

a typical day IN KINDERGARTEN



The kindergarten children begin their day by putting their belongings away in their cubbies, unpacking backpacks, and giving their take-home folders to their teacher. The children then participate in the morning prayer and Pledge of Allegiance. Circle time is next where the children learn about the calendar, discuss the daily weather, and review basic skills involving letters, numbers, and phonics concepts. The children also listen to a literature selection during circle time.

After circle time, the class spends time in the subject areas of language arts, math, social studies and science. The language art program is based on the series *SuperKids*. The program incorporates listening skills, fine-motor skills, auditory skills, visual memory and phonics concepts. The children participate in literature and author studies with literature response activities to follow.

The math program used at St. Sebastian Parish School is the *MyMath* series. This program combines hands-on activities in which each student has a set of manipulatives with workbook activities to reinforce and assess math skills. The students also participate in an online program called *Splash Math*. This program allows students to work at their own pace and provides a fun interface to help motivate students to master their basic math concepts. Both the language art series and math series have an on-line component and the classrooms' new interactive display boards are used daily to help reinforce the lessons.

Newer to the kindergarten classrooms is a science series called *Mystery Science*. This science program is video-based with open-and-go core and mini lessons, driven by questions from real students that help guide the exploration of the world around us and inspire curiosity with hands-on learning and engineering activities. *Mystery Science* makes science fun to learn.

After a busy morning, the kindergarten students have lunch in Zwisler Hall with the first, second and third graders and then enjoy recess on the playground. Quiet time takes place for a short period after recess and in the afternoon, the children participate in religion, social studies and other activities such as visiting the school's new Innovation Lab.

In all areas, subject matter is taught using both whole-group and small group settings with developmentally appropriate strategies.

Each week, the children participate in "special" classes including weekly lessons in the computer lab, music, library, physical education, art and Spanish.

The kindergarten children also enjoy many special activities and programs throughout the year. These include all-school assemblies, Masses, theatre productions, field trips and Sports Day.

Another enjoyable aspect of kindergarten is being paired with and spending time with an eighth-grade buddy. The kindergarten students and eighth graders spend time together, enjoy doing experiments in the science lab, and celebrate special occasions throughout the year.

