



St. Cletus
Early Childhood Education

Junior Kindergarten Goals

Welcome to the St. Cletus Junior Kindergarten program! The Junior Kindergarten program curriculum teaches Religion, Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Handwriting, Math, Science and Social Studies. This is all introduced in a multi-sensory hands-on FUN and engaging, technology-free classroom! Students will participate in outdoor play/nature exploration 2-3x a day. Students will also attend specials: Spanish, Art, Gym, and TLC.

Overview:

Junior Kindergarten is designed for the "older preschool child," who missed the cut-off date for entry into Kindergarten but is academically AND emotionally ready for higher level preschool learning. This program will give students a bit more academic preparation as well as social emotional learning tools for success in school. Skills are still taught in an age-appropriate manner through hands-on, center-based learning. Students may enroll in the half-day program which ends at 11:30 a.m., or the full day program which ends at 3:00 p.m. There is also an option to begin attending half day and eventually transition to full day. This is all based on your child and his/her needs and readiness!

Requirements:

1. The student's date of birth must be between September 2 and February 2.
(Individual exceptions may be reviewed and considered).
2. The student must have already attended a preschool program.
3. The student must be fully potty trained.

Junior Kindergarten Curriculum Goals

Personal Development

Students will:

- Gain confidence in learning new things, playing games, making new friends, and participating in circle time discussions
- Learn how to listen without interruption
- Learn to play with others with respect and cooperation
- Learn how to follow directions

Curriculum:

* Social Emotional Learning: Preschool "Second Step Program," which focuses on teaching children problem solving skills and ways to cope with and manage different feelings.

Religion

Students will:

- Develop and talk about empathy and caring
- Learn how to make the sign of the cross
- Learn and recite different prayers throughout the year
- Become aware of God's world around us through different monthly themes

Curriculum:

* Our Religion series is called "I am Special" for 4 and 5-year-olds. This program will focus on emotional growth. We also attend weekly 8:00 a.m. Mass with our buddies starting in mid-September.

Reading and Writing

Students will:

- Be able to recognize and name most upper and lower case letters
- Be able to produce sounds for most A-Z letters
- Be able to print letters A-Z (backwards letters are still developmentally appropriate at this age!)
- Be able to print numbers 1-10 (backwards numbers are still developmentally appropriate at this age!)
- Be able to recognize and print their name
- Be able to group and categorize objects and pictures

- Be able to identify beginning and ending sounds
- Be introduced to sentence punctuation
- Develop a love for reading and writing through daily read-alouds and writing activities

Curriculum:

* Phonics: Jolly Phonics Program: we will learn 26 letter sounds. These will assist students in reading and writing short vowel words. We will practice these skills in small group and center work.

*Phonemic Awareness: Michael Heggerty "Phonemic Awareness Program Preschool Edition": This program practices oral manipulation of letters and sounds and helps with early literacy and pre reading skills.

*Handwriting without Tears: This helps them practice proper letter formation. Students will participate in hands-on center activities that will help strengthen their fine motor skills.

Math

Students will:

- Be able to recognize numbers 1-10 or beyond
- Be able to identify and compare 2D shapes
- Be able to count to 20 or higher
- Be able to show 1 to 1 correspondence when counting a group of objects
- Be able to sort objects according to different attributes
- Be able to create, continue and copy patterns
- Be able to interpret graphs

Science and Social Studies

Students will:

- Be curious about the world around them and will learn to explore through their senses. They will use tools such as magnets, magnifying glasses, tweezers, tongs, bug boxes and more to explore and make predictions and observations
- Participate in Science experiments and outdoor exploration

Specials: Students will attend Gym, Art, Spanish, and TLC each week.

Gym: The children will engage in fun and games using their gross motor skills. They attend Gym class two days a week, 40 minutes each.

Art: The children will learn about different artists and create work art in class.

Music: The children will sing and learn songs and poems in the classroom each day.

Spanish: The children will learn the sounds of the Spanish alphabet, colors, and numbers through songs and movement.

TLC: In the computer lab, the students will learn about technology and later in the year will learn mouse control, keyboarding, and play age-appropriate games.

Recess/Outdoor Playtime:

Full day students will have a 30-minute recess after lunch. In addition to this, students will participate in outdoor play in our playground area one additional time either in the morning or afternoon, depending on our daily schedule. Students are regularly involved in movement activities within the classroom throughout the day.