

## PRE-K (AGE 4)

---

The Pre-K program capitalizes on the children's natural eagerness to learn through activities that prepare them for Kindergarten and beyond. Children who are 4 and 5 are in the pre-operational stage of development. They are rapidly acquiring language and are eager learners. They are becoming less self-centered and gradually learning to see the viewpoint of others. They are very active and often noisy, yet need periods of quiet alternated with periods of activity.

In considering the development of a child, Pre-K teachers are most concerned with three major areas: social-emotional development, physical development, and cognitive development.

Families that have been at the school for years often say that Pre-K continues to hold a special place in their hearts, including these highlights:

- Baby duck hatchings
- Thanksgiving feast
- Epiphany Party
- Great Backyard Bird Count
- Mardi Gras Pancakes
- Garden Party in Mary's Garden

It is natural for young children to love Jesus and want to learn more about Him. Pre-K teachers incorporate the Catholic faith into daily activities and involve the children in service projects, such as making lunches for the homeless.

### Typical Pre-K Schedule

8:00-8:25	Arrival: Table activities, markers, stencils, puzzles, manipulatives, legos
8:25-8:45	Morning prayer, pledge of allegiance, helpers, activities of the day
8:45-10:15	Free play: blocks, projects, housekeeping, puppets, playdough, manipulatives
10:15-10:40	Clean-up, bathroom break
10:40-11:00	Snack, books
11:00-11:30	Outside play
11:30-12:00	Wash hands, lunch
12:00-12:15	Prepare for home

## KINDERGARTEN (AGE 5)

---

Saint Agnes offers a safe, nurturing environment where the whole child is educated spiritually, intellectually, socially, emotionally, and physically. Positive self-image is always fostered so that each child appreciates the person God created.

Kindergarten eases the transition from nursery school and home to a school environment. It is also preparation for first grade. The child grows in learning so that (s)he can work independently, follow directions, and increase attention span.

The program is developmental, dealing with all areas of growth: spiritual, social, emotional, language, and motor. Teachers help develop each child's love of God as well as pre-reading, writing, math, and language skills. Children use daily free play to make choices, increase responsibility, work cooperatively, and express themselves verbally and non-verbally.

Academic highlights include:

- **Religion:** Kindergarten students begin to understand and appreciate God's goodness in creating them and the world. They express their enjoyment of God's gifts through prayer and gesture
- **Language Arts:** Children receive varied experiences in reading and writing readiness, auditory and visual perception, and language development. With these skills, children gain the foundation for all future learning.
- **Math:** Students use a "hands on" approach of guided and free exploration of materials along with questioning and independent experiences. Topics covered include shapes, matching, counting, patterns, measurement, and money.
- **Social studies:** Children learn about people, jobs, citizenship, holidays, and customs. They develop skills for locating information on maps, the globe, and the calendar.
- **Science:** The Science program follows a discovery and problem-solving approach. Using all five senses, children learn about living and non-living matter, weight, space, weather, seasons, and dinosaurs.

Children who have reached age five by September 30 are eligible for admission. Saint Agnes staff screens all incoming Kindergarten students in the spring using the Metropolitan Readiness Test. Parents meet with the principal while the screening is administered.