



Welcome to Kindergarten!

Holy Cross Elementary School

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Dear Kindergarten Families,

Welcome to Kindergarten at Holy Cross School! We are dedicated to creating a positive and inviting atmosphere where your child feels comfortable and enthusiastic about their new learning environment. Our Kindergarten team is here to ensure that every child feels welcomed, safe and supported as they begin their educational journey.

Social skills are an important part of Kindergarten. Students will be learning how to communicate, play and learn together with their peers. There will be many discussions around social skills throughout the year. Last week, we introduced the students to the concept of being a 'Bucket Filler.' We encourage them to practice this by showing kindness, helping others and demonstrating respect, just as Jesus would. We will recognize and celebrate students who are seen filling their peers' buckets by adding their names to the board next to our Happy Bucket.

On the following pages, we aim to give you a clear overview of what your child will be learning and exploring throughout the school year. Our goal is to keep your child actively engaged by introducing them to a variety of concepts, learning styles and experiences. We look forward to growing together!

Kindergarten Curriculum Overview:

Christian Education: Students will be listening to Bible stories this year and following the “Finding God” program. After Easter, students will participate in the “I Am A Gift from God” program. Love for Jesus and His teachings will be interwoven into all aspects of the curriculum.

Language Arts: Students will be introduced and explore basic phonics and reading skills this year. They will learn through a variety of different methods including:

1. Literacy centers - hands-on activities to explore letters, sounds and basic phonics skills.
2. Printing - practice forming each letter correctly as well as basic phonics
3. Phonics - focus on sounds and blends, sounding out words, rhyme and word families
4. Journal - introduction to writing. Copying from the board, thinking of ideas and writing their thoughts (spelling phonetically)
5. Reading Program - students will read books at home with their family based on their reading level
6. Group poems, chants and songs - taught and practiced throughout the year
7. UFLI: At Holy Cross, our primary classes will implement the UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Initiative) program, which is a comprehensive literacy intervention designed to enhance reading skills with targeted, evidence-based instruction. In Kindergarten, UFLI focuses on building strong foundational literacy through interactive phonics and early reading lessons.

Mathematics: Students will explore and practice concepts through individual and collaborative group work. They will use math manipulatives for hands-on learning, utilize centers that focus on various areas of the curriculum (i.e. creating patterns, identifying numbers, 2 & 3D shapes, financial literacy, addition, subtraction, etc.) as well as practice math concepts using print.

Social Studies: Students will have an introduction to Indigenous culture and will be using inquiry based and collaborative learning to explore different topics. These topics include: family traditions, diversity in our community and our rights and responsibilities.

Science: Students will be using inquiry based and collaborative approaches to explore different themes. Simple science experiments and explorations will be used to demonstrate learning. Students will attend a Pumpkin Patch field trip to learn about the plant and animal life cycles. They will also have the exciting opportunity to plant and harvest potatoes, observe baby chicks hatch and grow in our classroom, and learn how to care for them.

STEAM: Students will participate in hands-on activities that use STEAM- science, technology, engineering, arts and math concepts that will allow them to think critically and creatively. For example, creating a cave for bears with different materials such as marshmallows and toothpicks.

Art: Students will explore art using different techniques and a variety of materials. We encourage students to be unique and express their creativity through their artwork.

Core Competencies: The Core Competencies are sets of intellectual, personal and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need in order to engage in deep, lifelong learning. Each term we will be focusing on a different core competency. We will discuss different “I can” statements; our goal is to connect the curriculum with social and emotional learning.

Term 1: Communication

Example: *“I can show my learning”*

Term 2: Thinking

Example: *“I can solve problems”*

Term 3: Personal and Social

Example: *“I can try different ways of doing things”*

Physical & Health Education: Students will attend Gym on Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoons with Miss Campbell. They will work on basic sport skills and play games. Students will also attend a 20 minute Daily Physical Activity (DPA) block in the gym on Thursdays.

Library: Kindergarten will attend Library class on Wednesday mornings with our Teacher-Librarian, Mrs. Wilkinson. They will participate in story time and do related activities.

French: Mrs. Ponis (Madame Ponis) will teach French on Wednesday and Friday mornings. The students will learn how to say the calendar in French and will participate in French songs and activities.

ADST: Applied Design, Skills and Technologies gives students an opportunity to work with technology like iPads. Ms. Ranallo will teach this class on Tuesday mornings.

Music: Students will be able to explore music through singing, playing instruments, dance and more. Music with Ms. Ranallo will take place on Thursday mornings.

Thank you in advance for your support this year. We are excited to build a strong relationship with you and work together to create the best possible learning experience for your child.

Many Blessings to you and your family,
The Kindergarten Team,
Miss Bell & Mrs. Isfeld



Living,
CELEBRATING,
and Proclaiming
OUR FAITH