

St. James Day School

Kindergarten Curriculum



Kindergarten is a transition from preschool to the structure of first grade. Students will have some free center time while adjusting to more structure in their routines and more academic work. Although children have fun learning, it is a time to become more personally responsible for their behavior while sitting and listening for longer periods of time. The class environment and learning is related to Christian faith as the child grows more successfully independent.

Specific concepts and activities to be taught include:

Reading/Language Arts

Recognizing that learning to read is a very individual and developmental process, St. James' Kindergarten program will offer your child a multidimensional and all-inclusive approach toward reading/learning to read that will address your child at his or her level of development.

- Phonic Awareness - hearing/recognizing discrete sounds in words
- Phonics - understanding of the letter/sound relationship
- Visual Cues - learning high frequency words and about short word families (ex: 'at' family - bat, cat, hat, etc.)
- Meaning cues - making prediction, using illustrations to gain meaning and help with unfamiliar words, and using questioning techniques to insure that comprehension of what is being read is taking place (This is what reading is all about!)
- Syntax - using word structure and grammar to support reading and comprehension
- Practical application through printing, labeling pictures, invented spelling, and journal writing,



Math - taught with hands-on manipulatives

- Money (penny, nickel, dime, quarter)
- Measurement
- Graphing
- Telling time (hour)
- Recognizing and writing numerals
- One to one correspondence
- Rote counting (one to one-hundred)
- Counting by tens
- Calendar skills emphasizing day, date, and year
- Surveys & graphs
- Patterns
- Ordinal position
- Estimation
- Addition & subtraction
- Probability & statistics



Science - The science program integrates all aspects of the core curriculum. It is a hands on method using science stories and 12 scientific investigations, including four with live organisms.

•Animals Two by Two

- Observing and describing structures and behavior of an organism
- Comparing the organism to a similar one (guppies & goldfish; landsnails & water snails; earthworms & night crawlers)
- Animal behavior



•Wood & Paper

- Observe, compare, and describe natural and synthetic materials such as wood, paper, and fabric
- Find out what happens when these materials interact with other materials
- Conservation & recycling

•Integrated into various parts of the curriculum, other scientific topics include:

- review and expansion on the five senses
- weather, seasons, and animals in different seasons
- nutrition, dental health, and exercise
- dinosaurs and fossils
- plants and how seeds grow
- sea life
- life cycle of butterflies and moths
- living and non-living organisms

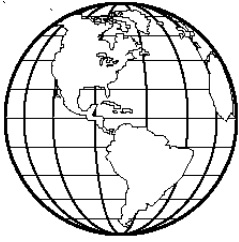


Science is taught two days per week in kindergarten.

Physical Education - All students travel to the gym for P.E. activities 5 days per week, taught by the P.E. teacher.

- Age-appropriate activities and exercises

Social Studies



- Reading a map
- Concept of where we live in America
- Directions
- Water
- Land forms
- Differing cultures of people from other countries; their holidays and customs
- Community and daily living skills
- Making friends
- Safety skills (fire, gun, storms, poison, playground, summer, & 911)
- Good manners, rules, citizenship
- Basic human needs
- Community helpers, careers, and caring for others
- Famous people and major holidays
 - Columbus Day, Thanksgiving, MLK Day, Christmas, Easter

Holidays are often taught through dress-up activities and reenactment experiences.

Spanish

Kindergarten students meet twice weekly for a 25 minute Spanish class with the Spanish teacher, Rosa Bowman. They are taught orally and aurally through songs, videos, interactive speech, games, and activities.

- Basic greetings, farewells, and classroom expressions
- Colors & numbers through 20
- Holidays, animal names, months of the year, and days of the week
- Shapes
- Body parts
- Classroom objects
- Members of the family
- Introduction to Spanish culture



Music

Students cross the hall to have music classes with the music teacher for 50 minutes each week.

Music concepts and activities consist of:



- Discussion of spoken voice as opposed to singing voice
- Practice in matching pitches
- Singing of simple songs by rote
- Contrast in music (loud/soft, slow/fast, smooth/jerky)
- Performance experience at nursing homes and in the Christmas program
- Recognition of instruments by sight and sound
- Practice keeping a steady beat
- Playing of rhythm instruments
- Recognition of even and uneven beats
- Listening to a variety of musical genres

Computer

Kindergarten students go to the Lower School computer lab twice a week for 25 minutes. This time is spent learning the vocabulary of technology through hands-on computer activities. Kindergarten classes also have a computer center in their classroom for review and enrichment activities. The kindergarten teacher uses a projector in the classroom to highlight Internet discussions, how-to projects, and other curriculum areas being taught with technology.



Art

Art is experienced daily as children go about their learning activities in different centers.

Religion

Christianity and its moral precepts are incorporated into the daily life of both students and teachers at St. James Chapel. Chapel is held daily in each classroom. On Tuesdays, kindergarten students join the rest of the student body in the gym for Big Chapel. This service is led by the rector or curate of St. James Episcopal Church.

