



# St. James Day School

## K4 Curriculum



K4 is the middle segment of our three-year early childhood program at St. James. Learning at this stage of a child's development must be primarily accomplished through play, by caring and nurturing teachers. A major emphasis of our program is to help students develop strong moral values, respect for others, and exhibit self-control. This is a time when children learn to interact and relate to their peers, and we believe it is of the utmost importance to make this a positive experience. Learning is presented through centers, hands-on experiences, and group play.

*Specific concepts and activities to taught in our centers include:*

### Language Arts\*

- Name recognition
- Following oral directions
- Sequencing
- Phonics: sounds of individual alphabet letters
- Recognition of both capital and lowercase manuscript letters
- Visual discrimination
- Rhyming words
- Top to bottom progression; left to right progression
- Story Retelling
- Beginning sounds
- Opposites
- Letter formation
- Inventive spelling
- Poetry



### Math - taught with hands-on manipulatives

- Review of shapes: circle, square, triangle, rectangle, oval, diamond
- Review verbal recitation of numbers 1 - 10 or higher
- Sets: grouping of like and unlike objects
- Recognition of written numbers 1 to 10
- One-to-one correspondence
- Touch & count
- Arranging objects for greater than and Less than
- Understanding of the word 'dozen'



### Library Skills

- Learn about libraries and what you do there
- Parts of a book
- Listening to stories
- Different kinds of books
- How to check out a book

### Social Studies

- Self and neighborhood
- City, state, & country
- Discuss neighbors



- Introduce community helpers
- Recite Pledge of Allegiance
- Discuss good citizens
- Know who our president is
- Colors of the flag
- What the stars and stripes stand for
- American & Christian holidays: Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Martin Luther King Day, Valentine's Day, Groundhog Day, St. Patrick's Day, Grandparents' Day, Easter
- \*\*If we have children from different cultures or nationalities who wish to share their special holidays, we welcome the opportunity to learn.*
- Directions: N S E W
- Differentiate between secular and sacred aspects of Christmas
- The first Thanksgiving
- Pilgrims, Mayflower, Indians
- Native American tribes and their cultures
- Friendship - what makes a good friend

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

- Fire and tornado safety
- Personal space movement; stopping & starting
- Throwing and catching
- Daily fitness exercises
- Simple dances and expressive movement



## Science

### •Homes; habitats

- Introduce natural environments: desert, forest, etc.
- Introduce different living environments for people: house, apartment, teepee, igloo, etc.
- Introduce concept of self - Identify body parts
- Categorize animals into individual habitats

### •Seasons

- Recognize signs of fall
- Understand seasons and name them
- Discuss fall vegetables
- What is air
- Signs of winter
- Animals & hibernation
- Signs of spring
- Signs of summer

### •Five Senses

- Introduce the five senses: taste, touch, sight, hearing, & smell

### •Food Groups & Nutrition

- Discuss healthy snacks
- Cooking

### •Weather

- What makes snow or rain?
- What makes a rainbow
- Order of colors in a rainbow:  
ROYGBIV
- Rain, snow, sun, wind
- Tornado, blizzard, hurricane
- Types of clouds



### •Earth science

- Water cycle
- Temperatures: freezing, boiling, melting
- Properties of light
- Shadows
- Night and the term 'nocturnal'
- Introduce ocean animals and ocean plants
- Introduce three zones of the ocean
- Coral reefs
- Light and water: reflection

### •Space

- Stages of the moon
- Moon's rotation around the earth
- Moon's surface and craters
- Introduce difference between stars and planets
- Nine planets of the solar system
- Order planets
- Constellations and comets

### •Plants

- Part of the plant: root, stem, leaves, flower
- Seasons for growing

### •Animals

- Nocturnal animals
- Lifecycle of a frog and of a butterfly
- Introduce how chickens hatch
- Terms: tadpole, pupa, caterpillar, chry
- Zoo animals



## Spanish

K4 students meet twice weekly for a 25 minute Spanish class with the Spanish teacher. They are taught orally and aurally through songs, videos, interactive speech, games, and activities.

- Basic greetings
- Colors & numbers through 20
- Seasons, animal names
- Days of the week
- Thanksgiving
- Months of the Year
- Shapes & body parts
- Introduction to Spanish culture

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## Religion

Christianity and its moral precepts are incorporated into the daily life of both students and teachers in a non-denominational context. Chapel is held daily in each classroom. K4 students attend Big Chapel each Thursday in the gym. This service is conducted by the rector or curate of St. James Episcopal Church.

## Music -

Students travel to the Morriss Building twice weekly for music with the music teacher.

*Music concepts and activities consist of:*

- Explore vocal sound
- Recognize long and short (tones, beats, etc.)
- Singing of simple songs by rote
- Contrast in music (loud/soft, slow/fast, smooth/jerky)
- Performance experience in the Christmas program
- Recognize high and low sounds
- Listen to music that tells a story (Program music)
- Playing of rhythm instruments
- Recognize, draw, and name: treble clef, whole note, half note, quarter note, eighth note, quarter rest, half rest, whole rest
- Recognize instruments by sight and make booklet



## Art

Like music, art is experienced daily as children go about their learning activities in different centers.

- Pencil drawing to illustrate
- Balloon mosaics; Making masks
- Cookie decorating
- Visits to Texarkana museum system exhibits
- Egg shell art; Fall collages
- Fingerpaints; Stringing beads
- Color and Shapes' Watercolor
- Kaliedascopes, Quilt patterns & Tissue Paper art

