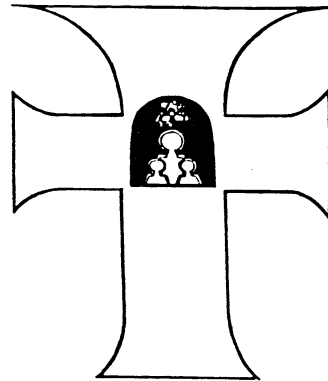


# *Noonan Elementary Academy*



## *Kindergarten Curriculum*

*The Academy is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*We are committed to excellence  
in spiritual formation and academics.*

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# *Kindergarten Curriculum*

## *Academic Program*



### *Program Description*

The kindergarten program is multi-sensory (uses all the senses to input information in the brain,) developmental (concepts and skills introduced are appropriate for the student's age and ability,) and sequential (one skill or concept builds upon another.)

### *Thematic Approach*

The program introduces concepts and skills in and around a theme. The theme adds interest and engages the child in the learning process.

### *Philosophy*

Each child is unique. Every child is a learner. Learning is pleasurable. Human beings are programmed to learn in order to survive. Learning is fun. Learning through play is the work of childhood.

Self-confidence and self-esteem are a natural result of competence. The goal of the program is to provide each child with multiple opportunities to develop competence in all areas.

Success Begets Success

Activities are structured to provide many successful experiences everyday. Lots of praise and positive reinforcement is used.

## *Religion/Scripture*

The religion program focuses on spiritual formation. The primary text series is Image of God Series published by Ignatius Press.

A comprehensive Catholic program combines doctrinal and scriptural lessons with developmentally appropriate art and craft projects and other hands on activities.

Text

“Who Am I” from Image of God, published by Ignatius Press

## *Aim*

To give the kindergarten students a knowledge of God the Father, the life of our Savior, the Blessed Mother, and the Saints. There is a special emphasis on God’s love for us. The children will learn the Sign of the Cross and several traditional Catholic prayers.

## *Theme*

The series is centered on a new subjective emphasis found in the writings and teachings of John Paul II. This subjective turn stresses the dignity of each individual as a person made in the image of God.

The kindergarten program has as its focus two key ideas: God and creation. These key ideas form the unifying element of the lessons. The material in each lesson revolves around fundamentals of our faith stated in terms the children can understand and remember.

# *Reading/Language Arts*

## *Phonics*

Saxon's phonics series is an explicit, systematic program that continues in first grade. It complements our reading program and provides the tools and necessary practice for success in reading. The children will blend sounds into words and begin reading by midyear.

## *Reading*

The children are introduced to some sight words along with phonetic words. Bold Beginnings stories and phonetic readers are used to begin the reading process. Children progress at their own rate.

## *Listening/Speaking*

The Academy's program incorporates listening and speaking as an integrated whole. Students will:

- † Listen for understanding
- † Follow directions
- † Recall information
- † Enunciate
- † Express feelings
- † Share ideas
- † Tell and retell stories
- † Give oral reports
- † Make introductions
- † Participate in discussions
- † Enjoy musical and listening games

## *Vocabulary*

Kindergarten students have a developmental sensitivity for new and interesting words. The Academy's vocabulary program provides an engaging, systematic approach to new words. Students will:

- † Understand new word meanings
- † Use new words in everyday language
- † Incorporate new words in writing assignments

## *Writing*

The children will learn to print the alphabet, numbers 1 – 10, and first and last names using the Zaner Bloser method. They will also learn the mechanics of a variety of types of readiness papers used for reinforcement.

## *Art and Craft*

The children will explore many art mediums as their own creativity unfolds. In the process, they will develop competence in the following:

- † Cutting and pasting
- † Clay
- † Charcoal
- † Drawing
- † Finger and Tempera painting
- † Coloring

Students are also introduced to the “Masters” and their great works.

## *Music*

Music appreciation is developed by exposure to a variety of music and the life story of great composers.

Students also learn to use a variety of Orff instruments and enjoy singing many fun songs.

A musical performance is presented twice a year (December and June) to provide the students with the opportunity to demonstrate their skills and gain poise and confidence in front of an audience.

## *Math*

Math comes easily to small children when it is presented with copious amounts of hands on experiences. The math lab is full of manipulatives for children to use to experience numbers and shapes.

Students in kindergarten will be introduced to:

- † Montessori golden beads 1 – 9,000
- † Telling time
- † Simple fractions
- † Measurement
- † Chip trading (base 10)
- † Simple addition and subtraction
- † Estimation
- † Patterning
- † Graphing
- † Counting by 1, 2, 5, and 10
- † Rote counting to 100

## *Science*

The Academy's program develops observation skills and inquiry. The children are exposed to the scientific method. Lots of hands on and in class experiments are used to provide a concrete experience. Units of study in kindergarten are:

- † Plants
- † Animals
- † Magnets
- † Water cycle (Evaporation)
- † Air

## *Social Studies*

The students will learn about their immediate neighborhood and the broader community. They will explore themes that focus on:

- † My neighborhood
- † The city
- † The farm
- † Community helpers
- † Transportation
- † Rules and laws

## *Health*

Students will develop an understanding of personal health and safety issues such as:

- † Good eating habits
- † Proper rest and exercise
- † Good hygiene
- † Personal cleanliness
- † Seat belt use

## *Special*

### *Physical Education*

Kindergarten students learn to move their body through space in a coordinated purposeful way. They will master basic motor skills and explore factors that affect a healthy lifestyle. Students will:

- † Demonstrate ball handling skills
- † Master locomotor skills such as skipping, hopping, and running
- † Maintain personal fitness
- † Listen and follow directions
- † Master laterality, directionality, and balance

### *Spanish*

The children are introduced to Spanish in a fun way. The program uses songs and games to learn colors, numbers, greetings, and some simple conversation. The program moves as fast or as slow as the children require.

## *General Information*

### *Fieldtrips*

A fieldtrip is planned each year. Parents are welcome to attend.

### *School Assemblies*

One or more educational assemblies are planned each year.

## *Recess*

Kindergarten students are taken outdoors every day when weather permits.

## *Report Cards/Progress Reports*

Students will receive a report card at the end of each ten-week marking period.

## *Parent Conferences*

Parent conferences are scheduled for late October. However, parents may schedule a separate conference at anytime.

## *Homework*

For children to achieve school success the following is helpful. Help your child succeed by:

- † Providing a quiet area for looking at books
- † Discourage, or prohibit, or limit T.V.
- † Read to your child daily
- † Listen to your child retell the story
- † Provide nutritious meals and plenty of exercise
- † Schedule sufficient rest (9 hours for kindergarten)
- † Show an interest in school activities
- † Keep communication lines open with the school
- † Visit libraries and museums

