

## OBJECTIVES OF KINDERGARTEN

- To give the child time to grow.
- To help the child develop a strong sense of self - to allow him/her to “blossom from within”.
- To provide an environment rich in equipment and materials, where experiences are direct, concrete, and to build the foundation for later, more abstract experiences.
- To provide movement experiences for development of physical and motor skills.
- To promote growth in visual, auditory, and tactile perception ... to sharpen the senses.
- To provide an opportunity to learn & practice patterning of all kinds ... visual, auditory, kinesthetic.
- To provide listening activities.
- To provide many and varied opportunities for oral expression.
- To build a foundation for sophisticated math concepts through manipulation of concrete materials.
- To build a foundation in the sciences, through discovery and play.
- To help the child relate to others socially, and to be part of a group.
- To help the child develop problem-solving techniques.
- To promote creative expression through art, dance, music, cooking, and story telling.
- To help the child develop a habit of success.
- To help the child establish an environment of beauty, order and stability.

## IS YOUR CHILD UNIQUE? YES!

- Children are born learners. They learn by exploring, prying, seeking clues, probing, and by **repeating**, and **repeating**, and **repeating**.
- Children learn differently, in different ways, at different rates, and from different experiences.
- Play is child’s work. What looks like “just play” for adults is serious learning for beginners.
- The kindergarten program is planned to provide a balance of mental, physical, emotional, and social experiences for each child and for the total group.
- Home and school are both responsible for a child’s learning.
- We must cooperate to make learning a successful experience for your child.

## CURRICULUM OF KINDERGARTEN

The Corpus Christi curriculum is demonstrated through the Student Learning Expectations developed for our school. These are:

- “Love and Serve God and Others” – Become spiritually grounded.
- “Love Learning” – Become academically responsible.
- “Love Yourself” – Become self aware.

### **Social Adjustment**

One of the most important objectives of the kindergarten class is the social adjustment of each child. Through play, your child will learn to share toys, games, and experiences with others, to get along with others; to be cheerful, polite, and fair; to develop self-control, patience, perseverance and a sense of responsibility.

### **Reading**

Preparing children for their future reading activities is one of the most important concerns and responsibilities of the kindergarten teacher. In the reading program, your child will have experiences in hearing, seeing, speaking, and remembering which is necessary for beginning reading activities. Your child will be read to, will look at books, and make his/her own books.

The Language Arts Program in grades K-8 is *Invitations to Literacy*. It is a fully integrated reading/language arts program in which literature selections serve as the basis for instruction in writing modes and techniques, spelling, grammar, usage, mechanics, listening, speaking, and viewing. A highlight of this program is the direct correlation between phonics and spelling instruction.

### **Language**

Kindergarten promotes the skills of speaking and listening. Your child will learn to listen to conversation, stories, directions, and express his/her thoughts in dramatic play. Kindergarten promotes clear speech and enrichment in vocabulary.

### **Math**

The math program in grades K – 8 is, *The Scott Foresman, Addison Wesley Mathematics Program*. It encompasses the following: Position, Sorting, Patterns, Graphing, Numbers to 31, Time, Money, Measurement, Geometry, Fractions, and Simple Addition and Subtraction. In addition to workbooks, manipulatives are used to enhance this program.

### **Handwriting**

The children will begin to write by learning to print their first and then their last names in special D’Nealian letters. The letters will allow the children to make an easy transition from print to cursive writing in the later grades.

Taking one letter per week the children will then learn both capital and lower case letters of the D’Nealian alphabet throughout the school year. Attached is a sample D’Nealian alphabet to keep at home for your reference.

### **Social Studies**

The study of social science in kindergarten will help expand your child’s world from his home to his immediate community. Our new program is entitled “Reflections – Our World, Now and Long Ago.” Themes include “Being a Good Citizen,” “Our Country” and “Stories of the Past.”

## **Science**

The study of science will bring your child into a closer relationship with the world around them and help him/her become more aware of the environment. Our Science Program in grades K-5 is the Foss Science Program and was developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science here in Berkeley. The K curriculum consists of 4 modules: Trees, Wood & Paper, Animals Two By Two and Fabric. We do four neighborhood walks at the beginning of each season as well as study animals and their habitats on a weekly basis.

## **Music**

The students meet with the music teacher once a week, however, music is also incorporated into daily activities on a regular basis.

## **Art**

One purpose of art in kindergarten is to help the child discover beauty in our surroundings. Another purpose is to furnish the opportunity for the expression of what he/she hears, sees, feels, and thinks. Your child will have many and varied experiences with different mediums. We have a formal Fine Arts Program here at Corpus Christi in which your child will study an artist each year. Kindergarten will study Mary Cassatt and also Greek Art in connection with our Greek unit.

## **Capon**

Along with outdoor recess and the playing of games, your child will participate in Capon, a theory in child motor development. This is scheduled once a week. Research indicates that the development of motor skills has a direct correlation to the other areas of a child's education. Parent helpers are needed for this program.

## **Spanish**

Four times a week for fifteen minutes your child will begin conversational Spanish instruction from Senora Ruiz. This will continue throughout your child's education at Corpus Christi.

## **Computer**

Twice a week the kindergartners will be visiting the Computer Lab. They will learn how to operate the computer and explore the many things it can do for us.

## **Cooking**

Every week the students will participate in a cooking activity. These weekly projects teach the children many important readiness skills including measuring, predicting, counting, number concepts, fractions, sequencing and language development. The children will use their five senses and enjoy the foods they've made themselves.

## **Religion**

The Faith First Program leads children to grow in their Catholic faith by teaching what we believe as Christians and how we can live out those beliefs. The program is created around three pillars: church doctrine, scripture and the liturgical year. By interweaving ideas from each of these areas, Faith First provides students with a foundation that they can use to understand and create their faith. Each unit is divided into chapters that reflect the three areas of emphasis. Activities in each chapter provide both students and their families with a chance to reflect on what has been learned. The Growing In Love series is our family life program. This series is based on seven key themes of Catholic education in relationships, family life, and human sexuality.

## **Second Step**

Second Step is a program designed to reduce impulsive and aggressive behavior in young children and increase their level of social competence. It does this by teaching skills in empathy, impulse control and anger management. The curriculum continues to grade 8 and we are fortunate to have it here at Corpus Christi.

## **Discipline**

Corpus Christi has initiated a school-wide self-discipline program – *Discipline with Purpose*. This is a 15-step developmental approach to teaching self-discipline. We use a daily card system in Kindergarten.

## **Snacks**

Please send a daily snack for your child. Appropriate snacks might be: fruit, crackers, 1/2 sandwich, or raw vegetables. Please do not send carbonated drinks, candy, cake or highly sweetened treats. You may also send bottled water with your child. Please have child's name on his/her bag.

\*\*\*\*This is not intended to be lunch. It is a nutritious mid-morning snack and an opportunity for your child to socialize and make friends.

## **Birthdays**

Your child's birthday is very special and important. We will celebrate everyone's birthday. If you would like to send a special treat, please let me know ahead of time.

## **Field Trips**

We will be taking many trips during the school year. Some trips will require a fee and an opportunity to be a driver for our class. All drivers' licenses and proofs of insurance must be on file with the school office before driving on any trips. You will have advance notice of all trips. Diocesan Policy does not permit siblings to accompany us on field trips. All children who are not 6 years old or 60 lbs. are required to now ride in a booster seat. Parents will need to provide booster seats or their child will not be permitted to go on field trips.

## **Sharing**

Fridays will be SHARING DAY in kindergarten. Children are invited to bring a special object from home which they would like to "share" with the class. This "Show and Tell" period allows students an opportunity to speak before the whole group, developing self-confidence and language skills. Your child is encouraged to bring in one item for sharing at least once a month.

To start off our first day of SHARING, we are having a special "SHARE A BEAR" day, in honor of our letter of the week: B. Each child is invited to bring their favorite teddy to introduce to the class. In the following weeks, students will have free choice of items to bring: a favorite book, picture, trophy, or other special item. You will receive additional information when we begin.

## **Star of the Week**

Each week one child will be chosen to be our "Star of the Week". At this time, your child is invited to bring in photographs of themselves, their family, pets, etc. to display on a bulletin board. They may also bring in any favorite "things" to display on a special shelf. The child will be asked to tell about all of their things. It is a fun way to learn about everyone and helps develop self-confidence. Each student will tell what they like about the "Star of the Week" and we will record what was said for your child to bring home.

## **Homework**

Homework will be assigned once a week along with a monthly Reading Log. A weekly "Kindergarten News" bulletin will be provided detailing any other assignments, upcoming events and other kindergarten news.

## **Challenge Activities**

Challenge activities are designed for those children who are ready for more difficult work. Weekly challenge homework will begin second semester. I would like challenge activities to be a fun student-parent activity with the child completing as much of the activity as he/she can. Your child is not required to complete any challenge work. It is entirely optional. Use your best judgment in working with your child.

## **Friday Folders**

All Children's work is sent home on Fridays in a special folder. I will also generally comment on your child's progress. Please sign and return Friday folders on Monday of the following week.

## **Monthly Letters**

You will receive a monthly letter detailing our curriculum studies for the coming month. I will also include plans for future field trips, so you may plan accordingly.

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers are needed and appreciated!!! A sign up sheet will be available. We will also need drivers for field trips and people to work at home preparing for special projects. All classroom volunteers must have on file with the school office a negative tuberculosis certificate that is no more than 4 years old. If you are especially knowledgeable in a specific field please share it with us; we'd be delighted to have you!!

## **WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?**

- Enjoy your children as they are and let them know they are accepted.
- Work in the classroom if you are able.
- Give praise.
- Avoid comparisons with other children, especially siblings.
- Listen to your child's ideas and feelings.
- Explain your feelings.
- Establish an attitude of confidence toward school and teachers.
- Provide a good breakfast and balanced diet.
- Adopt a reasonable bedtime and rest periods.
- Allow enough time for your child to leave home with an unhurried feeling.
- Arrange for your child to play with other children.
- Read and talk to your child.
- Use the library.
- Encourage quality television.
- Play board games.
- Let your child know the consequences of his/her actions.
- Provide practice in making choices between two acceptable alternatives.
- Listen to music.
- Don't push ...lead!