

The Preschool curriculum at St. Isidore Catholic School embodies several developmentally appropriate components of early childhood instruction to foster the academic, social, physical, and emotional growth of children. They include, but are not limited to, literacy, mathematics, the arts, science, social studies, playtime, physical education, music and technology.

The Whole Child

A complete **Preschool** experience revolves around developing the skills of the whole child. At St. Isidore Catholic School, it is our goal to provide an opportunity for children to grow not only academically, but spiritually, socially, emotionally, and physically as well. Curriculum is discovered through: Literacy, Mathematics, The Arts, Social Studies, Science, Playtime, Physical Education, Social Emotional Learning and Technology. We will instruct the children in Christian values, social skills and manners, independence, and the structure and routine of school. It is our quest to build a foundation for the children to become not only life-long learners, but loving and caring individuals. Through partnering with parents, we are able to meet these high goals.

Catholic Identity

Jesus is at the center of everything we do at St. Isidore Catholic School. Our Catholic faith is an integral part of the **Preschool** experience. We strive to build faith and values throughout the school day while the children are learning, working, and playing. Children learn that they are loved by God and God is with them at all times. We use RCL Benzinger's "Stories of God's Love" to engage the students and help build their faith. Children are introduced to the Catholic faith through scripture passages, music, crafts, prayer, and age-appropriate stories. This program also includes resources for families to gather and reflect at home and grow in faith together. Furthermore, a multisensory approach enables the children to gain a strong foundation of lifelong Catholic faith values. Students in our early childhood program have the opportunity to pray throughout the day and to participate in the school-wide faith family program.

Literacy

SOCIAL SKILLS

Our Preschool classrooms offer a safe environment for children to interact and develop appropriate social skills. Hands on learning is an integral part of each child's day and occurs in our classroom centers which include: dramatic play, reading, listening, sensory, writing, art, math, science, puzzles-games, technology, and motor skills. Research suggests that children learn a great deal through play and social interaction. Some of the many social skills learned and reinforced include: cooperation within a group, independence and self-confidence, and recognizing others feelings and responding appropriately.

EARLY LITERACY

In Preschool, children grow in their capacity to read, write and communicate effectively at an age-appropriate level. We use the Super Kids reading readiness program called Happily Ever After, as well as Heggerty Phonemic Awareness. We strive for the children to be motivated learners and to develop an interest in reading activities. Our goal is for the children to have a love of reading and to become lifelong readers.

PRINT AWARENESS

Print awareness is the knowledge of connecting print with meaning. The children will learn that print carries a message, that it follows conventions (left to right, directionality, uppercase, lowercase, spacing, punctuation, etc.) and that books have common characteristics (front cover, back cover, author, illustrator).

PHONOLOGICAL AWARENESS

This component of literacy is hearing and understanding the different sounds of spoken language. Students will be exposed to phonemic awareness skills by engaging in language play such as playing with rhymes, noticing how words begin with the same sound, and clapping out individual words or syllables of a song, rhyme, poem or chant.

LETTERS AND WORDS

The children will gain an understanding that a letter is a symbol representing one or more sounds and that these symbols can be grouped together to form words. We will focus on naming and recognizing both uppercase and lowercase letters, demonstrating an awareness of relationships between sounds and letters, writing our letters and names, and introducing the students to journal writing.

VOCABULARY AND LANGUAGE

Children will experience language and vocabulary acquisition through songs, stories, poems, rhymes, fingerplays, movement activities, show and tell, color identification, and read-alouds.

COMPREHENSION

We will work on understanding the meaning of both spoken and written languages by asking open-ended questions during a story and by helping children make connections to prior experiences during a lesson.

continued

UNDERSTANDING BOOKS AND OTHER TEXTS

Children will be introduced to storybook concepts such as beginning, middle, and end, a setting, characters, a sequence of events, and recalling details, etc. The children will also learn appropriate book handling skills.

Mathematics

In **Preschool**, children will learn math concepts through the use of a variety of manipulatives, games and hands-on activities. Many of the skills will be taught and reinforced during our daily Calendar Time lesson each morning.

NUMBER CONCEPTS

The children will practice counting 1-20, counting to tell the number of objects, comparing numbers, number identification, and number writing.

GEOMETRY AND SPATIAL SENSE

We will focus on identifying and describing basic shapes and recognizing them in the classroom and outside environment. The children will learn about location and position (on, on top of, under, in, out, below, etc.), movement (backward, forward, around, etc.), and distance (near, far, next to, etc.)

MEASUREMENT

We will be developing an understanding of the principles and uses of measurement by describing and comparing measurable attributes. The children will learn concepts such as longer, shorter, heavier, lighter, empty, and full. They will also use non-standard units (unifix cubes, small toys, paperclips, etc.) to measure an object.

SORTING

The children will learn to sort objects into categories such as size, shape, and color.

Science

Preschool children learn science by exploring the world around them. The students will experiment and discover their surroundings in the area of plants, animals, health, weather, and the earth.

Social Studies

The components of social studies for our **Preschool** curriculum include school, families, friends, community, helpers, the environment, citizenship, people from our past, and holidays/celebrations. The curriculum is enhanced by field trips and guest speakers.

Playtime

Playtime is an important part of the **Preschool** day. Research suggests that children learn a great deal through play. The children will have many opportunities to participate in a variety of playtime activities such as dramatic play, constructive play, organized play, and games with rules.

Physical Education

The children will develop their fine and gross motor skills in the school gymnasium during a weekly gym class as well as during outdoor recess (weather permitting). These skills include throwing, catching, running, jumping, skipping, etc.

Social Emotional Learning

The children will develop their social emotional skills in an early learning environment. The Second Step curriculum will be implemented where the preschool students will be taught skills for learning, empathy, emotion management, friendship, and problem solving skills, and transitioning to Kindergarten.

Technology

Preschool children are exposed to technology through the use of tablets, iPads and various interactive digital equipment while being introduced to digital citizenship concepts.

