**Kindergarten Standards Overview for Parents**

Kindergarten is a **fun** and **exciting** learning environment.  Your child will participate in a wide variety of activities exploring learning concepts, peer relationships, literature, number sense, and more!  You can expect your child to experience different learning opportunities such as: large group (whole class), small group, and individual (one on one).  A day in kindergarten is a busy one, so you can also expect your child to enjoy centers, recess, free choice, ‘brain breaks’, and quiet time. Communication is key to a successful kindergarten experience; we utilize weekly classroom newsletters to communicate classroom happenings.  We also communicate on an individual basis regarding your child’s progress throughout the year, including (but not limited to) quarterly report cards.

During your child’s kindergarten year, they will be working to master the following concepts:

**Religion**

**\*\*\***For a comprehensive listing of Diocesan Standards, please visit: [www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum](http://www.dioceseoflansing.org/education/catholic-school-curriculum)

* The heart of our Catholic teachings in kindergarten focus on the message that God loves us, and we are called to share that love with others.  Teaching to the whole child, we put Jesus at the center. Our Catholic education forms all aspects of student’s physical, moral, spiritual, and intellectual development.
  + **Profession of Faith:**
    - God makes himself known and invites himself into a relationship with Him
      * The Story of Creation
      * God’s unconditional love of all people through Jesus
      * Importance of the Bible as Word of God
    - Holy Trinity and Role of Mary**:**
      * God the Father
        + God created all; God loves us, we share that love with others
      * God the Son
        + Jesus as Divine and God’s only begotten Son
        + The Story of the Passion of Jesus Christ
      * God the Holy Spirit
        + Holy Spirit as third in Trinity, God’s gift of the Holy Spirit as our Helper
      * Mary, Mother of God
      * Mary, mother of Jesus; Mary, mother of God; Mary, mother of us all
    - The Saints:
      * Identify the role of a Saint
      * All God’s children are called to become Saints
    - Heaven as ultimate goal in life
  + **Celebration of Christian Ministry:** 
    - Describe our church family, baptism is the Sacrament by which we are members of the Catholic Church
    - Describe roles of religious life, including: priests, pope
    - Mass as a celebration of God’s presence
  + **Life in Christ:**
    - Forgiveness of sins, resurrection of the body, and life everlasting
    - We are all children made in the image of God
    - Virtues
  + **Christian Prayer:**
    - Define prayer as speaking with and listening to God
    - Prayers, including (but not limited to): Our Father, Hail Mary, Blessing before Meals, Sign of the Cross
    - Praying the Rosary

**ELA**

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* Kindergartners will develop and build strong foundational literacy skills by: working with peers, working independently, working whole group, using hands on materials, and completing open ended literacy exploration.  Our balanced literacy program works to play on each child’s strengths while supporting areas of challenge. Literacy tasks are woven throughout the curriculum, across all subject areas (ex: literacy tasks during religion instruction).
  + **Reading: Literature:**
    - Active engagement in group reading activities
    - Retell familiar stories
    - Identify characters, settings, and main events
    - Investigate unknown words in a text (ex: what does ‘slumber’ mean?)
    - Identify and describe the role of the author and illustrator
    - Describe the relationship between the illustrations and the story
    - Compare and Contrast events, characters, stories
  + **Reading: Informational Text (with prompting and support)**
    - Actively engage in group reading activities
    - Identify main topic and retell important events
    - Describe connection between ideas, events, individuals, or information within text
    - Investigate unknown words (ex: what does ‘camouflage’ mean?)
    - Discover important features of informational text (front/back cover, title page, table of contents, etc)
    - Use text to find evidence on a topic/evidence author provides on topic
    - Describe the relationship between illustrations and text
    - Identify similarities and differences between two texts on the same topic
  + **Reading: Foundational Skills**
    - Organization and basic features of print (follow words from left to right, top to bottom, and page by page; recognize words are made up of letters in specific order; recognize, name, and produce sound for all letters of the alphabet- upper and lowercase)
    - Spoken words, syllables, sounds (rhyming words; syllables; onsets and rimes; CVC words; phoneme work)
    - Read grade level texts with fluency and understanding
    - Kindergarten Phonics and Word decoding skills (letter-sound correspondence; short and long vowels; read high frequency words)
  + **Writing**
    - Communicate ideas through words and pictures
      * Opinion pieces
      * Informative pieces
      * Narrative pieces
    - View writing as a process (process is more important than the product)
    - Strategies and tools for strengthening writing pieces
    - Use digital tools to publish writing
    - Participate in shared research and writing projects
  + **Speaking and Listening**
    - Converse with a variety of peers and adults on kindergarten topics and texts asking for clarification as needed
    - Confirm understanding orally
    - Ask and answer questions about key details on topic
    - Speak audibly and express thoughts, feelings, and ideas clearly
  + **Language**
    - Print upper and lowercase letters correctly
    - Understand and use question words (who, what, where, when, why)
    - Produce and expand sentences in shared language activities
    - Demonstrate proficiency of conventions (Capitalize first word in sentence and pronoun I; ending punctuation; write letters for letter sounds; phonetic spelling)
    - Explore word relationships and varieties of word meanings

**Math**

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* Kindergartners will develop and build foundational math skills by: working with peers, working independently, working whole group, using hands on materials, and completing open ended mathematical exploration.
  + **Numbers and Operations** 
    - Counting to 100 by 1’s, 5’s, 10’s, and 2’s (to 30)
    - Read and write numbers 0-30
    - One-to-one correspondence (say one number for each item counted)
    - Compose and decompose numbers 2-10
    - Group numbers by 10’s and 1’s
    - Concept of ordinarily and sequencing to 10
    - Addition and Subtraction operations within 10
    - Solve simple word problems
  + **Measurement**
    - Use measurement benchmarks (short, tall, length, weight, light, heavy)
    - Use non-standard measurement
    - Introduction to concepts of time (tools, correct terms, days of week/month/seasons)
    - Introduction to concepts of money (amounts and symbols of coins)
  + **Geometry**
    - Recognize and identify shapes (2D, 3D)
    - Identify, sort, and classify objects by attribute
    - Patterns (create, describe, extend; generate)
  + **Algebraic Reasoning**
    - Develop algebraic concepts within numbers, operations, and geometry
  + **Data, Probability, and Statistics**
    - Collect, organize, and analyze data
    - Use data to create pictograph
    - Read and interpret pictographs
  + **Mathematical Practices**
    - Make sense of problems and persevere in finding solution
    - Attend to precision and accuracy
    - Communicate math thinking with clarity
    - Build connections with mathematical concepts
    - Use models to represent math concepts

**Science**

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* Our science standards reflect the shift in scientific education practices outlined with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).  Most importantly, science education has shifted to focusing on the importance of the development of understanding (rather than the rote recall of facts).  Kindergartners will develop and use models, plan and carry out investigations, analyze and interpret data, design solutions, engage in argument from evidence, and obtain, evaluate, and communicate information. Kindergartners will learn how to use these practices to demonstrate understanding.
  + **Motion and Stability: Forces and Interactions**
    - Pushes and Pulls
    - Speed and direction
    - Varying effects on motion
  + **Energy**
    - Effect of sunlight on earth’s surface
  + **From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes**
    - Describe patterns of what plants and animals need to survive, living/nonliving
  + **Earth’s Systems**
    - Observe weather and climate and describe changes
    - Investigate and describe how plants and animals impact the world around them
  + **Earth and Human Activity**
    - Earth’s materials
    - Needs of living things
    - Cause and effect
    - How earth’s patterns (severe weather, natural hazards) impact humans/how humans impact the environment

**Social Studies**

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* Using a familiar context for five and six year olds, kindergartners learn about the social studies disciplines (history, geography, civics and government, and economics) through the lens of “Myself and Others.”
  + **History:** 
    - Timelines; past, present, future; ways we learn about the past
  + **Geography**:
    - Use maps and globes; positional words
    - Describe our immediate environment (classroom, home, playground), and ways that people use environment to meet human wants and needs
  + **Civics and Government:**
    - Identify rules at home and at school, why rules are important
    - American Symbols: our American Flag
    - Describe ways to be fair, decision making
  + **Economics**
    - Describe wants and needs, distinguish between the two
    - Describe goods and services, distinguish between the two
  + **Public discourse, decision making, and citizen involvement**
    - Identify classroom issues, express position on classroom issue, compare own viewpoint to others
    - Participate in projects to help or inform others