

CURRICULUM OFFERINGS

Religion

Faith formation, in the Catholic tradition, forms the basis for the total development of the student. All students are required to participate in all regular liturgical services during school time. The Religion curriculum from the Diocese of Tyler, “Handing on the Faith”, in conjunction with the 15 goals, forms the nucleus of Religious instruction. Parents and family are welcome to join us at any Liturgical celebrations.

Mass and Prayer

The most important aspect of a child’s development is spiritual. St. Joseph Catholic School and Early Learning Center expects all families to attend weekend worship services in the church of their choice. Prayer is a daily part of our morning routine for all classes, usually in our daily assembly, in addition to classroom and other special prayer opportunities

Language Arts

Reading skills form the basic literary and critical tools for gaining knowledge and understanding in all subject areas, including the spiritual and the academic experiences of life. Emphasis is placed on Language Arts as a foundation for all learning, with remediation and enrichment opportunities provided as determined to be beneficial to the child.

Mathematics

The math program is designed to help each student learn the basic mathematical structures, language, and principles in order to develop skill in computation, to use vocabulary and symbols in reading and interpreting data, and to measure and solve problems.

Physical Education/Health

The Physical fitness program provides students with the opportunity to exercise and acquire lifelong skills to maintain a healthy body and attitude. Health classes are also included in the physical education program.

Spanish

The purpose of the Spanish program is to familiarize students with a basic knowledge of Spanish vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills.

Social Studies

This program is designed to develop the knowledge, understanding, skills, and attitudes necessary for becoming good citizens.

Science

The purpose of the Science program is to promote a genuine interest in all facets of Science education and to provide the skills necessary to understand scientific concepts and processes appropriate to grade level.

Fine Arts

The purpose of the Fine Arts program is to provide students with the opportunity to experience and appreciate the fine arts and to develop basic skills in music, drama, and art.

Computer Literacy

Computers are utilized in the classroom setting as tools to enrich and support the curriculum.

Co-Curricular Activities

A number of opportunities for enrichment and reinforcement of skills and knowledge are integrated into our curriculum. These include contests, bees, and tournaments within the classroom. Additional opportunities for a broader experience of competition and sportsmanship will be considered as these are encountered.

Guidance

Our teachers are interested in the physical, academic, spiritual, and emotional well-being of our children. We have a moral obligation to work as partners with the parents to guide the students to be healthy, productive citizens of our community and world. The more the teacher knows about the environment of each child, the better he/she is able to guide him/her through these important years of development. For this reason parents are encouraged to consult with the teachers, the Early Learning Center Director, and the principal when there are problems at home which could result in a child's experiencing some emotional or physical difficulties.

Character and Virtue

Character education, rooted in the teachings of Christ, is incorporated into all areas of our daily curriculum. We are dedicated to helping parents in their responsibility as primary educators of the children, in teaching, enforcing, advocating, and modeling the virtues we wish to instill in our children.

Rest Time for Early Childhood Classes

The school will provide a cot for resting. Parents should send a blanket/pillow. Blankets and pillows must be taken home on Fridays for washing. Rest time is a two-hour period in the afternoons. Children who do not sleep will be given quiet activities and will be allowed up after "resting" for one hour.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Progress Reports and Report Cards

As partners with the parents, we wish to communicate the academic and social progress made by the children in a period of time. Therefore, report cards are distributed every nine (9) weeks to Kindergarten students. In addition, progress reports are issued between each report card, approximately four-five weeks into each grading period. Progress reports and report cards should be signed by the parents and returned the next day. Report cards list the following codes:

E = Excellent S = Satisfactory N = Needs Improvement U = Unsatisfactory

Progress/Evaluation/Conferences

Two Parent/Teacher Conference Weeks are held each year. During these weeks, parents will be contacted by the teacher for a personal or telephone conference. Parents who see problems developing should not wait for a Conference Week, but should contact the teacher immediately.. Teachers will contact parents should any problems be noted, including changes in the student's attitude and behavior, as well as academic variance.

The faculty of St. Joseph Catholic School and Early Learning Center is dedicated to the task of developing students' character, as well as helping the student to grow scholastically, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. It is essential that the parents and teachers form a united bond in the educational process. Parents will be informed by telephone, notes, conferences, progress reports, and work sent home of the student's progress. It is our responsibility as teachers and parents to work together as a team to provide the best possible education for the students.

Special Needs - Testing

St. Joseph Catholic School and Early Learning Center does not offer a special education program. A parent who feels a child may have special needs can contact the Independent School District in which they live for information regarding testing for special education needs.

Homework

Formal homework is assigned to help students become self-reliant and self-directed. Every Kindergarten student should spend some time each evening reading (or being read to).

Educational Excursions - Field Trips

Worthwhile experiences can take place outside the classroom and the school if they are planned properly and coordinated with the instructional program. Teachers make every effort to utilize this type of learning when possible. Before students are allowed to leave the school for any educational activity, **a signed permission slip must be received from the parents.** Since students represent the school when on a field trip, uniforms are required.