

Elementary School

Kindergarten

Curriculum—Our Kindergarten students are introduced to the wonderful world God gave us and how we can take care of it. Students learn about many ways we show our love to God, for our families, and for each other. Math standards include numeration, beginning geometry, addition, subtraction, and problem solving strategies. Time, money, and measurement concepts are also introduced.

Our language arts program encourages a love of reading and writing. Students learn letters, sounds, blending and decoding strategies. They develop strong comprehension skills. The Scholastic Computer Program supports differentiated instruction as well as providing one-on-one opportunities for student success. Students also participate in regular physical education and music enrichment programs. Special lessons on life and physical science are taught along with ongoing lessons on the weather and the seasons. Children enjoy weekly art projects and participate in Art-to-Grow-On.

Program Overview-We have two morning Kindergarten classes: 8:15 a.m. – 12:00 noon. An Extended Kindergarten Program is provided from 12:00 noon through 3:00 p.m. for those families that need all day Kindergarten. In addition, After School Care is available from 3:00 p.m. through 6:00 p.m. Each program has a separate cost.

First Grade

The first grade educational experience is fun and interactive while accommodating all learning styles: visual, auditory, and kinesthetic. Content areas presented through the use of integrated thematic instruction stress problem solving and critical thinking.

The Language Arts Program emphasizes the writing process through technology using the Scholastic Inc. Computer Program. Daily reading logs are monitored to foster and encourage every day reading. Math and science incorporate the use of manipulatives and tactile lessons to meet our Student Learning Expectations.

Students also have an opportunity to participate in a Christmas Play, "The Birth of Christ". They raise funds through the Annual Pet Show and a portion of the money raised goes towards a charitable cause. All events are done in partnership with our families to encourage a sense of community and foster our Catholic Christian ideals.

Second Grade

In second grade, students are provided opportunities to strengthen reading skills and approve the writing process. In math, the concept of regrouping is introduced along with a reinforcement of measurements, time, and money. The science program enables creative experiments while learning about plants, animals, and human growth and change.

Social Studies allows students to learn about people that make a difference in our world. The students also celebrate family traditions and ancestors that culminate in a very special Grandparents' Day Celebration.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of Eucharist are celebrated in second grade. Teachers and families work with students to prepare to receive the sacraments and strengthen their relationship with Jesus.

Art to Grow On

Art to Grow On is a community sponsored program run by parent volunteers to provide art experiences in various media and forms. The professionally trained volunteer instructors present lessons to the students. The artistic outcomes display the children's interpretations.

Math Lab

The Math Lab is designed to meet the ongoing needs of students who have difficulty in math. The purpose of the Math Lab is to offer the tools and alternative learning styles to maximize the potential learning capabilities of these students in a small group setting. The lab helps to build the child's mastery and ability, and in turn, to build self-esteem by succeeding in math.

Third Grade

Third grade introduces students to cursive and time tables, in addition to the continued emphasis on reading, writing, and math skills. In third grade religion, students are introduced to the life of Jesus Christ through skits about His healings and miracles. Students also experience a Seder Meal for Passover just as Jesus did as a boy.

The science program utilizes experiments and hands on learning activities. Social Studies includes an examination of the local community's past and present. Children take field trips to historical San Pedro sites.

Our integrated learning approach also includes a production of Christmas traditions around the world. Students bring in samples of food, clothing, and music to share the customs of other countries.

Fourth Grade

The fourth grade curriculum concentrates on the core subject areas of social studies, science, math, language arts, and religion. Social Studies covers the history of California from the Spanish exploration to the state's current economy. Earth, Physical, and Life sciences are introduced.

Problem solving and critical thinking skills are emphasized in our math curriculum. Work in standard algorithms, introduction to fractions and decimals, and geometry are taught. Reading comprehension combined with spelling and grammar is developed through the use of fiction and nonfiction literature. The 4th grade writing program includes skill development in expository, narrative, descriptive, and persuasive styles.

Students are taught using a variety of methods which include hands-on projects, collaboration with fellow students, role-playing, field trips, computer research, and special history days. These methods contribute to a rich academic experience in the 4th grade.

Music (taught by Music Teacher)

Students in grades one through five learn the fundamentals of music as they explore the concepts of steady beat, meter, rhythm, melody, harmony, intervals, note duration, phrasing, dynamics, tempo, and tone qualities. Students apply these concepts through singing, movement, and playing instruments. Listening lessons, multicultural songs and activities, and seasonal/holiday music provide enrichment by promoting self awareness and a better understanding of the world. In addition, students learn that music is an integral part of our community prayer by practicing for, and singing at, school masses and Sunday liturgies. There are also opportunities for students to sing in the choir at school liturgies.

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade continues to build upon the core subject areas taught in 4th grade, while preparing students for Middle School. In religion, students learn about the seven sacraments and the Catholic beliefs on family life. This study is supplemented with the creation of a school-wide Mass and an acting out of the Stations of the Cross.

For language arts and reading, students read core literature books and Houghton Mifflin Expeditions. Vocabulary, spelling, and skills-in-context are integrated into each story. Book reports are expected of each student. The 5th grade writing program continues the skill development for alternative writing styles learned in 4th grade.

The math curriculum introduces more difficult problems to expand upon students' skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, and fractions. Social Studies covers the states and state capitals of the United States. Students learn about the important people, documents, and events that helped to create the nation we live in. The science curriculum continues to develop their knowledge in the life, earth, and physical sciences through hands-on learning.

Fifth grade contributes letters to our fighting soldiers overseas through Operation Gratitude. They also make holiday gifts and write get-well cards for Children's Hospital in Long Beach.

Computer Technology

The kindergarten and first grade students participate in the Writing Starz Computer program where they go to the IBM lab for an hour each day. The second and third grade students use the PC lab to do language arts activities and math exercises.

Beginning in fourth grade the students go to the Mac lab where they are taught core computer application skills. Each student is assigned a computer. Each week the classroom teachers collaborate with the technology teacher to prepare standards based lessons that integrate technology into the curriculum.

Physical Education (taught by P.E. Teacher)

Physical Education instruction at the primary level focuses on developing and maintaining fundamental motor skills and manipulative skills. Activities are designed to encourage maximum participation. Students' physical skills, fitness, social development, and personal enjoyment are improved through active participation and practice, while being in a positive, non-threatening atmosphere. Activities include, but are not limited to, beanbag games, parachute, hula hoops, jump rope, dancing, and even juggling. Through parachute and beanbag games, students will practice and develop locomotor skills, agility and strength, throwing and catching, chasing and dodging, as well as creative movement. Large object manipulation, rhythm and balance, strength and endurance are a few of the physical parameters which are developed when playing with hula hoops, jump ropes, and balls. The ultimate goal is to help students enjoy and seek out physical activity so that they are more likely to be active as they grow older. Primary students meet twice a week for 50 minutes, with the exception of Kindergarten which meets once a week for 30 minutes.