

KINDERGARTEN

Welcome to Kindergarten! We are going to have a busy and productive year, filled with exciting learning activities, spiritual events, and so much more. What an incredible journey awaits us! The following information will be helpful to you in understanding our program.

Theme:

Our theme for this year is: "Grateful!" I am already grateful to God for each of our kindergarteners and for the special gifts that they bring to our school! I look forward to sharing with them an "attitude of gratitude" this year.

Curriculum:

In the kindergarten homeroom, California and archdiocesan standards are addressed through a variety of hands-on, interactive activities and the utilization of quality textbooks in the areas of language arts, math, social studies, and religion. In addition, kindergarteners go to art class, computer class (early literacy lab), science class, P.E. class, music class, and the library each week. Our Spanish teacher visits us on Mondays and Fridays. We will enjoy several interesting units of study this year, including an in depth look at sea life. We will also create our own masterpieces inspired by the works of famous artists. We have a field trip to the pumpkin patch planned for October. It will be a fun and busy year!

Communication:

Each week I send home a newsletter with important information and reminders for the week. This letter contains information about the topics we are studying, special events, and ideas of how parents can help at home. I also send home a student work envelope every other Monday with samples of student work. This envelope is in addition to the "family envelope" that the office sends home each Monday.

Report Cards and Parent Conferences:

Parent conferences are held at the end of the first trimester. Report cards are sent home at the end of the second and third trimesters only. I am also available for conferencing at any other time of the year by appointment.

Homework:

I send home a homework packet each Monday in the yellow homework folder. The completed homework and yellow folder are collected on Friday (unless otherwise noted in the kindergarten newsletter).

Discipline:

I employ a positive approach to discipline with rewards and consequences in order to ensure a calm and safe atmosphere for the children. I reward the children for behaving appropriately in class by following our three classroom rules:

1. Follow directions
2. Show respect to others
3. Show respect for the property of others

Rewards:

1. Praise
2. Ticket for a "green light" day (10 tickets = prize)
3. Table points (20 points = prize)
4. Marshmallows in the jar (full jar = fun class activity)

Consequences:

If a student chooses not to follow a rule:

1. Clip is moved from "green light" to "yellow light." (No ticket given.)
2. If a child continues to behave inappropriately, clip is moved to red and the child is asked to return one ticket. (Frequent "red light" days indicate the need for a parent/teacher conference.)
3. A student may be removed from an activity temporarily until he/she chooses to behave appropriately.

The good news: Each child always begins each day on the "green light." Furthermore, if a rule is broken during the day (we all make mistakes once in a while), the child can always bring his/her clip back to green by making better choices! 😊

I look forward to sharing this year with all our wonderful kindergarteners and their families. By working together, we will make this kindergarten year a very positive and exciting learning experience.

Michele Brain
Kindergarten Teacher