



## Kindergarten Curriculum

**Religion:** The Concordia Publishing House One in Christ curriculum is Christ-centered and designed to teach the children to know God; respond in faith; see themselves as redeemed children; live happily in peace with God, themselves, and fellow human beings; express their joy in worship; value all of God's creation and live in Christian hope. We study Bible stories chronologically from Creation through the early Church. Kindergartners also learn Bible verses and songs throughout the year. We attend a Chapel service with the Preschool children each month. These services, led by the pastors, staff members, and special speakers, last approximately fifteen minutes and are age-appropriate for young children. Occasionally, they also attend Day School Chapels for special services with their 6th grade buddies. Offerings are gathered from the Kindergartners with proceeds going to various Christian charities. Kindergartners also sing in a regular church service several times a year.

**Language Arts:** Kindergartners will experience language throughout the day. Conversations about their life and current events will give them a chance to express themselves. Listening to stories will expand their vocabulary and encourage them to listen for rhyming words.

The foundation of reading success is built in Kindergarten. They will become familiar with capital and lowercase letters, their sounds, and how they are written. At this level a strong, logically-sequenced phonics program promotes phonemic awareness. They will be expected to recognize words with meaning, such as their own name, their friends' names, and required sight words. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Journeys is the reading series we use. Children will express themselves through drawing, copying, and writing.

**Daily 5:** The kindergartners will have an opportunity to "read to self", "work on writing", "read to someone", "listen to reading", and participate in "word work". On some days, this occurs within the contained classroom setting, and on other days the children travel between our three classrooms within mixed groups to participate in a variety of literacy activities. This encourages and allows the children an opportunity to get to know each other and become a cohesive class, work with every teacher and aide, and explore new learning styles.

**Science:** Kindergartners learn scientific concepts through experiments and hands-on tasks. Our themes include the study of color, plants, insects, dinosaurs, weather, space, air and water, and seasons. Kindergartners meet monthly for a STEM experiment with Preschool.

**Math:** Saxon Math is a hands-on, success-oriented series that emphasizes manipulatives and mental math. The series uses a multi-sensory approach to teaching. Its use will enable all children to develop a solid foundation in the language and basic concepts of mathematics. Mastery of mathematical concepts does not occur quickly but requires that the concepts be practiced over a long period of time. In each Saxon program, concepts are presented in carefully sequenced small pieces called increments. New objectives are introduced through selected group activities, and all concepts are practiced in each succeeding lesson.

**Social Studies:** Kindergarten students will learn about themselves, their family, and their school. They will discuss career choices. They will investigate their world and community.

**Handwriting:** Kindergartners are instructed in the Handwriting Without Tears method. We learn posture, paper and pencil skills, as well as letter, word, and sentence skills.

### **Additional Kindergarten Activities:**

**Recess:** Time will be provided each day for outdoor or gym play to develop gross motor skills.

**Show and Tell:** Children are encouraged to bring and show items from home. They gain confidence in front of their classmates and express themselves orally. Kindergartners will also practice being a good listener.

**Library:** Kindergartners visit St. Peter's school library once per week to enjoy hearing our librarian read a story. They check out a book to take home for one week.

**Resting Time:** "Down Time" will be provided each day for the students. This may involve listening to music, sleeping, videos, or reading books.

**Free Play / Centers:** Creative play is an important part of learning and development in the early childhood years. As kindergartners play, they develop verbal communication, social skills, and creativity. Students choose to participate in dramatic play, read stories, write, draw, work on art projects, and work on math or science concepts. The teacher meets with students one-on-one or in small groups during this time.