-year-old program). Students at the International School of the Sacred Heart enjoy our spacious and well-equipped facilities designed specially with the needs of our early years learners in mind, both indoors and out.

Our curriculum provides all the advantages of an internationally minded education based on best teaching practices from around the world joining the International Primary Curriculum (IPC) for science and social studies, Language Arts, and Mathematics to develop the whole child. At all levels, and especially in Kindergarten, we emphasize language, social, physical, emotional, and cultural development in addition to academic growth.

For me, and for all members of our international Kindergarten teaching team, *play* is the key and our guiding leitmotiv. Our K3–K5 program is rooted in a language-rich environment with an emphasis on learning through play and the concomitant development of large and fine motor skills alongside social and emotional skills. We also foster learning through music and the creative arts. Activities encourage participation both in small and large groups. We have a spacious and bright Open Area which extends the classroom experience. Our unique and up-to-date library offers a vast expanse of books and encourages literacy. In support of working parents, we offer an Extended Day Program, which unlike traditional daycare, is a continuum of the day offering structure and play.

Art, PE, Music, Library, and Japanese are taught by specialist teachers, and technology is integrated into the classroom to enhance learning through the use of interactive boards, iPads, and computers. Within the consistent and structured environment we create, your child will learn at their own pace and will grow in social and individual awareness.

I'm always happy to meet prospective families during tours of our Kindergarten, and to showcase how children thrive in our engaging educational program while developing a love of learning that will last for life.

Ellen Yaegashi

Kindergarten and Junior School Principal



Kindergarten 3

K3 at ISSH is designed to prepare children for success in their academic careers and future lives. They enjoy activities designed to promote positive cognitive, physical, and social and emotional development alongside age-appropriate lessons in academic subjects. Students learn daily life skills through structured play.

Cognitive Development

Mathematics, literacy, and other pre-academic areas are encouraged throughout the day using a hands-on approach. Throughout the academic year, K3 students learn to:

- Show interest in books
- Recognize the letters in their own names
- Identify their own written names
- Participate in rote counting and alphabet recitation
- Sort objects using one descriptor.

Social and Emotional Development

K3 students learn to respond appropriately to classroom instruction and structure, and to develop social interactions with classmates. They:

- Listen while others speak
- Refrain from disturbing others
- Display age-appropriate self control
- Follow directions
- Take care of belongings and materials
- Participate appropriately in discussions
- Make choices and plan ahead
- Express feelings and ideas through words
- Follow classroom routines
- Initiate social interactions.

Physical Development

Development of fine and gross motor skills are a vital part of the K3 curriculum. By the end of K3, students will demonstrate:

- Established hand dominance
- Control using scissors
- Using a large pencil or crayon with control
- Attempts to write with pencil, crayon, or marker
- Running and galloping with coordination
- Jumping with feet together
- Hopping on one foot.

Daily Living Skills

Our youngest learners take part in activities to understand the importance of taking care of one's self and the school environment. They learn to:

- Wash their hands completely and independently
- Take care of their belongings
- Put on and take off shoes, coats, and smocks independently
- Move responsibly from one activity to another
- Show an awareness of risks and ways to be safe.

Mathematics

The K3 curriculum focuses on core skills in areas including numbers, measurement, geometry, data, and patterns, such as:

- Understanding that numbers represent the quantity of objects
- Counting objects to 5
- Recognizing numbers to 5
- Understanding basic concepts of time
- Understanding sequence of various events
- Comparing objects using comparative language (e.g. small/large)
- Identifying and naming 2D shapes
- Sorting and classifying objects by one attribute
- Developing a sense of symmetry
- Creating group pictographs (e.g. “K3 favorite classroom activities”; “How did you come to school today?”)
- Collecting data from everyday (real-world) situations (e.g. favorite color, number of pets)
- Developing understanding of simple patterns
- Understanding time as it relates to daily activities and the weekly schedule.



Language Arts

Language is an integral part of every subject in the curriculum, affecting children’s ability to form concepts, access information and to develop and maintain relationships. Our Language Arts program provides K3 students with rich and varied experience in each of the four interrelated language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. K3 students learn to:

- Show interest and enjoyment in reading
- Participate in group reading
- Begin to choose reading materials and have favorites
- Hold a book correctly
- Identify start and end of a story
- Begin to show an awareness that print conveys meaning
- Draw recognizable pictures
- Use pictures to convey meaning
- Make marks other than drawing on paper
- Attempt to write first name
- Ask and respond to questions
- Use pictures to retell a story, with guidance.



Kindergarten 4

Children in K4 enjoy a more varied academic curriculum than their K3 friends with the inclusion of Japanese language classes and International Primary Curriculum classes focusing on Science and Social Studies. As the middle group of the Kindergarten program, they have the opportunity to interact socially with both those younger and older during “Open Area” time blocks.

Japanese

The Japanese program in K4 follows a developmentally appropriate approach to language learning that allows young learners to acquire language informally and naturally in the environment of the classroom. In K4, language learning is a result of social interaction and participation in activities linked to the International Primary Curriculum units in interdisciplinary study. Through engaging with Japanese language and culture, students not only develop their understanding of Japan, but also provide insights and respect for others and their own culture. The objective of this course is to instill an awareness of other cultures and languages and develop international mindedness.

International Primary Curriculum

ISSH Kindergarten and Junior school are structured around the International Primary Curriculum (IPC). This program focuses on K3-Grade 4 children growing up in the 21st Century. On page 9, read more about the IPC and its themes and implementation at each level.

Technology

In K4, technology like iPads and Smartboards plays a crucial role in creating interactive, engaging learning experiences. These tools help develop students' abilities to:

- Swipe, tap, and use simple gestures to interact with the iPad's interface
- Open and close different apps
- Recognize when to simply tap versus tap and hold for interactive elements, such as dragging items
- Follow on-screen visual prompts or icons, such as starting a new activity or using editing tools on Seesaw
- Use the drawing tools to create pictures or mark answers
- Navigate a variety of educational apps, supporting both academic growth and digital literacy

Open Area

ISSH Kindergarten classrooms are clustered around an open play area for multi-age interaction. K4s enjoy both helping the younger K3s and learning from the older K5s!

Mathematics

The K4 curriculum builds on the K3 foundation to further develop children as mathematical thinkers who can make connections to real life situations through growth in the following skill areas:

- Understanding that numerals are symbols used to represent quantities or attributes of real world objects
- Reading, writing, and recognizing numbers from 0-10
- Demonstrating 1:1 correspondence from 0-12
- Sorting and classifying objects by one attribute
- Identifying and naming the properties of 2D shapes
- Using non-standard units to measure
- Understanding sequences of events
- Using positional language to describe location of object
- Understanding simple graphs
- Making predictions based on routine events
- Recognizing, copying and creating simple patterns.



Language Arts

Building on the K3 curriculum, K4 language arts develops children's reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in order to strengthen their ability to form concepts, access information and to develop and maintain relationships. K4 students learn to:

- Actively choose reading materials and have favorites
- Track words from left to right
- Develop awareness that print conveys meaning
- Use pictures to tell a story
- Retell a simple story
- Write from left to right and top to bottom
- Use pictures and print to convey meaning
- Write recognizable letters to represent words
- Recognize letter names and sounds
- Speak clearly and fluently in simple sentences
- Communicate ideas, needs and feelings through language
- Be able to ask and answer questions
- Participate in class discussions
- Retell events.





Kindergarten 5

K5 students, the oldest kindergarteners at ISSH, enjoy actively participating in a developmentally designed curriculum that prepares them for success in Grade 1. They take pride in being leaders in Kindergarten, often taking roles of responsibility at the weekly Kindergarten Assembly and serving as positive examples for the K3 and K4 children.

Japanese

The Japanese program in K5 builds on the foundation established in K4, which provides young learners with the structure and environment to acquire language informally and naturally through social interaction and participation in themed classroom activities. The curriculum draws on the International Primary Curriculum, tying lessons to the themes and ideas of the IPC units and supporting interdisciplinary learning. Through engaging with Japanese language and culture, students not only develop their understanding of Japan, but also provide insights and respect for others and their own culture, further developing students as global learners and preparing them for language study in Grade 1.

International Primary Curriculum

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Technology

In K5, technology like iPads and Smartboards is used to enhance learning through interactive lessons that support early literacy, math, and problem-solving skills. K5 students further develop the following areas:

- Understanding how to tap, swipe, scroll, and drag objects on the screen to interact with the iPad's interface
- Following visual or verbal prompts to navigate the login process, whether scanning a QR code or entering a password
- Navigating icons and tools, such as opening files, changing colors, or selecting different activities.
- Using the digital pens or fingers to write letters, numbers, or draw shapes within the app for completing activities and assignments.
- Taking photos, recording videos, and using the microphone to add voice recordings to their work.
- Navigating a variety of educational apps, supporting academic growth, creativity, collaboration, and digital literacy.

Mathematics

The K5 mathematics curriculum provides a rich, exploratory program based in a “hands-on” approach using concrete materials and emphasizing problem solving. Students apply their knowledge through practice, reflection, analysis and synthesis. Students:

- Count, read, and order numbers to 50
- Develop basic estimation strategies
- Add and subtract whole numbers to 10
- Understand basic concepts of time
- Understand common language of measurement and comparison
- Recognize and describe basic geometric shapes
- Understand simple language of spatial sense
- Understand that information can be collected, sorted, and displayed in simple graphs
- Make basic predictions based on repeated experiences
- Copy, identify, and create simple patterns
- Recognize regularity in a variety of contexts and events.



Language Arts

Culminating the Kindergarten language arts curriculum, K5 classes aim to develop the language abilities children need to communicate effectively and be prepared for Grade 1.

K5 students learn to:

- See themselves as readers
- Read books with simple patterns
- Recognize simple words
- Retell the main event or idea in literature
- Describe, with guidance, why they like or dislike a book
- Generate their own ideas for writing topics
- Use growing awareness of sound segments to write words
- Spell words on the basis of sounds without regard for conventional spelling patterns
- Use beginning, middle, and ending sounds to make words
- Read their own writing
- Listen attentively to teachers and classmates
- Actively participate in class discussions
- Use language to verbally express ideas clearly and appropriately.

IPC

International Primary Curriculum



The International Primary Curriculum (IPC) is an international program aimed at K3-Grade 4 children growing up in the 21st Century. At Sacred Heart, the IPC encompasses Science and Social Studies topics that are developmentally linked to reflect growing complexity in thinking as children mature in our rapidly changing world. One important and overarching principle that defines the IPC is its objective to encourage international mindedness in the student body. This can be defined further as engaging in learning that fosters universal values, intercultural understanding and peaceful conflict resolution. Through student centered inquiry based learning, a love of learning is encouraged and the necessary key skills and personal qualities that enable children to be successful in life are introduced and expanded upon.

K3 Themes

- **All About Me**
- **Houses and Homes**
- **Types of Animals** and Our Responsibility to Care for Them
- **Food** and How Diet Affects our Health

K4 Themes

- **Family and Friends**
- **Let's Pretend** through Music and Drama
- **Types of Animals:** Classifying Information
- **Sand and Water:** Properties of matter

K5 Themes

- **Freeze It!** The Science of Freezing
- **Let's Celebrate** Diverse Special Occasions
- **A Day in the Life:** the Nature of Work
- **Flowers and Insects**

Specialist Subjects



Music

Music in the Kindergarten focuses on developing a love and appreciation of music through song, dance, movement and instrumental performance. Students are instilled with a realization that music is a natural human expression that celebrates the richness and beauty of the world around them. The music program also strives to address a number of other skill areas. By taking part in musical games and activities, children develop self-confidence, effective communication skills and conflict resolution strategies. Developing proper technique on classroom instruments also promotes physical coordination and manual dexterity.

Art

The Art curriculum in the Kindergarten introduces the students to a variety of creative experiences. The curriculum encourages personal expression using a variety of techniques and materials. Elements of design are integrated into all activities (color, form, line, value, texture, repetition and proportion). Students are introduced to the art of different cultures and the works of master artists, their lives, techniques and styles. Art classes develop students' abilities to recognize lines and shapes, identify primary and secondary colors, use media and materials safely, and express personal feelings, memories, and imagination through their own artwork.



Physical Education

The Kindergarten Physical Education curriculum is designed to develop and refine the students' basic gross and fine motor skills. It introduces sports activities relevant to the students' age and ability. Each unit places an emphasis on particular motor skills as well as general fitness principles and social skills. The curriculum provides opportunities for the students to develop a positive self-image. The importance of sharing, working with one another, and good sportsmanship is stressed at each grade level. Students develop skills such as cooperation and teamwork, values of sharing, muscular strength and endurance, agility, balance, coordination, and more.

ELA

English Language Acquisition classes are offered by the Kindergarten ELA specialist for those students whose first language or mother tongue is a language other than English. Upon enrollment in the kindergarten, students are assessed by the ELA specialist to determine if support is needed and, if it is, the specialist will also nominate the type of ELA program into which the student should be enrolled. These programs are designed to provide both survival English (particularly initially when the student will need to know how to ask for help) as well as English for academic purposes (colors, numbers, shapes and the alphabet). They are generally designed for those students who have little to no English and the number of classes provided per week will depend on the student's English language level.



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Learn more about our Kindergarten curriculum here!

Interested in joining our community?
Apply today!



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