LOWELL CATHOLIC
EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM



CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

PRESCHOOL, PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

ABOUT LOWELL CATHOLIC

LOWELL CATHOLIC EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

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Our Identity

Lowell Catholic is a Xaverian Brothers Sponsored School within the Archdiocese of Boston committed to providing a challenging Catholic education to students with diverse academic, social, cultural, and economic backgrounds.

Mission Statement

As a community, Lowell Catholic challenges and supports its students as they work to:

EXCEL in their academic efforts and hold learning in high esteem

PREPARE for productive lives as active members of their future communities

LIVE Jesus' message to love God, our neighbors and ourselves

Our Philosophy of Action

A genuine community, the members of Lowell Catholic are instilled with a sense of pride as they allow themselves to be formed by God through the common, ordinary, unspectacular flow of everyday life…

In carrying out our Mission and Catholic identity, Lowell Catholic promotes:

- A diverse community that is accepting, respectful and understanding of all cultures, faiths, and viewpoints.
- A welcoming environment that fosters an engaged staff, who participates in all aspects of student life and is committed to our mission.
- A commitment to serve Lowell Catholic and our extended communities by actively living Jesus' model and message.
- Growth that encompasses the whole person spiritually, intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically and creatively.
- The building of a community of faith that nurtures and sustains the spiritual values of humility, trust, zeal, compassion and simplicity within each other.
- Teaching that is intellectually sound, fair, and personally engaging, all which encourage and challenge students to be independent thinkers, effective communicators, and skillful team members.
- The growth and understanding of moral values and personal responsibility as a means to build honorable character.

Benefits of a Preschool - 12th Grade School

There are significant advantages to the Preschool through 12th grade school model. The opportunities for enhanced curriculum continuity, collaboration among teachers and shared resources across grade levels ensure students experience seamless transitions from one year to the next. Students graduate from the 8th grade with the skills, knowledge and self-discipline to be successful in high school and beyond.

Benefits of a Xaverian Education

In keeping with the Xaverian tradition, all children are viewed with great giftedness and are encouraged to share their giftedness with others. Lowell Catholic's academic program allows students to progress from one developmental stage to the next with confidence. The faculty instills in children a genuine love of learning by allowing students to be active participants in the learning process. Committed to teaching to the whole child, the school environment allows children to discover their gifts and talents while providing them with strategies to reach their potential.

Program Overview

Lowell Catholic places the highest priority on an individualized approach to learning. Our educational focus is directed toward spiritual growth, academic excellence, character development and leadership skills. Faculty and staff are committed to instilling independent thinking and effective communication. An emphasis is placed on building relationships within a community of faith that nurtures and sustains the spiritual values of humility, trust, zeal, compassion and simplicity for all of its members. Lowell Catholic's curriculum extends beyond the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) model to be a STREAM school. In this way, Lowell Catholic expands the project-based, inquiry-driven STEM model into the areas of religion and the arts. This approach allows us to closely align our curriculum with our mission as a Catholic school.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Theology Program Preschool through 8th Grade

Students from Pre-K through 8th grade have theology class 5 days per week. We have chosen Loyola Press' *Finding God* program to serve as the foundation for the content being presented, taught and explored. All theology classes aim to not only help students gain knowledge and improve academic skills, but more importantly, they aim to have students deepen their faith by: loving one another, serving the poor, praying together and drawing inspiration from saints and other role models. It is through this deepening of their faith that allows our students to be more aware of God's presence within themselves, others and the world around them.









Preschool Curriculum Overview

PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

The Lowell Catholic Early Childhood Program introduces developmentally appropriate activities in a nurturing and stimulating learning environment. Our interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning provides children with the foundations of math, science, social studies, creative arts, language arts, music, movement and dra-matic play. Through active exploration, students have opportunities to engage in academic tasks, socialize, and play with others. The classroom climate encourages curiosity, exploration and problem solving in an atmosphere of warmth, affection and respect. Each child is encouraged to follow Jesus' message to love God, our neighbor and ourselves. We strive to teach children to grow and develop emotionally, physically, socially, intellectually, and spiritually at their own pace.

Our preschool program receives resources, support and training through our partnership with the Lynch Foundation's Early Education Initiative.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN PRE-SCHOOL (OWL EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM & HEGGERTY)

The ELA curriculum at Lowell Catholic focuses on reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language development. Our Preschool students will be taught to:

- Develop social-emotional skills that support learning
- Build physical coordination, strength and crayon grip
- Recognize uppercase letters
- Learn habits for tracing letters
- Ask and answer questions
- Build vocabulary
- Listen to and repeat a simple story

MATH IN PRE-SCHOOL (BUILDING BLOCKS PREK MATH)

Our preschool teachers strive to provide our students with lessons that connect to the real world and students' interests. The preschool math program provides a solid foundation for continued math. Our preschool program teaches our students to:

- Recognize numbers
- Learn habits for tracing numbers
- Understand the fundamentals of counting
- Sort objects by shape, size, color or other attributes
- Create shapes and patterns.

SCIENCE IN PRESCHOOL

In science, our students experience hands-on learning. A strong emphasis is placed on developing the scientific skills of observing, predicting, classifying and communicating. Our teachers create a learning environment that addresses individual needs, sparks creativity and fosters a love of learning. The preschool science program addresses scientific exploration of the way the world around us operates and furthers the observations children make on their own from life experiences. Our preschool science program offers the following to our students:

- An exploratory study of nature: plants, animals, and daily weather
- An exploratory study of how they experience the world through senses
- An understanding of how animals meet their basic needs in their habitats
- An understanding of liquid and solid, texture and color and how things move
- They share their understanding of these concepts through discussion.

SOCIAL STUDIES IN PRESCHOOL

In preschool, learning in social studies is built on children's experiences in their families, school, and community. Our preschool social studies program teaches the students:

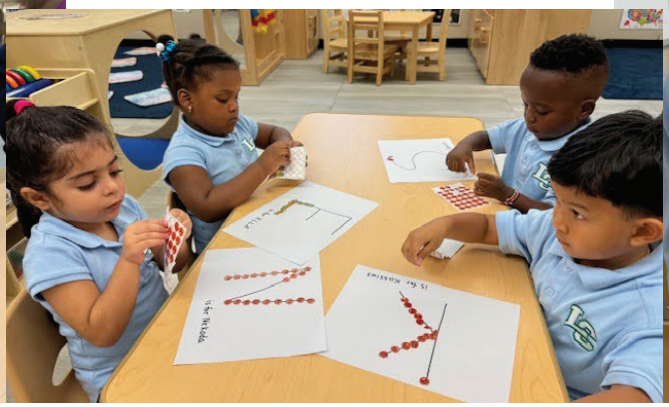
- An awareness of holidays through stories
- An understanding the relationship of cause and effect
- To build an initial understanding of their role as a community member.

SPECIALS IN PRESCHOOL

Our Preschool program offers our students the following specials:

- Library
- Music
- Physical Education







Pre-K Curriculum Overview

PRE-K PROGRAM

The Lowell Catholic early childhood program introduces developmentally appropriate activities in a nurturing and stimulating learning environment. Our interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning provides children with the foundations of math, science, social studies, creative arts, language arts, music, movement and dramatic play. Through active exploration children have opportunities to converse, socialize, work, play and negotiate with others. The classroom is planned to encourage curiosity, exploration and problem solving in an atmosphere of warmth, affection and respect. Each child is encouraged to follow Jesus' message to love God, our neighbor and ourselves. Children learn to work and play happily and to grow and develop emotionally, physically, socially, intellectually and spiritually to achieve developmentally appropriate milestones. In addition, students participate in physical education, music, library, outdoor play and quiet time.

Our Pre-K program receives resources, support and training through our partnership with the Lynch Foundation's Early Education Initiative.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN PRE-K (OWL EARLY CHILDHOOD CURRICULUM & HEGGERTY)

The ELA curriculum at Lowell Catholic focuses on research based instruction on developing critical thinking and foundational skills for early and lifelong literacy success. Our ELA curriculum focuses on four major domains: reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Students engage meaningfully with instruction to build strong foundations and readiness for Kindergarten. Our Pre-K students are taught to:

- Recognize upper and lower case letters to develop mastery
- Identify and produce letter sound correspondences
- Build physical coordination, strength and writing utensil grip
- Learn correct top to bottom letter formation
- Ask and answer questions for conceptual understanding
- Expand oral vocabulary
- Answer comprehension questions related to a story

MATH IN PRE-K (BUILDING BLOCKS PREK MATH)

Our math teachers strive to provide our students with lessons that connect to the real-world and to the students' interests. The Pre-K math program provides a solid foundation for continued math. Our Pre-K math program teaches our students to:

- Recognize numbers 0-20
- Learn habits for writing numbers
- Understand the fundamentals of one to one correspondence
- Understand the addition as putting together and subtraction as taking from
- Learn how numbers operate as a measurement tool
- Compare and describe measurable attributes
- Sort objects by shape, size, color or other attributes
- Create shapes and patterns

SCIENCE IN PRE-K

In science, our students experience hands-on learning as well as field-based learning. A strong emphasis is placed on developing the scientific skills of observing, inferring, predicting, classifying, making models and communicating. Our teachers create a learning environment that addresses individual needs, sparks creativity and fosters a love of learning. The Pre-K science program addresses scientific exploration of the way the world around us operates and furthers the observations children make on their own from life experiences.

Our Pre-K science program offers the following to our students:

- An exploratory study of nature: plants, animals, the moon and sun and daily weather
- An exploratory study of how they experience the world through senses
- An understanding of how animals meet their basic needs in their habitats
- An understanding of pitch and volume, shadow and light, liquid and solid, texture and color and how things move
- An awareness of the wide variety of natural phenomena and processes in the world around them
- They share their understanding of these concepts through discussion as they develop their language and quantitative skill

SOCIAL STUDIES IN PRE-K

The social studies curriculum is continuous across the Pre-K and kindergarten levels, as the curriculum of both seeks to address a basic sense of civic duty. In Pre-K, learning in history and social studies is built on children's experiences in their families, school, community, state and country.

Our Pre-K social studies program teaches the students:

- An awareness of state and national holidays through stories
- To appreciate and understand cultural artifacts
- An understanding the relationship of cause and effect
- To recognize national symbols (flag, Statue of Liberty, White House, etc.)
- Basic geographical skills (pointing out locations on map and using directional terms correctly)
- To build an initial understanding of their role as a community member

SPECIALS IN PRE-K

Our Pre-K program offers our students the following specials:

- Library
- Music
- Physical Education
- Spanish





Kindergarten Curriculum Overview

KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Students learn to think critically, work collaboratively and act boldly, developing a skill set for the 21st century. The academic curriculum for the kindergarten follows an interdisciplinary approach and strengthens the foundation for the elementary curriculum. Concepts and skills are introduced which are appropriate for each child's stage of development. These concepts reinforce the cognitive and developmental skills needed for the academic, social, emotional and spiritual growth of each child. Taking into consideration each child's learning style, readiness skills are taught using various teaching techniques including hands on activities, visual and auditory experiences. The general curriculum involves developmentally appropriate topics in the areas of religion, science, math, social studies and English language arts, which includes phonetics, reading, writing and spelling. Children are engaged in small and large group activities and attention is given to the development of fine and gross motor skills. Kindergarten students participate in physical education, world language, music, library, outdoor play and quiet time.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS IN KINDERGARTEN (FUNDATIONS & INTO READING)

The ELA curriculum at Lowell Catholic focuses on four major strands, as outlined by the Massachusetts State requirements: reading, writing, speaking and listening, and language. Our kindergarten program utilizes Wilson's Fundations program and HMH's Into Reading program. Our kindergarten teachers use these curricular resources to ensure that our students are developing the critical skills for reading, spelling and writing. The kindergarten ELA program teaches our students to:

- Continue to develop social-emotional skills that support learning
- Identify letters and produce letter sounds
- Word discrimination to identify beginning and ending consonant sounds and rhyming words
- Recognize and read sight words
- Become emergent readers by applying decoding strategies
- Describe the role of authors and illustrators
- Discuss plot, characters and setting
- Develop printing skills
- Develop effective communication skills

MATH IN KINDERGARTEN (GO MATH)

Our kindergarten teachers strive to provide our students with math lessons that connect to the real-world and to the students' interests. The kindergarten math program furthers the development of a solid foundation for continued math learning, building on concepts from Pre-K. Our kindergarten program teaches students:

- To review fundamentals of counting: number names and counting sequence, counting using one to one correspondence to identify number of objects and comparisons of number amounts
- To build on these concepts with the introduction of place value and the idea of base 10 numbers (11-19)
- To manipulate numbers with addition and subtraction
- To understand how numbers operate as a measurement tool, being able to compare and describe measurable attributes
- To classify objects numerically
- To work with money

The kindergarten math program will also cover more geometry basics, allowing students to identify and describe more complex shapes (hexagons, cubes, cones, etc.), as well as analyze, compare, create and compose shapes.

SCIENCE IN KINDERGARTEN (STUDIES WEEKLY SCIENCE)

In science, our students experience hands-on learning as well as field-based learning. A strong emphasis is placed on developing the scientific skills of observing, inferring, predicting, classifying, making models and communicating. Our teachers utilize Studies Weekly along with Scholastic Science Spin program to teach the curriculum. Teachers create a learning environment that addresses individual needs, sparks creativity and fosters a love of learning. In kindergarten, students build on early experiences observing the world around them as they continue to make observations that are more quantitative in nature and help them identify reasons for change. Students begin to learn to use these observations as evidence to support a claim through growing language skills. Our kindergarten science program teaches our students:

- That all animals and plants need food, water and air to grow and thrive
- That the fundamental difference between plants and animals is a plant's ability to make its own food
- To build their quantitative knowledge of temperature in relation to the weather and its effect on different kinds of materials
- That the amount of sunlight shining on a surface causes a temperature change
- How to design a structure to reduce the warming effects of sunlight
- To investigate motions of objects by changing the strength and direction of pushes and pulls
- To provide examples of plants and animals that can change their environment through their interactions with it.
- To begin to identify reasons for changes in some common phenomena

SOCIAL STUDIES IN KINDERGARTEN (STUDIES WEEKLY SOCIAL STUDIES)

The social studies curriculum is continuous across the Pre-K and kindergarten levels, as the curriculum of both seeks to address a basic sense of civic duty. In kindergarten, learning in history and social studies is built on children's experiences in their families, school, community, state and country. Our kindergarten teachers utilize Studies Weekly Social Studies program as well as Scholastic Let's Find Out seasonal flyers to teach the curriculum. The kindergarten program teaches our students:

- To listen to stories about the people and events we celebrate on our national holidays and learn why we celebrate them
- To gain greater familiarity with national symbols
- To learn fundamentals of stories and the sequence of events (first, next and last) as well as proper chronological determination (yesterday, today and tomorrow)
- To examine the relationship between cause and effect and learn proper usage of the word because
- Basic geographical skills such as learning to point things out on a map and using correct location and direction terms (up, down, far, near, etc.)

SPECIALS IN KINDERGARTEN

Our kindergarten program offers our students the following specials:

- Library
- Music
- Physical Education
- Spanish

