

Kindergarten Curriculum

At Annunciation, we view each child as unique with special talents and gifts. Our curriculum is designed to build each child's self-esteem by assuring success and by creating a Christian atmosphere. The essential ingredient in a successful kindergarten program is the establishment of a good relationship between the school and the home, where the goals of parent, child, and teacher are all working towards developing the best education for each individual child. At Annunciation we believe that a happy and communicative home/school relationship developed in the child's kindergarten year will provide a solid educational foundation for the future.

Reading/Phonics

At Annunciation we take a balanced literacy approach to teaching our children the fundamentals of language and set our children on the fun and exciting path of becoming lifelong readers, writers and thinkers.

When you walk into our classroom during literacy instruction, you will see...

- The teacher leading the class with a three to five minute mini-lesson on the teaching point of the day.
- Children spending the bulk of their reading time sprawled out across the room on the floor sitting leg to leg with their kindergarten reading buddy with one book in the middle. Children will retell picture books, read leveled texts, discuss character and plot, or get on their feet to act out stories with detailed body language and tone.
- Teachers who are enthusiastic about their love for reading and share their passion as they lead small groups and confer with students one on one.
- Children meeting with flexible groups.
- Children "shopping" for their own books.
- Children actively participating in hands-on phonics program.
- Children reading authentic literature that makes sense.
- Children writing stories from their own life.
- Children and teachers having fun!

Math

At Annunciation we believe that children come into kindergarten with a wide variety of skills and background knowledge. As educators our goal is to nurture every child at their personal cognitive and academic level.

When you walk into our classroom during math instruction you will see...

- Teachers leading differentiated math groups based on skill, ability, and multiple intelligences.
- Teachers and students using Promethean boards and document cameras to enhance children's learning.
- Children gathered in small groups, engaged in various hands-on math activities and games.
- Children using sophisticated math vocabulary such as symmetry, angles, logical reasoning, and parallelograms.

The following is an outline of the kindergarten math units:

Unit 1: Understanding Number 1-10

Unit 2: 5-Groups in Number 6-10

Unit 3: Teen Numbers as Tens and Ones

Unit 4: Partners, Problem Drawings, and Tens

Unit 5: Consolidation of Concepts

Transdisciplinary (Science and Social Studies)

At Annunciation we believe one of the greatest lessons we can teach our students is to become reflective thinkers and active learners. Learning in science and social studies is hands-on and is designed to enhance the children's natural ability to develop a meaningful sense of observation and wonder.

When you walk into our classroom during science and social studies instruction you will see...

- Children exploring at centers, discovering new information about the topic at hand.
- Children creating hypotheses about various topics.
- Children conducting simple experiments.
- Teachers crossing curriculums to ensure that science and social studies are also tied into language arts and math.
- Teachers and children using Promethean boards, iPads, and docking camera(s) to enhance student learning.

...and if you don't see us in our indoor classroom, check the window: you might catch us outside with our clipboard and coloring crayons, exploring in our outdoor classroom!

Spanish

At Annunciation we believe it is important that children learn the value of diversity and develop a strong sense of curiosity about our brothers and sister around the world. Spanish instruction in kindergarten exposes the children to a culture other than their own and encourages an understanding of diversity.

When you walk into the classroom during Spanish instruction you will see...

- Children engaged while singing, speaking, reading and writing in the target language.
- Children listening to songs, stories and simple instructions in Spanish.
- Children practicing speaking with repeating, singing, games and interactive activities.
- Children reading short stories and writing words and simple sentences in the target language.

Religion

As a faith community, Annunciation is committed to learning based on Christian values. The religion curriculum instills an understanding of the importance of Catholic traditions. Children are taught to live their faith, to lead by example, to become active members of the community, to respect God's gift of life and earth, and to affirm and respect the diversity and dignity of others.

When you walk into the classroom during religion instruction you will see...

- Children praying together as a class.
- Children practicing hymnals for Mass.
- Children drawing in their prayer journals.
- Children reading from our Children's Bible.

...and if you don't see us in the classroom during religion, check the chapel. You may catch us praying, drawing, or meditating!

