



Kindergarten Curriculum 2009-2010

Reading: Educator's Publishing Service: *Primers to Explode the Code*

Reading instruction in Kindergarten combines frequent experiences of stories, songs and poetry with sequential, systematic phonics instruction. Students learn to identify upper and lower case letters, and practice formation of letters. Students learn to recognize letter/sound relationships, and distinguish rhyming words. Students demonstrate sequencing skills and visual discrimination; they practice reading simple consonant-vowel-consonant words, choral read, and extend their reading with a variety of emergent readers utilizing controlled vocabulary. Students also engage in book making, reviewing and practicing learned concepts.

Spelling

Students spell basic high frequency words and simple consonant-vowel-consonant words. Students write in journals using best-guess spelling.

Writer's Workshop

Students engage in the writing process by writing, editing and publishing with the teacher in a number of different formats. Students label, list and write in a variety of contexts and use basic high frequency words in their writing.

Religion: Harcourt: *Call to Faith*

Religion class in Kindergarten supports parents in educating their children about their faith, helping children to develop positive attitudes about themselves, their families, and friends by discovering and learning more about the many gifts, talents, and abilities that God has provided. Themes include, "God made me special," "God made the world around me," "I am thankful to God," and "God made my friends special, too." Students learn about the church's liturgical seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter, and learn about the life, miracles and death of Jesus. Students learn that God forgives and loves us as they develop their friendship with Jesus. Students learn Catholic scripture through hearing Old Testament stories, studying the lives of saints and people of faith including Mary the mother of Jesus, St. Joseph, St. Francis and St. Nicholas.

Prayer: Students pray together daily, using various prayer experiences. Students will learn prayers of gratitude, praise and petition. Students are introduced to formal prayers including the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be.

Masses: Kindergartners participate in a special way (singing, processions, etc) in one of the all school Masses.

Social Justice: Using *The Call to Discipleship Through Justice: Service & Advocacy* curriculum, students put their faith into action, engaging in practical works of justice, service and advocacy in age appropriate ways.

Mathematics: Everyday Learning: *Everyday Math*

Mathematics in Kindergarten introduces students to the world of numbers. Mathematical thinking is an unfolding process and develops individually with each child. Through a hands-on, concrete approach, students develop their ability to problem solve, practice basic skills, think visually, make connections between ideas, see patterns and make estimates. Students develop an understanding of number sense and tackle concepts such as:

Numeration: counting, reading and writing whole numbers to 100, investigating place value of whole numbers to 100, skip counting by 2's, 5's, and 10's, and using tally marks to count.

Operations: learning addition and subtraction facts to 5, solving word problems, telling time to the hour.

Measurement: measuring volume, length, and perimeter; using a balance scale; exchanging pennies, nickels, and dimes; understanding and reading simple graphs.

Patterns, Functions, and Geometry: creating and identifying patterns, shapes and symmetry.

Social Studies

Themes for Social Studies are drawn from and enhance the religion curriculum. These themes include recognizing the uniqueness of the individual, recognizing the family as a precious gift from God, and recognizing the Church as a house for God's family.

Students begin to develop an understanding of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship by identifying individual rights and responsibilities (classroom rules, family obligations, traffic safety). Students practice good citizenship through learning to respect the rights of others, following playground rules, sharing, and problem solving disputes.

Specialists

Kindergartners also meet with specialists in the following areas:

Music: 30 minutes — once a week

PE: 30 minutes — once a week

Technology: 30 minutes — once a week

Music

The elements of music taught in Kindergarten include beat and rhythm. Students learn to play simple percussion instruments (e.g., triangle, drum, rhythm sticks) and participate in singing, moving and playing musical games. Students listen for beat and melodic movement. Emphasis is placed on developing students' ability to listen and follow directions.

Physical Education

Kindergarten students develop basic loco motor skills in a fun and safe learning environment.

Fitness Concepts: Students participate in and enjoy fitness activities and games that promote cardiovascular fitness, strength and flexibility.

Movement Experiences: Students participate in and enjoy games and activities and develop basic movement skills.

Responsibility: Students practice following rules, using equipment safely, and identifying their own play space and play space of classmates.

Science

Through study of the life cycle and growth of plants, and the life cycle, habitat, variety, adaptations, and body structure of bees, spiders, butterflies and ladybugs, Kindergarten students begin understanding and using scientific concepts and principles. Students practice:

- graphing temperature and weather patterns,
- identifying differences between living and non-living things and the similarities and differences among diverse species,
- using scientific observation to ask and answer questions.

Art

In their study of art, students explore color, shape, texture and form. Students create calendars and books, and use paint, scissors and crayons to enhance a variety of projects in other subject areas.

Library

Through regular visits to the school library, Kindergarten students begin to recognize the difference between fiction and non-fiction books, and understand the categorization of books. Students learn to use the library, checking out books, caring for library books, and returning them responsibly so others can check them out.

Safe Environment Curriculum

The personal safety curriculum for grades K-3 focuses on teaching children basic skills designed to help them keep safe from dangerous or abusive situations. At the kindergarten level, lessons introduce common safety issues affecting children, including car safety, traffic safety, and fire safety. The unit on touching safety opens with lessons that emphasize the positive aspects of touch in children's everyday lives. The overall focus on safety provides a straightforward way for adults and children to communicate about the subject.

The safety curriculum recognizes the key role that parents play in protecting students from abuse and includes a parent education video designed to provide parents with knowledge and skills for abuse prevention.