KINDERGARTEN
PROGRESSION OF LEARNING

ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART

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DEAR PRESCHOOL AND LOWER SCHOOL PARENTS,

At the heart of the Preschool and Lower School educational philosophy lies a curriculum designed as a living, breathing framework—one that is both a reflection of our school's mission and a catalyst for student growth. This balance among disciplines is not incidental; it is a deliberate alignment intended to shape well-rounded girls who are prepared for the complexities of the world.

The academic experience is defined by a commitment to challenging experiences that inspire intellectual curiosity, problem solving, and a global mindset. We believe that true intellectual development occurs when students are challenged to think critically and engage with increasingly complex concepts.

The ***Progression of Learning*** is intended to provide families with an overview of our programs including the skills and concepts for the coming school year and a few hallmarks of the grade level. We hope this is a helpful tool in communicating and understanding the philosophy of our program and the expectations for the grade level.

Sincerely,

Shara Hammet
Preschool and Lower School Division Head



PRESCHOOL & LOWER SCHOOL INTEGRATED APPROACH TO LITERACY AND WRITTEN LANGUAGE

Literacy and written language instruction focus on content-rich, academically rigorous coursework aligned with evidence-based practices for reading comprehension. By implementing the Wit & Wisdom program by Great Minds, the PSLS curriculum builds content knowledge and literacy skills simultaneously. Rather than teaching reading skills in isolation, this research-based, module-driven approach immerses students in complex texts, fine art, and interdisciplinary science and social studies topics to foster deep reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills.

Key Features and Structure:

- Knowledge-Building Modules: Students gain deep background knowledge through four thematic modules.
- High-Quality Core Texts and Materials: Curriculum is anchored by rich, engaging, and award-winning literature, historical nonfiction, and fine art.
- Inquiry-Driven Framework: Lessons are structured around essential, focusing questions and follow a consistent "Wonder, Organize, Reveal, Distill, Know" progression.
- Integrated Literacy Approach: Reading, writing, and language arts are woven into a cohesive theme. This includes "Deep Dives" for vocabulary, syntax, and grammar, and aligned decodable reading practice.
- Academic Rigor and Complexity: The program provides highly demanding, quality instruction that fosters academic conversations, robust vocabulary development, and strong public speaking skills.



MATHEMATICS

Math curriculum builds deep conceptual understanding, critical thinking, and mathematical rigor from the start using the Singapore Math Methodology (via Dimension and Math in Focus). Prioritizing true mastery over rote memorization, the curriculum uses a deliberate sequence from Pre-K through Fourth Grade so students can apply foundational knowledge to complex problems.

Our approach relies on three core pillars:

- The CPA Progression: Students transition from hands-on, concrete materials (e.g., connecting cubes) to pictorial representations (e.g., ten-frames) before mastering abstract mathematical symbols.
- The Problem-Solving Framework: A holistic approach balancing concepts, skills, processes, metacognition, and positive attitudes.
- Mathematical Habits: Woven into daily activities, students learn to persevere, justify arguments, use tools strategically, identify patterns, and communicate with precise mathematical language.

Ultimately, we don't just teach calculation—we build the confidence, reasoning, and creativity needed to become lifelong problem solvers.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The 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. Aligned with the mission and *Goals and Criteria* of the school, through curriculum and programs, 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 citizens and global citizens.
- Informational, visual, cultural, and economic literacy.
- Partnerships and collaboration among faculty, enrichment teachers, and community organizations and resources.

OVERVIEW OF LITERACY CONCEPTS AND SKILLS INTRODUCED IN KINDERGARTEN

Over the course of the year, Kindergarten students will be introduced to many literacy concepts and skills. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sequence the letters of the alphabet.
- Identify the front cover, back cover, and title page of a book.
- Demonstrate understanding of the organization and basic features of print.
- Follow words from left to right, top to bottom, and page by page.
- Isolate and identify the initial, medial, and final sounds in spoken words.
- Blend letter sounds to decode simple words.
- Add or substitute individual sounds (phonemes) in simple, one-syllable words to make new words.
- Write and name letters for consonant and vowel sounds.
- Recognize that spoken words are represented in written language by a specific sequence of letters.
- Count, pronounce, blend, and segment syllables in spoken words.
- Demonstrate basic knowledge of letter-sound correspondences by producing the primary or most frequent sound for each consonant.
- Associate the long and short sounds with the common spellings (graphemes) for the five major vowels.
- Read common high-frequency words by sight.
- Identify the topic and details in an expository text heard and/or read, referring to the words and/or illustrations.
- Identify basic similarities and differences between two texts on the same topic.
- Read, with support, appropriate texts with purpose and understanding.
- Compare and contrast the adventures of characters in familiar stories.
- Retell familiar stories, including key details.
- Recognize common types of texts (e.g. poetry, fiction, nonfiction).
- Describe the relationship between illustrations and the story in which they appear.
- Actively engage in group reading activities with purpose and understanding.
- Ask and answer questions in order to seek help, obtain information, or clarify something that is not understood.
- Participate in collaborative conversations with diverse partners about kindergarten topics and texts in small and larger groups. Follow agreed-upon rules for discussions.
- Continue a conversation through multiple exchanges.
- Form regular plural nouns orally by adding /s/ or /es/.
- Use frequently occurring inflections and affixes (e.g., -ed, -s, re-, un-, pre-, -ful, -less) to solve unknown words.
- Identify real-life connections between words and their use.

OVERVIEW OF WRITTEN LANGUAGE CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

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

- Follow a writing process to generate a writing plan using pictures, oral language or written letters, and/or words.
- Demonstrate knowledge of capitalization, punctuation, and spelling when writing.
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose informative/ explanatory texts in which the student names what she is writing about and supplies some information about the topic being studied.
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to narrate a single event or several loosely linked events, to tell about the events in the order in which they occurred, and to provide a reaction to what happened.
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and/or writing to compose opinion pieces in which the student tells the reader the topic or name of a book they are writing about and states an opinion or preference about a topic or text being studied.
- Use inventive spelling with beginning, final, and medial sounds.
- Respond to questions and suggestions from peers and add details to strengthen writing, as needed.
- Explore a variety of digital tools to produce and publish writing, including in collaboration with peers.
- Describe familiar people, places, things, and events, and, with support, provide additional detail.
- Participate in shared research and writing projects (e.g., explore a number of books by a favorite author and express opinions about them).
- Recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question.
- Demonstrate the use of complete sentences in shared language activities.
- Understand and use question words (interrogatives) (e.g., who, what, where, when, why, how).

OVERVIEW OF MATH CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

During Kindergarten, students will be introduced to:

- Concrete models to create a set with a given number of objects.
- Cardinal and ordinal numbers.
- Numbers to represent quantities up to 20.
- Counting up to 20 objects in a set, count on and back to 20, count in 2's and 5's up to 20.
- Comparing and ordering sets and numbers up to 20.
- Comparing and ordering fewer, more, and less.
- Identifying and relating coin values (penny, nickel, dime, quarter).
- Counting and making coin combinations.
- Joining and separating sets.
- Numbering sentences for addition and subtraction stories.
- Addition and subtraction stories.
- Addition and subtraction stories with addition and subtraction number sentences.
- Describing and extending repeating shape patterns.

- Using a ruler to sort objects.
- Identifying missing terms in repeating patterns.
- Odd and even numbers.
- The concept of big, medium, small.
- Describing and comparing objects by position.
- Flat shapes vs. two-dimensional shapes; Sorting and classifying by one or two attributes.
- Flat shapes that make up real-world objects.
- Area, lengths and heights, weights, capacities, using non standard units.
- Lengths (long, short, longest, shortest).
- Measurement using non-standard units.
- Ordering objects by weight.
- Days of the week, months of the year, and duration of events.
- Picture graphs, pictographs, and tally charts.

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL STUDIES CONCEPTS AND SKILLS

In Kindergarten, students begin their journey into social studies by exploring their own identities and immediate surroundings. They learn foundational concepts of citizenship, geography, history, and economics by examining themselves, their families, and their school communities. Through social interaction and observation, students discover how they fit into their local neighborhoods and the broader world around them.

Civics and Community

- Identity and Family: Exploring individual identity, defining what makes a family, and understanding different family structures.
- Social Skills and Collaboration: Learning how to get along with others, build friendships, solve problems cooperatively, and be a helpful member of the school community.
- Active Citizenship: Discovering how individuals can take care of the environment and make a positive impact on the world.

History and Culture

- Historical Changes: Comparing daily life in the present day to how people lived long ago.
- National Traditions: Examining how Americans celebrate different holidays, traditions, and cultural events.

Geography

- Foundational Mapping: Introducing basic map skills to help students identify their own physical location on a simple map.
- Local Neighborhoods: Exploring the physical features, workers, and places that make up a student's immediate community.
- Global Awareness: Developing an early understanding of where students are located in the world and exploring how different people live globally.

Economics

- Wants and Needs: Distinguishing between basic economic needs (things required to live) and wants (things people desire to have).

THE ENRICHMENT HUB

The Enrichment Hub on the ASH PS/LS parent portal provides an overview of the skills and concepts taught in our enrichment courses including religion, art, music, science, technology, library, physical education, innovation lab, and French.

Organized by grade level, the Hub also features virtual tours of our enrichment classrooms.

To View The Enrichment Hub, Scan Below:



Highlights from Kindergarten*

New Orleans Global Ed Unit • Streetcar Ride
New Orleans Day • Krewe of Smocks • Very Important Heart
Palette Art Show • May Crowning in Rosary Chapel
Passing of the Plaid • Mater Campus Innovation Lab
Checking Out Books in the Library

**Subject to change*

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