



Saint Thomas Aquinas Jr. Kindergarten



Program Structure

The goal of the Junior Kindergarten program in our Catholic school setting is to provide an opportunity for quality structured time for four year olds that will encourage them to make inquiries about the world around them, provide them with opportunities to interact with their peers, and introduce them to the concept of school, allowing for a smoother transition into the Kindergarten program.

This year we plan to run Jr. Kindergarten every Tuesday morning from 8:55am to 11:30am. Children can arrive before 8:55am in order to get themselves ready for the morning. I will begin with a staggered enrollment for the first class so that I can get to know your children in a smaller group setting. The first class will be Tuesday, September 7th for half of the class and Tuesday, September 14th for the other half. They will all attend together each Tuesday morning thereafter. I will be in touch with you at the end of summer to give you more information in regards to this schedule.



What to Expect

We know that four year olds are enthusiastic, love the companionship of friends, and are able to do much more than their three year old counterparts. They are developing the abilities for abstract thinking, cooperative play, generalizing, and problem solving. They love stories, dramatic play, and need opportunities for exploring, investigating, and discovering.

The program is based on structured play where your child will learn rules and expectations, and have fun doing so in a social setting. The children will be encouraged to participate in all activities and will be praised for every attempt. The focus will be on the process, not the product, promoting a "can do" attitude in every child.

Each week will feature a different theme upon which songs, stories, crafts, and games will be based. We will have a fairly predictable daily routine, although it will be somewhat flexible depending on the needs and interests of the children. The catholicity components will be incorporated throughout the program. Special attention is given to readiness through development of language, fine motor skills, gross motor skills, problem solving techniques, and good listening skills.

Parental Requirements for this Program

1. A tuition fee of \$410.00 for the school year. Payment options can be made in the fall online or at the office. Please hand in a completed Jr. Kindergarten Registration form, ages and stages questionnaire, as well as a copy of your child's birth certificate and baptismal certificate, if applicable. We only accept 17 students in the program, therefore the first 17 with completed forms will be put on the list.
2. Jr. Kindergarten will run each Tuesday morning from 8:55 to 11:30. Children are welcome to arrive a little early (any time after 8:30am) in order to get ready for the day. We appreciate the help of volunteers and Jr. Kindergarten runs much smoother with extra hands. A sign-up sheet will be posted so you can sign up if it is convenient for you. All volunteers in our school need to have the appropriate paperwork completed and on file in our office.
3. Each family will be asked to bring one or more snacks for the entire class for a specific celebration (ie. Christmas, Easter). All snacks need to be nut free. This sign-up sheet will be posted.
4. Each child will need a soft pencil case, 4 lrg glue sticks (name on each one and lid), a pair of scissors (labelled), and 4 pencils (sharpened and name on each). Crayons will be supplied.
5. Each child will also require a pair of inside runners with non-marking soles, a take home two-pocket folder, a large zip-lock bag, a healthy snack and water bottle, and of course a backpack to carry their things to and from school. The students will have a locker available at school to store their things.

Students Like You

With students like you, teaching is easy
I look forward to each day;
Your wondering minds keep me on my toes;
You make teaching more like play.
Students like you make teaching rewarding;
When I go home, I'm content;
You pay attention, you learn—giving me
A sense of accomplishment.
Thank you for being the way you are,
For making my job so much fun.
I'll remember how good you made me feel,
Even when my teaching is done.

By Joanna Fuchs

