

Welcome!
to
St. Joseph Catholic School

Kindergarten Handbook

41 East First Street
Waconia, MN 55387
Phone: 952-442-4500

**St. Joseph School Mission
(proposed)**

St. Joseph Catholic School serves God and community by educating Pre-K through 8th grade students. In partnership with home, parish, and the community, we develop the whole child, integrating traditional Catholic values, morals, and spirituality.

Kindergarten Philosophy

The St. Joseph Catholic School Kindergarten program balances academics with developmentally appropriate teaching strategies and activities that are effective with five and six year old children.

Our Guide

Let the children come to me and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Luke 18:16

Please refer to the Family Handbook for complete Mission and Philosophy information.

“Typical” Half Day Kindergarten Schedule

8:00	Attendance/Prayer
8:05	Message of the Day Calendar Activities
8:25	Faith Formation
8:45	Language Arts/Reading
9:15	Mathematics
9:30	Snack/Prayer/Story Time
9:45	Specialist Teachers
10:10	Centers/Art
10:40	Prayer/Dismissal

*Sessions run from 8:00-10:45 and 12:00-2:40. We may schedule occasional full days of kindergarten for special events throughout the year.

Guidelines for Kindergarten Readiness

1. Recognize first and last names.
2. Beginning to recognize alphabet letter names, capital and lower case.
3. Prints first name. (only the first letter capital)
4. Is beginning to learn home address and phone number.
5. Identifies basic colors and shapes.
6. Has large muscle coordination.
(hops, skips, walks, tiptoes, jumps, runs, catches)
7. Has small muscle development.
(cuts with scissors, colors with control, does puzzles, draws pictures, holds pencil correctly)
8. Easily separates from parent, when parent leaves premises.
9. Able to zip, snap, button, and tie own clothing.

Faith Formation

AM-K will attend school liturgies once per month on Holy days and special occasions. PM-K will attend various prayer services. The children will learn a basic list of prayers which include: the Sign of the Cross, Angel of God, Our Father, Hail Mary, the Rosary, and a snack prayer.

1. Recognize Catholicism as a way of life.
 - A. Participate in daily prayer
 - B. Be actively involved in the Mass/prayer services
 - C. Know and demonstrate church etiquette
 - D. Begin to know religious symbols and Catholic liturgical seasons
 - E. Use Christian terminology
 - F. Know that you are a member of God's family
 - G. Know your relationship to other members of God's family
 - H. Engage in service to the community and outreach to others in response to the Gospel
2. Know God as the Creator
 - A. Know God created us; bodies, talents, feelings, and personalities
 - B. Know that you are good
 - C. Know that God created plants and animals
 - D. Know that you belong to the family of God, as well as, your own family
3. Understand the role of the family in the Christian way of life
 - A. Recognize the value of family attendance at Mass
 - B. Recognize the value of family prayer
 - C. Actively participate in service opportunities
 - D. Know that it is within families that we practice the Christian values of love and respect for others
4. Be able to pray
 - A. Make the Sign of the Cross, recite the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, and Angel of God
 - B. Pray at various times in the day (morning, meals, evening)
 - C. Know the types of prayer (praise, thanks, petition)
 - D. Know that when we pray together, we proclaim what we believe
 - E. Recognize the Rosary as another form of prayer
5. Recognize holy days, celebrations, liturgical seasons, and Traditions of the Church
 - A. Know that Advent is preparing for Christmas
 - B. Know that Lent is preparing for Easter
 - C. Know some Saints' days (All Saints, St. Valentine, St. Patrick, St. Therese, St. Joseph, and Marian days)
 - D. Relate scripture to Liturgical seasons

6. Identify religious symbols (cross, statues, holy water, Bible, ashes)
7. Be familiar with the worship space in the church
 - A. Behave age appropriately in church
 - B. Participate age appropriately in the celebration (genuflect, stand, sit, kneel, sing, bring up gifts, listen, respond, sign of peace)
 - C. Know the names of worship space items (altar, baptismal font, candles, statues, chalice)
8. Begin to understand that Christianity is living as Jesus did
 - A. Know how to reach out to others through prayer and charitable acts
 - B. Know how to say, "I am sorry," and accept forgiveness
 - C. Know the importance of taking care of your body
9. Listen to and discuss age appropriate Bible stories

Kindergartners will learn letter sounds, the blending of sounds into words, and a list of basic sight words through the Letter People reading program and the Saxon Phonics program. The children will be taught the Zaner-Bloser handwriting style. Please encourage your child to print his/her first name with only the first letter capitalized and the rest as lower case. An alphabet chart is located at the end of this booklet.

1. Possess beginning reading skills
 - A. Know upper and lower case letters in random order
 - B. Associate the spoken word and illustrations to the written text
 - C. Oral read predictable text
 - D. Know alphabet letter sounds, including short vowels
 - E. Identify words that start/end with a specific letter sound
 - F. Identify rhyming words
 - G. Blend letter sounds into words
 - H. recognize a developmentally appropriate list of sight words
 - I. Read simple sentences
 - J. Comprehend what is read
 - K. Track words from left to right
2. Possess beginning writing skills
 - A. Form upper and lower case letters correctly
 - B. Print first and last names
 - C. Use phonetic spelling to communicate thoughts on paper
 - D. Write from left to right
 - E. Know basic sentence structure (capitalization, punctuation)
 - F. Express thoughts in a journal through drawings, dictation, and
3. Listen to and discuss different types of literature
 - A. Sequence literature events in order
 - B. Identify important events within literature
 - C. Predict possible outcomes of a story
 - D. Compare and contrast similar versions of a story by different
 - E. Infer character feelings within a story
4. Listen attentively and courteously
 - A. Look at speaker
 - B. Sit quietly when someone is speaking
 - C. Keep hands and feet to self
5. Contribute ideas within a group situation
 - A. Share ideas/feelings without hesitation
 - B. Answer and ask questions with complete thoughts
 - C. Present an oral report to an audience

Mathematics

St. Joseph's School uses Everyday Math, which is a highly manipulative program. Patterning, numbers, counting, graphing, measuring, and estimation are some of the math concepts introduced in the kindergarten program.

1. Think and talk about math
 - A. Plan before you do things
 - B. Use math equipment correctly and carefully
 - C. Use words for size and position
 - D. Know basic shapes
2. Sort/classify and describe objects by what makes them the same or different
3. Understand patterns
 - A. Predict what comes next
 - B. Copy a pattern from a picture or a model
 - C. Add to patterns
 - D. Make an original pattern
4. Know numeral order
 - A. Know numeral order from 0-9
 - B. Know numeral order from 10-100
 - C. Skip count by tens and fives to 100
 - D. See patterns in numbers from 0-100
 - E. Count backwards from
5. Count movable objects up to 20
 - A. Count to 20 from memory
 - B. Touch and count each item in the right order
6. Match sets with numerals to 20
 - A. Recognize numerals to 20
 - B. Count ordered and unordered objects to 20
7. Recognize numerals to 20 in random order
 - A. Recognize numerals to 20
 - B. Recognize number patterns
 - C. Point to specific numerals when asked to
8. Form numerals 0-9 correctly
9. Do simple addition/subtraction using objects
 - A. Join sets of objects
 - B. Separate sets of objects
 - C. Explain how you are joining/separating sets
10. Recognize and identify coins (penny, nickel, dime, quarter)

11. Use graphing and estimation skills for problem solving
12. Use nonstandard measurement for problem solving
13. Tell time to the hour and half hour

Science and Social Studies

Science and Social Studies are often integrated into the themes or topics we are studying each month. The emphasis in science is on building the children's awareness of the world around them. Animals, habitats, seasons, senses, and health issues are some of the topics covered. Social studies focuses on families, communities, holidays, and famous people in history.

Science

1. All about you
 - A. Explore the five senses and how they are used
 - B. Discover, as children grow and learn, how they learn to use more of their body.
 - C. Discuss proper care of the body, including keeping clean and eating healthy foods
2. Life around you
 - A. Investigate what it is that makes a thing living or nonliving
 - B. Explore the details of animal appearance, their babies, and the care that some baby animals receive
 - C. Learn about plants growing from seeds and what seeds need in order to grow
3. Changes all around
 - A. Investigate properties of objects and identify these objects by their properties
 - B. Introduce/explore three forms of energy (sound, light, heat)
 - C. Examine different ways in which objects can move or be moved
4. The Earth
 - A. Learn that all living things depend on the land and water of the Earth
 - B. Discover ways to protect the land and water of the Earth
 - C. Observe characteristics of the day and night skies
 - D. Explore the ways that the sky alerts us to changing weather
 - E. Investigate the consequences of some types of weather

Social Studies

1. Know about where you live
 - A. Know the community in which you live
 - B. Know what it is like where you live
 - C. Know about community helpers and their role in our lives
2. Understand about things that could change your life
 - A. Know that families move
 - B. Know that families change in size and how they live
 - C. Know that parents many have to work so you can have food,
3. Understand that people are different from each other
 - A. Know how others in the class live
 - B. Know about life in other settings (rural,urban)
 - C. Know how others lived in history and what ways important to
4. Understand events and information that are important to you
 - A. Know your birth date, address, and phone number
 - B. Be aware of multicultural, religious, and national holidays, and
 - C. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance
5. Understand your responsibilities now and in the future
 - A. Respect: tolerance, social, rights of others, property, and authority
 - B. Responsibilities
 - C. Citizenship
 - D. Family
 - E. Career
 - F. Environment

Spanish

Kindergartners will experience simple vocabulary and phrases in Spanish. St. Joseph's School offers instruction in a world language as a means to aid in the understanding and realization of the global nature of today's society. The students meet with the Spanish specialist two times per week.

Learner Opportunities (K-grade 5)

1. Develop an introductory knowledge of the culture and geography of Spanish speaking countries
 - A. Identify Spanish speaking countries on a map or globe
 - B. Identify the capitols and a few key features on a map or globe
 - C. Explore the countries' traditions, stories, and arts
2. Use different ways of greeting people in different situations
 - A. Know and apply words for conventional greetings
 - B. Know and apply terms of address in both formal and informal situations
3. Imitate language sounds
 - A. Recognize and be able to say the alphabet
 - B. Recognize and be able to say sound combinations
 - C. Recognize silent letters
 - D. Pronounce vocabulary words with reasonable accuracy
4. Respond to basic questions
 - A. Answer personal questions
 - B. Identify vocabulary words
 - C. Ask simple questions
 - D. Recognize and use pronouns
5. Use simple sentences
 - A. Use pronouns and a few basic verbs
 - B. Be able to describe classmates, family, and self
 - C. Give, and respond to, simple commands
6. Respond appropriately to directions
 - A. Acknowledge directions using pronouns and a few basic verbs
 - B. React properly to simple commands and directions
 - C. Identify and apply vocabulary for everyday objects and activities
7. Watch and listen for main ideas and details in familiar stories told/written in Spanish

Computer Education

Kindergartners use the computer lab once per week. We also have access to the computer in our classroom for the reinforcement of skills.

Learner Opportunities (K-grade 2)

1. Be exposed to keyboarding
 - A. Know and use developmentally appropriate keyboarding skills
 - B. Know and use computer keyboard (return, escape, shift, spacebar)
2. Understand basic computer operations
 - A. Know developmentally appropriate terminology (monitor, keyboard, hard drive, mouse)
 - B. Identify basic keyboard/menu commands (save, log in, log out,
3. Introduction to a word processing program
 - A. Use a draw program
 - B. Use simple word processing skills
 - C. Save a document
4. Use hardware and software safely and properly
 - A. Know how to use input (mouse, keyboard) and output (VCR,
 - B. Know how to turn on/off computer and monitor
 - C. Know how to access CD Roms
5. Use a computer as an educational tool in academic strands
 - A. Use a variety of media and technology resources
 - B. Use developmentally appropriate multimedia resources to support learning
 - C. Create developmentally appropriate multimedia products with
 - D. Use technology for problem solving, communication, gathering
6. Follow Christian Behavior Expectations when using technology

Physical Education

Kindergartners will meet for physical education with the specialist once per week. The children will participate in a wide variety of activities ranging from ball skills and tumbling to organized games and the parachute.

1. Apply physical education to life
 - A. Develop basic physical fitness and well being
 - B. Demonstrate sportsmanship in sports and recreational activities
2. Demonstrate locomotion skills
 - A. Stand straight
 - B. Balance on one foot
 - C. Walk (fast, slow, hard, soft)
 - D. Run (fast, slow, hard, soft)
 - E. Hop, skip, and jump
3. Demonstrate perceptual motor proficiency
 - A. Know body parts and move them on command
 - B. Move laterally, change directions, and move in space
4. Develop movement through rhythm and dance
 - A. Demonstrate basic dance steps for age appropriate music
5. Develop eye/hand coordination
 - A. Catch and throw various types of balls
 - B. Roll a ball at a target
 - C. Bounce a ball with one and two hands
 - D. Kick a stationary/moving ball

Music

Once per week, the kindergartners will meet with our music specialist. The children will use their bodies, minds, voices, and ears during music. They will also be exposed to the music used in our school liturgies.

1. Rhythm: Demonstrate a steady beat
 - A. Recognize a steady beat
 - B. Create a steady beat with body percussion and classroom instruments
 - C. Distinguish between long and short sounds
 - D. Distinguish between fast and slow tempos
2. Melody: Demonstrate the difference between high and low sounds
 - A. Distinguish between high and low pitches
 - B. Speak with a high and low tone on request
 - C. Recognize melodic movement up and down
3. Harmony: Understand accompaniment
 - A. Distinguish between accompanied and non accompanied music
4. Tone color: Begin to understand tone color
 - A. Distinguish between voices and instruments
5. Form: Recognize echo
 - A. Call, sing, play, and move as an echo response
6. Expression: Demonstrate the difference between loud and soft sounds
 - A. Distinguish between loud and soft sounds
 - B. Sing/play classroom instruments and do body percussion loudly
 - C. Use whispering, speaking, and singing voices with appropriate
 - D. Dramatize moods expressively
7. History and style: Experience different musical styles
 - A. Learn to appreciate music of different styles and cultures
8. Audience and performance skills
 - A. Show quiet attention to the performance of others
 - B. Express appreciation for the performance of others with proper applause
 - C. Learn basic skills of group performance
 - D. Use instruments with proper care
9. Liturgy and worship skills
 - A. Begin to acquire an appreciation of music and its place in worship
 - B. Learn age appropriate music used for participation in school liturgies
 - C. Learn Christian music which reinforces the message of Scripture

ART

Art is used to build both fine motor skills and stimulate creativity. Children will be given the opportunity to explore various art materials. Cutting, pasting, coloring, painting, and using play dough are some of the activities the children will experience.

1. Create art in a responsible manner
 - A. Use materials appropriately and safely
 - B. Appreciate the creativity of others
 - C. Clean up when finished creating art
 - D. Create art in keeping with the accepted standards of decency and respect of this school
2. Experience the elements of art
 - A. Name the basic colors and distinguish between different values of the same color
 - B. Identify and distinguish between examples of line and shape
 - C. Verbally describe textures both tactile and visual
 - D. Recognize line, shape, and texture in formal art, everyday objects, and nature
3. Experiment with a wide variety of art materials
 - A. Complete a finished work of art in a variety of materials/media
 - B. Media may include drawing, finger and brush painting, play dough, tissue paper, yarn, crayons, markers, etc.
4. Know about the process of creating art
 - A. Know what art is (creating things to communicate ideas and show beauty) and where it can be found (every day objects, formal art, advertising, decorative objects, and buildings, etc.)
 - B. Know that artists make many different kinds of art
 - C. Know that art is produced by peoples of all cultures.

Christian Behavior Expectations

Be prompt and prepared. Luke 12:40

1. Be on time
2. Come with appropriate materials/homework

Respect authority. Proverbs 4

1. Listen to authority
2. Follow directions promptly
3. Accept responsibility for behavior

Respect rights of others. Matthew 25:40

1. Use appropriate voice
2. Listen to speaker
3. Respect opinion and point of view of others

Respect property. James 1:17

Display a concern for learning. Sirach 1:26

1. Remain on task
2. Allow others to remain on task

Display appropriate social skills. Matthew 22:39

1. Cope with disagreement, teasing, criticism
2. Display courtesy
3. Display tact

Display positive/productive character. 1 Peter 4:10

1. Live by high standards
2. Go beyond what you expect from others

Supply List

Kindergartners wear the school uniform.

The children are asked to bring in the following **supplies**:

a large back pack 10 #2 lead pencils
box of 48 crayons metal blade scissors (Fiskars)
box of 8 crayons (for Spanish class)
bottle of glue 1 spiral bound notebook
4 large glue sticks a box of crackers to share
10 pencil cap erasers 12 pack colored pencils
pencil grips (optional) 3 dry-erase markers
5 zip lock bags, gallon size
a pair of tennis shoes to leave at school for phy ed class

****plastic** shoe box sized container for holding supplies**

Please also bring in 2 rolls of paper towels, 250 count package of napkins, and a box of tissues.

****Do not** send markers or pens to school!

*Please label each item with your child's name/initials (each crayon, pencil, etc.)

Snack Break

Kindergartners will have a milk break each day. Both chocolate and white milk are available. If your child has a milk allergy, please provide a doctor's note and juice will be provided instead. This milk is provided free of charge through District #110.

Each child is expected to bring in a box of snacks to share as needed, usually monthly.