

Sharing the Love of the Heart of Christ!

St. Rocco School

A ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

What Your Child Learns



A Parent's Guide to the
*Prekindergarten 4-Year-Old
Curriculum*

CHRIST is the reason for this school.
~in our minds, on our lips, and always in our hearts~

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Prekindergarten 4-Year-Old Curriculum

At St. Rocco School, we promote a Catholic Education providing a rich spiritual, academic, and social development of each child. We do this through a stimulating environment and a broad based and balanced core standard curriculum with a comprehensive curriculum for each subject area in every grade level. Our curriculum continuously undergoes evaluation and updating.

Please note that these curriculum guides provide only an overview of what your child will be learning and that the actual written curriculum is much more comprehensive.

MISSION STATEMENT

Sharing the Love of the Heart of Christ is the foundation of the St. Rocco School Community.

We are dedicated to creating a safe environment that instills Catholic values and nourishes the development and growth of the whole person.

We are committed to excellence in academic standards that prepare students to reach their full potential and meet the global challenges of the world.

PHILOSOPHY

St. Rocco School is a Catholic elementary school within the Diocese of Providence, Rhode Island. The foundation of the philosophy of St. Rocco School is the person of Jesus Christ. Inspired by Him and sustained by the love of the Sacred Heart, we aim at providing quality education by assisting the child's spiritual, intellectual, physical, moral, and aesthetic development in order that each child acquire a sense of responsibility toward God, himself, and others. The purpose of the school is to expose the students to a Christian way of life based on the Gospels and the democratic principles of freedom, equality, and respect for the rights of the individual.

The educational climate of our school fosters these values by educating our students to search for truth and the development of their total personality by integrating their faith into every area of living. "This integrating of religious truths and values with life distinguishes the Catholic school from other schools..." ("To Teach as Jesus Did"). Our aim is to make clear the message of salvation to all students and to make our school a model of service in the community.

St. Rocco School is accredited by the New England Association for Schools and Colleges.

What Your Child Learns

PRE~KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

Christian Development Objectives

Goal: Students will become aware that God made and loves us. They will appreciate themselves as gifts of God. They will begin to examine what Catholics believe and how Catholics celebrate, live, and pray. As part of the Religion Program, the Circle of Grace Program will focus on issues to teach and guide our students to grow up in a safe environment within the context of Christian moral living.

Indicators of Mastery

The students will be able to:

- ♥ Recognize God's love for us through personal experiences within families.
- ♥ Have an appreciation of God's gift of family and friends.
- ♥ Believe that God created the world and everything in it.
- ♥ Identify Mary and Joseph as Jesus' human parents.
- ♥ Explore their faith through Old and New Testament Bible stories.
- ♥ Recognize God as a loving Father and that Jesus is His Son.
- ♥ Understand that the Church celebrates Religious and Holy Days especially Christmas and Easter.
- ♥ Recognize church as God's house and understand that they should be respectful of it.
- ♥ Understand that God wants us to take special care of the world He created for us.
- ♥ Begin to do service in their community (school, home, and neighborhood).
- ♥ Show our love of our family by helping at home.
- ♥ Learn that prayer is talking to God.
- ♥ Experience the joy in prayer.
- ♥ Realize that song and dance can be prayer.
- ♥ Demonstrate the Sign of the Cross.
- ♥ Recite prayers before/(after meals – starting after April vacation).
- ♥ Recite the Morning Offering and the Lord's Prayer

Physical Development Objectives

Goal: Students should develop a sense of how their body moves and how they can control it. They begin to understand the uses of eyes, ears, nose, mouth and fingers and they begin to become aware of healthy behavior.

Indicators of Mastery

The students will be able to:

- ♥ Participate in games.
- ♥ Use senses to explore materials.
- ♥ Begin to use health and safety practices.
- ♥ Demonstrate appropriate gross motor skills (walk, jump, run, etc.).
- ♥ Demonstrate increasing strength and stamina.
- ♥ Demonstrate body space awareness.
- ♥ Demonstrate ability to control speed and direction.
- ♥ Climb stairs with alternate feet.
- ♥ Demonstrate increasing strength and stamina to perform fine motor tasks.
- ♥ Have opportunities to play with small toys.
- ♥ Perform finger plays and movements.
- ♥ Manipulate small objects (scissors, pencil, etc.).
- ♥ Discriminate between a variety of smells, sounds, sights, textures and tastes.
- ♥ Combine and use different senses.
- ♥ Demonstrate safety awareness.
- ♥ Demonstrate ability to perform self-care skills.
- ♥ Show care for personal belongings.
- ♥ Begin to understand that some foods have nutritional value

Social/Emotional Objectives

Goal: Students demonstrate a strong and positive self-image, appropriate self-control, and growth in their awareness of their responsibilities when interacting with their peers, as well as adults.

Indicators of Mastery

The students will be able to:

- ♥ Work, play, and share with others.
- ♥ Show self confidence.
- ♥ Work independently.

- ♥ Use self control.
- ♥ Attempt to solve own problems.
- ♥ Express feelings and emotions appropriately.
- ♥ Follow classroom rules and directions.
- ♥ Listen attentively in a group setting.
- ♥ Clean up their work and play area.
- ♥ Take proper care of materials.
- ♥ Do their personal best.

English/Language Arts Objectives

Goal: Students develop skills in reading while exploring print in books and in the environment. Students develop skills in early writing to demonstrate an interest and ability to use symbols to represent words and ideas. Play will serve as a means to develop early reading and writing skills. Students will develop and exhibit the expressive and receptive language skills necessary for learning.

Indicators of Mastery

The students will be able to:

VISUAL RECOGNITION AND PRINT AWARENESS

- ♥ Recognize all capital and lower case letters in print to demonstrate alphabet knowledge.
- ♥ Differentiate capital and lower case letters from numbers.
- ♥ Recognize letters in own name.
- ♥ Understand conventions of print (book handling, left to right progression, and awareness of print).
- ♥ Recognize what a book is and what its many parts are. They will identify the cover, title, dedication page, story, back cover and binding by looking at and handling books.
- ♥ Identify some words in print and understand that print carries a message.
- ♥ Recognize some letters and words captured in books and in the environment.
- ♥ Recognize color words.
- ♥ Enjoy listening to stories.
- ♥ Explore and investigate books and other forms of print.
- ♥ Show an increasing ability to recognize individual words in sentences.
- ♥ Make up a story while looking at the pictures in a book.
- ♥ Experience print in a variety of settings (mail, recipes, shopping lists, family messages, etc.).

AUDITORY RECOGNITION

- ♥ Develop auditory skills.
- ♥ Show increasing ability to discriminate and identify the sounds of language.
- ♥ Begin to associate sounds with written words.

- ♥ Demonstrate growing awareness of the beginning sounds of words.
- ♥ Show growing ability to hear and discriminate separate syllables in words.
- ♥ Recognize and generate rhymes.

COMPREHENSION

- ♥ Connect information to familiar experiences when being read a story.
- ♥ Predict what will happen next.
- ♥ Demonstrate understanding of the meaning of a story.
- ♥ Retell a familiar story with prompts.
- ♥ Tell a story with beginning, middle, and end.
- ♥ Understand sequential order.
- ♥ Express personal ideas about stories and share prior knowledge of topic.

WRITING TECHNIQUES

- ♥ Demonstrate proper pencil grip.
- ♥ Experiment with a variety of writing tools and materials (pencil, pen, crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc.).
- ♥ Trace; color (somewhat within the lines); draw recognizable objects (not just scribbles).
- ♥ Print some capital and lowercase letters.
- ♥ Print first and last name using appropriate capital and lower case letters.
- ♥ Print some number formations.
- ♥ Students will dictate and illustrate their own simple stories.

DRAMATIC PLAY

- ♥ Use symbols and forms of early writing to create more complex play.
- ♥ Create play ideas that come from favorite stories (big books) poems and songs (finger play, puppets, and role playing).
- ♥ Differentiate between pretend and real stories by listening to stories and acting out a story.

Math Objectives

Goal: Students develop ways to solve problems and to think about math as they explore a variety of materials, mathematical instruments, and manipulatives.

Indicators of Mastery

The students will be able to:

- ♥ Sort simple objects.
- ♥ Recognize and recreate simple patterns.
- ♥ Identify shapes – circle, triangle, rectangle, and square.
- ♥ Reproduce shapes.

- ♥ Classify by color, shape, and size.
- ♥ Recognize smaller to larger and larger to smaller.
- ♥ Compare sets.
- ♥ Understand concepts greater than, less than, and equal to.
- ♥ Recognize numbers 1 – 20.
- ♥ Write numbers 1 – 10.
- ♥ Count by rote to 20.
- ♥ Create sets of given number.
- ♥ Estimate number of a given group.
- ♥ Classify like objects.
- ♥ Distinguish between like and different.
- ♥ Distinguish between letters and numbers.
- ♥ Identify parts of a calendar.
- ♥ Explain distance in terms of close and far.
- ♥ Recognize concept of time in regard to yesterday, today, and tomorrow.
- ♥ Be exposed to tools of measurement – clocks and rulers.
- ♥ Recognize parts of a whole when broken into halves, thirds, and quarters.

Social Studies Objectives

Goal: Students will gain and strengthen their understanding regarding family and community.

Indicators of Mastery

The students will be able to:

- ♥ Recognize that each family is unique.
- ♥ Identify immediate family members and extended family members.
- ♥ Realize that families are loving, caring, sharing, helpful, etc.
- ♥ Understand that each member has a purpose within the family.
- ♥ Learn that communities are families, schools, and businesses working together.
- ♥ Identify community workers.
- ♥ Appreciate differences in countries, cultures, and beliefs.

Science Objectives

Goal: Students will understand and use the Scientific Method of asking questions, observing, and recording their findings and discussing their conclusions. Students engage in play as a means to develop their scientific skills. Students learn about the development of the natural and physical world. Specific areas to be covered are:

- A) Earth -- Weather and its effects, The Four Seasons, Plant Life, and Space/Solar System
 - B) Life -- Health and Nutrition, Our Five Senses, Animals
 - C) Physical -- Explore cause and effect through scientific study and energy.
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Indicators of Mastery

The students will be able to:

- ♥ Ask questions based upon discoveries made while playing.
- ♥ Use play to discover, question, and understand the natural and physical world.
- ♥ Use scientific tools as props in their play.
- ♥ Collect, describe, and learn to record information through discussion, drawings and charts.
- ♥ Use tools and their senses to make observations, gather and record information, and make predictions about what might happen.
- ♥ Investigate changes in materials and cause-effect relationships.
- ♥ Ask and pursue their questions through simple investigations.
- ♥ Explore the natural processes of growing, changing, and adapting to the environment.
- ♥ Make simple observations, predictions, explanations, and generalizations based on real life experiences.
- ♥ Explore time, temperature, and cause-effect relationships based on everyday experiences.

Art/Music Objectives

Goal: Students will learn to enjoy and express themselves through a variety of art forms as they begin to appreciate the arts. Students begin to build a knowledge base in the arts. Students demonstrate an ability to participate in group activities that represent authentic experiences, ideas, knowledge, feelings, and fantasy.

Indicators of Mastery

The students will be able to:

- ♥ Experience exposure to art forms such as: sculpture, paintings, photography, and architecture.
- ♥ Begin to understand and develop an art vocabulary.
- ♥ Enjoy participating in art experiences.

- ♥ Appreciate and demonstrate respect for work of others.
- ♥ Select and use a variety of tools and art materials to express ideas.
- ♥ Work cooperatively to plan and create art projects.
- ♥ Use voices expressively as they speak, sing, and chant.
- ♥ Sing a variety of songs in a group or alone.
- ♥ Experiment with instruments and sound sources.
- ♥ Respond to music through movement.
- ♥ Participate freely in music activities.
- ♥ Use their vocabulary to tell how music feels.
- ♥ Become aware of music in everyday life.
- ♥ Gather props for dramatic play, use facial expressions to describe feelings, and use puppets to act out a story.
- ♥ Use scarves and streamers to move in different ways.
- ♥ Demonstrate ability to stay on task when involved in a project.

TECHNOLOGY

LIBRARY