



AVE MARIA ACADEMY PRE-KINDERGARTEN 3 & 4 YEAR OLD PROGRAMS

Ave Maria Academy is unparalleled in early childhood academic and faith formation. We offer a truly joyful approach to Pre-Kindergarten for children ages 3 and 4, with half-day, full-day, 2, 3 and 5 day-a-week options. Our program is informative, structured, and hands on. That is how young children learn best — they learn by using their hands and their bodies and then transferring that knowledge and those skills onto paper.

LANGUAGE ARTS

We begin using our Saxon Phonics & Spelling program modified for the Pre-K student. The students work on listening, viewing, and speaking. We begin reading and writing strategies. This includes coloring skills, fine motor skills, identifying the alphabet, and sounds.

HISTORY

We begin with chronological thinking by understanding calendar time in days, weeks, and months. History unfolds through the stories of events, people, and places in the past. The students will develop an understanding of historical perspectives and beginner research skills.

GEOGRAPHY

The students will develop an understanding of the world in spatial terms, characteristics of places and regions, earth's physical systems, and the environment and society.

MATHEMATICS

The students are introduced to Saxon Math. Mathematical reasoning, numbers and number sense, measurement, patterns and data analysis are all studied. The Pre-K4 students begin kindergarten level math.

SCIENCE

Students will understand the fundamental concepts, principles, and interconnections of earth, life and physical science. Identifying the five senses, changes in the sky, observation, living vs. non-living things, energy, force, and motion are all introduced.

CATHOLIC FORMATION

Students experience a Catholic approach that stresses the dignity of each individual as a person made in the image of God. We emphasize two key truths of the faith: God and His creation. We learn that Jesus came for our salvation, to show us who we are and how we are to act. Jesus is our model. We help children understand our human tendency to sin, but that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we receive His grace. We also revere Mary Mother of God and learn how special she is to us as the Queen of Heaven.



AREAS COVERED ON OUR DAILY SCHEDULE

Arrivals / Choice Time / Small Group Work
Morning Meeting / Prayers / Pledge of Allegiance
Calendar / Weather / Math Meeting
Math Lesson / Math Activity
Specialists – Music / Spanish
Morning Snack
Language Arts / Reading / Letters
Art / Religion
Half Day Departures
Lunch / Recess / Nap
Afternoon Snack
Science / History / Geography
Choice Time / Small Group Work
Prayers / Departures

OUR MISSION

Rooted in the Catholic intellectual tradition, Ave Maria Academy forms young minds, hearts, and souls through a commitment to clear thinking, academic achievement, character formation, prayer, and service.

In an encouraging and safe environment transformed by faith, reason, and virtue, each child's unique and God-given talents are nurtured through mastery of a rigorous curriculum and active participation in the Catholic faith.





LITURGICAL YEAR

Students are introduced to Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. During Advent we focus on the preparation, anticipation, and hope for the birth of Jesus Christ. During the Christmas season we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and Epiphany. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. During Lent, we talk about penance and focus on charitable acts of kindness. We dedicate three days to remember Jesus during Holy Week. We discover the importance of the Lord's Supper, washing of the feet, and waiting for the resurrection of Jesus Christ. During Easter we are filled with joy knowing that Jesus resurrected and is now in heaven.



PRAYER

Prayer is incorporated throughout the day and reverence is stressed. Students understand that prayer is a special way that we talk to God. Students learn the Sign of the Cross and recite a morning and afternoon prayer. We also teach Grace before meals, the Glory Be, and the Hail Mary.

VIRTUES IN PRACTICE

Every month, students are introduced to a new virtue. We learn that when we practice virtue, it becomes a habit, bringing us closer to Jesus Christ. Families help their student practice the featured virtue throughout the month. Virtues include: faith, reverence, stewardship, generosity, honesty, mercy, justice, and zeal.



*Wonder is the desire
of knowledge.*

– St. Thomas Aquinas

SPANISH

Our Spanish class focuses on learning in a very dynamic style, creating an active learning environment with fun games, music, and oral activities, encouraging active participation from the children. The children are exposed to various Hispanic cultures. They will learn simple Spanish greetings, colors, numbers 1-12, shapes, days, and months. They will also learn to respond to basic commands.

MUSIC

At the pre-kindergarten level, students are introduced to the basic elements of music such as beat, rhythm, and pitch through vocal exploration applied in song, poetry, and games. Our music curriculum is based on the Kodaly method, which seeks to teach music to children in a system which mirrors their natural learning process; each new element or concept introduced is one that progresses naturally from an element or concept already learned and internalized.

ART

The students do a variety of art projects throughout the week. Some are process oriented and others are project/theme oriented.



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