

KINDERGARTEN

For more specifics on Kindergarten curriculum, you can visit the Diocese of Charlotte website at www.schools.charlottediocese.org or download a PDF at: http://schools.charlottediocese.org/images/schools/PDF_files/curriculum/kindergarten.pdf

You can also get more details about class schedules on our school website at www.ourladyofmercyschool.org under Teacher Pages link and select Mrs. Heaton's page.



caring dedicated child-focused

respectful inspiring compassionate

Christ-centered proud creative

challenging welcoming confident

humble prayerful engaging

leaders followers scholars servants

brothers & sisters teachers family

**Our Lady of Mercy
Catholic School**

1730 Link Road, Winston-Salem, NC 27103
(336) 722.7204

www.ourladyofmercyschool.org
Welcoming students of all races, religions, ethnic and national origins.

Core Curriculum

In kindergarten at Our Lady of Mercy School, we follow the North Carolina standards. However, we incorporate many “extras” into our curriculum. Each month, we focus on a different Science and Social Studies unit. As we learn about the material, we have fun with hands-on experiments, go on a field trip involving our theme, and work on arts and crafts projects. Some of our kindergarten adventures include milking cows, talking to pumpkins, preparing a Native American feast, planning an All Saints Day liturgy, and museum trips. We love to invite speakers into our classroom such as a representative from the Humane Society.

We are a phonics-based kindergarten when it comes to reading and we use Modern Curriculum Press for a textbook. We start the children in the first-grade edition which they take with them when they move on to first grade. We use our own reading program which has been approved by the principal. We break the students into groups so that we can work with them on their own level and speed. In math, we do not use a textbook; rather, we create our own mini-books that we use with a lot of hands-on involvement.

Catholic Identity

Jesus is the center of our classroom and we weave Jesus into all aspects of our curriculum. The children learn four prayers in kindergarten which we take turns saying at the end of each day. We also talk about the Ten Commandments. One of our biggest religion themes is The Saints. We learn about a saint each week and use that saint as a role model. We have lots of hands-on activities during Advent and Lent. These activities help us focus in on these church seasons and get ourselves ready for Christmas and Easter.

We start our day with prayer and a reminder that we love our students and that we will keep them safe. We pray again as a school before lunch and then we ask our lunchtime blessing. At the end of the day, we say our good-bye prayer and then send each child off with a blessing, reminding them how special they are. We go to weekly Mass and monthly adoration.

Specials

Once a week, kindergartners have classes in their “special” subjects of Physical Education, Media/Technology, Spanish, Art, and Music.

PE: We focus on basic units of running, jumping, throwing, catching, rolling, rhythmic activity, kicking, fitness, gymnastics, parachute, basketball, striking, and cooperative games.

MEDIA/TECHNOLOGY: Students work on use of the mouse or touchpad and the different menus on their screen, make their own pictures using the program “Kidspiration” and work on letter recognition and alphabet action exercises on specific websites, as well as basics of Internet Safety.

SPANISH: We work on basic vocabulary: numbers, letters, colors.

ART: Students work on basic color theory, basic perspective, design elements and 3-D design. We also learn basic art appreciation.

MUSIC: We learn songs, music terms, how to play a steady beat, and basic performance practices. We put on a special Christmas program with the PreK and 1st graders, and perform in the school-wide Christmas music program and Spring Concert.

Service

It is important for the students to learn at an early age that they are servants, working for God. When we visit the nursing home three times a year, the children see how their friendly

smiles and songs can make others happy. We bake cookies for Hospice, make Thanksgiving baskets, and many, many more outreach projects which help the kindergartners know that EVERY one is important to God.

Buddies

The eighth grade buddies are an important part of each kindergartner’s life. Kindergartners and eighth graders are paired up the first week of school and do many projects together throughout the year. They sit together each week at our student liturgies. They make each other birthday and Christmas gifts, and work together on their Saints project. At the end of the year, the Kindergartners host a graduation luncheon for their buddies.