PRE-KINDERGARTEN
PROGRESSION OF LEARNING

ACADEMY OF THE SACRED HEART

PK



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

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.

Pre-K students build the foundation of early literacy through Fundations 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).



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 LITERARY AND WRITTEN LANGUAGE CONCEPTS AND SKILLS INTRODUCED IN PREKINDERGARTEN

Over the course of the year, Prekindergarten students will be introduced to many literacy and 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, and end of a story when read aloud
- What happens next in a story read aloud
- 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

OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS AND CONCEPTS INTRODUCED IN PREKINDERGARTEN

In Prekindergarten, students begin their journey into social studies by focusing on their immediate, personal world. They learn foundational concepts of citizenship, history, and community by exploring themselves, their classrooms, and their families. Through play, routine, and structured social interactions, students discover how to navigate relationships with others and understand their place within their first school environment.

Civics and Community

- Identity and Family: Exploring individual characteristics and emotions ("Who am I?"), defining what makes a family, and recognizing that families come in many different forms.
- Social Skills and Collaboration: Learning the foundational skills needed to get along with others, make friends, and cooperatively solve social problems during play and daily activities.
- Classroom Citizenship: Discovering how to be a good helper at school by following daily routines, sharing, and taking responsibility for the classroom environment.

History and Culture

- Historical Changes: Developing an early sense of time by comparing aspects of modern daily life (such as toys, clothes, or homes) to how people lived long ago.
- National Traditions: Introducing how Americans celebrate through shared holidays, cultural traditions, and community celebrations.

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:

SCAN ME



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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