



# KINDERGARTEN

## OVERVIEW

Our Kindergarten has two homeroom classes, each with a lead teacher and an assistant. We have 20 students in each class, creating a student-teacher ratio of 10:1. Mrs. Lisa Pastor is assisted by Mrs. Lucy Elliott, and Ms. Sarah Bartholomew is assisted by Mrs. Liz Baker.

“While in Kindergarten, your child will have the opportunity to participate in large and small group activities, self-directed center time activities, art projects, science experiments, and music/movement activities. We believe that children learn in their own way and at their own pace. We offer a variety of learning experiences to enable each child to succeed, and to make school and enjoyable experience.” – Mrs. Pastor and Ms. Bartholomew

## RELIGION

Religion is a core subject at Saint Peter Catholic School. Our curriculum goals include:

- Helping the students form a strong relationship with Jesus
- Engaging the students in the Catholic faith through Bible stories, prayer, the sacraments, learning about the saints, the rosary and participating in the Mass

On Fridays, we have an all-school Mass at Saint Peter Catholic Church. Students sit with their prayer partners. Kindergartners are paired with sixth grade students.

Children are also encouraged to bring a canned good to school each Friday. The cans are donated to the St. Vincent DePaul Society Food Pantry at Saint Peter Catholic Church.

## MATH

In Kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> grade, we use the Go Math! Curriculum. Kindergarten skills include:

- Identifying and sequencing numbers to 100
- Counting objects in sets and sorting sets
- Copying and extending patterns
- Measuring length of objects and comparing length
- Identifying coins

## READING

Kindergarten begins with “ABC Bootcamp,” a research-based, classroom-proven 26-day program to introduce children to all 26 letters and sounds. This allows students to begin manipulating letters and sounds to make words. Following the bootcamp, the focus turns to word families.

Students are also taught high frequency words (sometimes called sight words) to help students read more fluently and with greater comprehension. Parents are provided with a list of the high frequency words that will be learned each quarter so they may encourage memorization at home.

Students are assigned to reading groups with children in a comparable reading level. These groups meet daily. Guided reading groups help support readers develop strategies to better process and comprehend the text they are reading. The goal of guided reading is to build independent readers and develop fluency while using books appropriate for their reading level.

## HANDWRITING

Handwriting is a daily part of Kindergarten, including being able to print their first and last names correctly, along with numbers. Weekly journal entries also help students to write to a topic, and creating a journal helps track their growth in handwriting skills through the year.

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & WORK HABITS

Kindergarten is an important time for social development and setting expectations for the education journey for years to come. Our social development and work habit goals include:

- Playing and working well with others
- Following classroom rules
- Respecting the property of others
- Demonstrating self-control
- Listens attentively and follows directions
- Completes work independently, neatly and promptly
- Avoids excess talking

## BEHAVIOR

Each child has a behavior calendar in his/her folder to help parents see how their child’s day was at school. Every child starts the day with a green smiley face. Most children remain on “green” all day and will be rewarded with a treat on Friday for choosing to stay on “green” all week. Should your child make poor choices, they will receive a verbal warning. If the inappropriate behavior continues, he/she earns a yellow dot on the calendar and will change his/her card from green to yellow on the classroom behavior chart. This serves as a visual reminder to make better choices. Additional misbehavior leads to a red dot. While it does not happen often, an earned red dot is considered a serious matter. Any color change will result in a phone call or note home.

## MARBLE JAR

We embrace the concept of “the good of all,” and we practice this daily with our marble jar. When a child makes a good choice, anything from sharing, to helping, to just good listening, he/she will be

praised by the teacher and allowed to put a marble in the jar. When the jar is full, the class will celebrate with a treat. The jar is emptied, and the process starts again.

## SPECIAL CLASSES

Students in Kindergarten – 8<sup>th</sup> grade attend the following specials classes:

- Art: once a week, 30 minutes
- Computer: once a week, 30 minutes
- Library: once a week, 30 minutes
- Music: twice a week, 30 minutes
- PE: twice a week, 30 minutes
- Spanish: once a week, 30 minutes