

# **St. James Catholic School**

## **Early Childhood Education Program**

### **Growing Together: Faith, Family & Friends**

**You will quickly discover that we are not just an early education program, but truly a preschool through eighth grade school. Our Early Childhood Education Program is an academic, curriculum based program for preschool - prekindergarten students.**

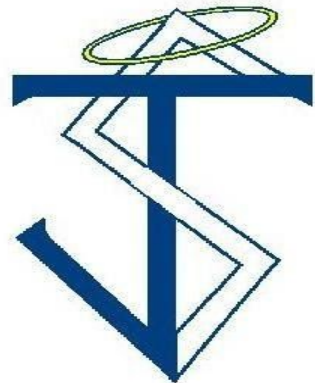
**Our curriculum is guided by the Missouri State Standards for Early Childhood and the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph through developmentally appropriate practices.**

**Our academic program addresses each child individually. Our mission is to build confidence and the love of learning, giving students a solid foundation for a healthy and happy life. Our teachers are dedicated to helping each child discover their unique potential – academically, socially, and interpersonally.**

**Our children learn age appropriate skills through an academic curriculum. Play and exploration are very important parts of our program throughout the day. Upon completion of the program, children are prepared for elementary school life.**

**As a developmental early childhood education program, your child will be given the opportunity to develop at their own individual rate. All progress is assessed through observation, task work, group work, and one-on-one.**

**At St. James School we have a variety of early childhood education rooms to fit the needs of your child. Our teachers and administrators will help you find the best fit for your child.**



# **The Standard of Excellence**

**Instilling a passion for playing & learning**

## **Promoting Academic Achievement**

**Stimulating personal, intellectual & social growth**

## **Purposeful Play Is Early Childhood Education**

**Each day is packed with carefully designed activities structured around the six main development areas of early childhood education.**

**Each day preschoolers explore through science experiments, creating artwork, pretending to be a variety of characters, and movement games. In this way, they learn how to follow directions and develop other key skills for learning success.**



- **Language and Literacy**
- **Building Brain Power**
- **Social and Emotional Development**
- **Physical Development & Wellness**
- **Cognitive Development**
- **Creative Expression**



## Prekindergarten 3



Are you looking for a class to prepare your child for kindergarten? Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, we started offering a program that provides a transition for identified children between prekindergarten and kindergarten. There is a modified curriculum that is specifically designed to be developmentally and age appropriate for students. This includes a variety of instructional strategies aimed at enhancing the development of students.

The prekindergarten 3 class bridges the path between prekindergarten and kindergarten and provides students with the gift of time which helps them build a strong foundation for future school success. This class blends social and emotional experiences with academic learning, so that students not only learn essential pre-literacy, pre-math, and other cognitive skills, but also develop social and self-regulation skills needed to succeed in school and life.

Enhanced whole-group activities and project-related learning activities help engage children in key competency areas such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity as well as prepare them for kindergarten next year.



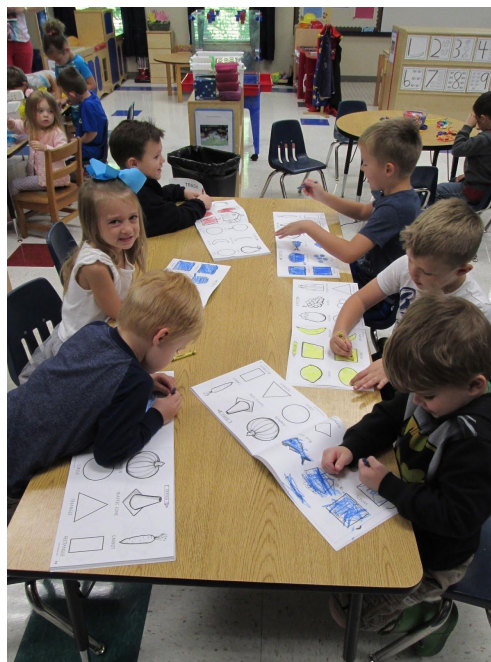


## Prekindergarten 2

**“Older prekindergarten students”**

**(determined by birthday and prerequisite skills)**

We believe that learning to work and play together is an essential skill for children who are getting ready for kindergarten, so we emphasize community building within our classroom and beyond our classroom. By collaborating with other classrooms throughout the school, our children get to be leaders and collaborators with both younger and older students at St. James School. As children learn more about themselves, their communities, and their social interactions with others, they develop a stronger sense of their own self-identity in the context of the large group. Positive guidance in the classroom with consistent procedures and individual and group problem-solving work, encourages our children to move towards independence, self-discipline, and responsibility.



Some skills students may work on include:

- thinking, logic and listening skills
- classification and problem solving skills
- beginning science concepts
- Academic readiness skills



# Prekindergarten 1

**“Younger prekindergarten students”**

**(determined by birthday and prerequisite skills –  
MUST be completely potty trained and in underwear)**



With a multi-sensory, integrated learning approach, students in this class receive a solid foundation of academic readiness skills and a broad knowledge base upon which to build. Encouraging the child's love for learning, our program prepares the child for more formal academics with a natural, built-in format of beginning phonics, math readiness, and the essential skills which enhance and streamline the learning process when students are ready. Intellectual development is approached in a developmental manner

with emphasis being placed on process, rather than product. Language stimulation is an integral part of all experiences provided in our program.

Some skills students may work on include:

- foundational phonics with letter recognition, formation and sounds
- beginning math skills and concepts such as counting and sorting
- sizing and patterning
- fine and gross motor skill development
- role playing, narrating and communication skills





# Preschool

**“Preschool toddler-aged students beginning at 2 years of age”**



In the preschool room, our teachers recognize that each child has a unique rate of development which should not be hurried or forced. Rates of development and ability are to be expected, valued and accepted.

Play is an important part of the early childhood learning experience and should be reflected in the daily routine. Children learn by doing, examining, investigating, exploring, and manipulating. Questioning and problem solving are valued in this environment.

Young children learn best through self-selected, hands-on experiences and active participation with a culturally diverse environment of persons and materials. Making choices is crucial to brain development and to the learning process.

We strive to help the children develop their social skills in order to form positive peer and adult relationships. We hope to accomplish this through sharing, taking turns, following directions, and the school routine. We also focus on group participation and caring for classroom materials.



**Center Time:**

Our classrooms are structured to include Learning Centers as a focal for students. You may often hear your child refer to “Center Time” when discussing their day at school. This is a time for your child to independently make decisions of where to play and explore. There are a variety of activities offered in each center in the classroom. We strive to provide the children with 30 minutes of uninterrupted center time. However, there will be days when this is not possible due to special classes.

**Religion:**

As Catholic educators, everything we do is faith-based. We have Religion time just as the older children do. By the end of the school year, your child will make the sign of the cross and will know many different prayers.

**Special Classes include:** PE, Music, Library, Technology/Computer, and Spanish Classes

**Discipline Philosophy:**

St. James School Early Childhood Education Program utilizes Conscious Discipline. We believe that children learn best through positive experiences. We will work to provide a positive environment by praising good citizenship, anticipating/eliminating potential problems, structuring the environment and schedule to maximize the child’s potential, using natural and logical consequences.

**What to bring and what to wear:**

A complete change of clothes including shoes and socks must be brought in your child’s backpack. Parents should also supply a water bottle and two nutritious snacks for the day. Clothing should be comfortable and appropriate for “messy” activities such as painting and outdoor play. Close-toed shoes are required.

A St. James School rest mat is also required. This can be purchased at the school office.

**Calendar:**

Our program will coordinate with the elementary school calendar for holidays and vacations. A copy of our calendar is provided to you and available online via our school information system, Sycamore.

**Accreditation:**

St. James School Early Childhood Education Program is fully accredited through the AdvancEd Accreditation System and also the Missouri Non-Public Accreditation System.

Our Early Childhood Education Program is a member of the Early Childhood Centers of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, welcoming children of diverse backgrounds and all religious denominations.

**Teacher Certification:**

St. James Early Childhood Education Program teachers are certified in early education, receive ongoing and continuous early education training, and have all passed background checks.

Come grow with us!



