

KINDERGARTEN BENCHMARKS

Kindergarten students are naturally curious. Building upon kindergarten readiness skills, the curriculum emphasizes developing reading and math skills in an environment that focuses on hands-on exploration and encourages a love of learning. As students learn to care about God's wonderful world, kindergarteners become Catholic learners.

RELIGION

CREED

Students will:

- recognize creation as God's gift
- understand that people are gifts of God's love
- discover that Jesus is God's greatest gift and sign of God's love for them
- learn to identify Church as a community of people who come together in God's name

SCRIPTURE

Students will:

- become familiar with stories from the Bible
- recognize the Bible as the book of God's word
- demonstrate respect for the Bible as a special book

PRAYER/WORSHIP

Students will:

- experience prayer as listening and talking to God
- pray the Sign of the Cross, Glory Be to the Father, Our Father, Hail Mary, Grace, and Angel of God
- recognize different colors of the Church Year
- express love of God and personal needs in spontaneous prayer (e.g. prayers of thanksgiving)
- celebrate rituals and activities which express our Christian beliefs. For example: The Advent Wreath, The Nativity Scene

CHRISTIAN LIVING

Students will:

- learn to develop friendships and share with others
- know that Jesus taught love by His example and through story
- begin to recognize that God sent Jesus to show them how to live and love
- show care for others and God's creation

LANGUAGE ARTS

READING

Word Analysis, Fluency, and Systematic Vocabulary Development:

Students will:

- understand that print conveys meaning
- demonstrate concepts of print
- identify letter names and the sounds which accompany each letter
- recognize and produce rhyming patterns
- identify beginning, middle, and ending sounds
- blend vowel-consonant sounds when reading and writing
- read and write simple one-syllable words and introduced high frequency sight words
- describe objects and events using grade level appropriate vocabulary

Comprehension, Literary Response and Literary Analysis:

Students will:

- locate title, title page, author's name and illustrator's name in a book
- retell familiar stories
- use pictures and context to make predictions about story content
- connect life experiences to the information and events in text
- ask and answer questions about essential elements of a text
- distinguish fantasy from realistic text
- identify the characters, setting, plot, and important details of text
- recognize the main idea of a text

SCIENCE

Students will:

- observe objects using the five senses
- describe objects in terms of the material they are made of and their physical properties
- identify similarities and differences in the physical characteristics and behavior of animals
- identify the major structures of common plants
- know what animals and plants need to grow and survive
- recognize the characteristics of different types of weather
- identify the four seasons and what happens in nature during different seasons
- know that changes in weather occur from day to day and across seasons, affecting the Earth, plants, animals, and people

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

MOVEMENT SKILLS AND PATTERNS

Students will:

- jump over a stationary rope several times in succession, using forward-and-back and side-to-side movement patterns
- strike a stationary ball or balloon with the hands, arms, and feet
- toss a ball to oneself, using the underhand throw pattern, and catch it before it bounces twice
- kick a stationary object, using a simple kicking pattern
- bounce a ball continuously, using two hands

PHYSICAL FITNESS AND HEALTH

Students will:

- participate in physical activities that are enjoyable and challenging
- stretch shoulders, legs, arms, and back without bouncing
- sustain continuous movement for increasing periods of time while participating in moderate to vigorous physical activity

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Students will:

- identify the feelings that result from participation in physical activity
- participate willingly in physical activities
- demonstrate the characteristics of sharing in a physical activity
- describe how positive social interaction can make physical activity with others more fun
- participate as a leader and a follower during physical activities

ART

ARTISTIC PERCEPTION

Students will:

- recognize and describe simple patterns found in the environment and works of art
- name art materials (e.g., clay, paint, and crayons) introduced in lessons
- identify the elements of art (line, color, shape/form, texture, value, space) in the environment and works of art, emphasizing line, color, and shape/form

CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Students will:

- use lines, shapes/forms, and colors to make patterns
- demonstrate beginning skill in the use of tools and processes, such as the use of scissors, glue, and paper in creating a three-dimensional construction
- use geometric shapes/forms (circle, triangle, square) in a work of art

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL CONTEXT

Students will:

- look at and discuss works of art from a variety of times and places

AESTHETIC VALUING

Students will:

- discuss their own works of art, using appropriate art vocabulary (e.g., color, shape/form, texture)
- give reasons why they like a particular work of art they made, using appropriate art vocabulary

CONNECTION, RELATIONSHIPS, AND APPLICATIONS

Students will:

- point out images (e.g. photographs, paintings, murals, ceramics, sculptures) and symbols found at home, in school, and in the community, including national and state symbols
- discuss the various works of art (e.g. ceramics, paintings, sculpture) that artists create and the type of media used

MUSIC

Students will:

- listen critically to music and physically move to the steady beat
- explore ways of making sound with different percussion instruments
- clap simple rhythms
- echo short melodic patterns and rhythms
- read basic treble clef music notation
- find and use his/her singing voice
- sing songs from various cultures
- talk about music written for specific purposes