

Kindergarten Curriculum

Overview - Our Kindergarten students will learn in a developmentally appropriate manner which means that they will participate in play-based learning in addition to participation in projects, classroom learning, textbook lessons, and adventure-based classes.

Theology - At Salve Regina Academy, the study of theology is infused in every subject throughout our day as students encounter stories of the Saints and biblical lessons in their study of Language Arts, and as they learn to view the world as God's creation in Science and Social Studies. By starting our day with our school-wide Theology Practicum, our students will learn to apply theology to their everyday life through time spent worshipping God in the Church at Mass, or engaging in various prayers or devotionals. We will also follow the *Spirit of Truth* curriculum from Sophia Institute. This program keeps students engaged through interactive lessons, sacred art reflections, games, and role-plays. It covers the breadth of the *Catechism* in a rich and age-appropriate way and is designed to connect with students of diverse backgrounds and differing familiarity with the Catholic Faith.

Language Arts - Our Kindergarten class will be using the *Superkids Reading Program* from Zaner-Bloser, which is a comprehensive ELA program that was crafted using evidence-based literacy practices. In the Word Work section of the program, students at the kindergarten level will learn the letters of the alphabet, one sound for each letter, and then apply their new skills to blend letter-sounds to read and write words and sentences. In the Reading portion, they will focus on developing strong blending, decoding, and fluency skills while building comprehension. Read-alouds build background knowledge and listening comprehension. Lastly, in the Writing lesson, students learn basic mechanics and aspects of the writing process. Instruction progresses from drawing to writing in each major text type.

Social Studies - Through engaging stories, students will learn about explorers like Christopher Columbus, missionaries, the building of our nation, the first Thanksgiving, and the Declaration of Independence. In addition, our students will start building off of their knowledge of their surroundings and experience how they fit into a family, a parish, a community, and ultimately the world.

Science - Our science curriculum for Kindergarten consists primarily of hands-on activities and experiments that will instill a lifelong love of science and will introduce our students to the many different facets of science. Students will also participate in gardening projects and will be exposed to native animals and plants, and local agriculture through adventure-based learning.

Mathematics – *HMH Into Math* was built from expert insights and real teacher feedback to deliver a student-centered, outcomes-driven approach to learning mathematics that supports deeper understanding of concepts along with true procedural fluency and application embedded throughout. These solutions were designed to foster a longstanding culture of learning that helps students to grow and continue growing year after year by allowing teachers to tailor lessons to the needs and learning styles of their students. At the core of this curriculum is the belief that growth at every level is possible, and its driving goal is to create fearless problem solvers.

STEM - There will be weekly STEM projects and/or lessons for students PreK-8 at Salve Regina Academy. By adopting the popular interdisciplinary approach to combining science, technology, engineering, and mathematics into age appropriate hands-on activities, students will improve their ability to think critically and to form solutions to problems.

Art – Our art program is designed to introduce our students to basic art techniques, and build off of the basics with creative exploration, various mediums, concepts, skills, knowledge, and aesthetic awareness. Students will develop a sense of Art history within the Catholic Church including an ability to value art created by different cultures.

Library - We have our very own library at Salve Regina Academy, which is filled with fun stories of the saints, treasured classics, and other books for every age. In addition, we will be using the Gorham Public Library in order to introduce our Kindergartners to the wonderful world of books. They will begin learning about the different types of books available, basic library etiquette, and how to locate books in a library. Our students will experience story time with a special focus on books with lessons about virtues and morals.

Music - Our music curriculum fosters a love of the arts by promoting creation of music, performance, individual response to music, and connecting in a personal way with music. Music will also be incorporated into our Theology lessons as children learn liturgical music and Gregorian chants as well as seasonal hymns and songs.

Physical Education - Our goal is to foster a life-long love of physical activity and to introduce our students to various ways to enjoy God's creation. At the Kindergarten level, we initiate this process by nurturing the development of gross motor skills and body awareness through games and activities that are easy and fun to play. In addition, our students will be participating in hikes and nature walks which will challenge their balance and endurance while exposing them to the beautiful trails that we have here in the White Mountains. Over the course of their time at Salve Regina Academy, students will be introduced to diverse age-appropriate outdoor activities such as snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, kayaking, swimming, ice skating, mountain biking, etc.

Service/Outreach – Learning to give of one's time, talent, and treasure and adopting a mentality of service are crucial lessons for children to learn at an early age. We are dedicated to helping our students learn to love serving others in various ways including offering physical assistance to those in need, raising money for those less fortunate, lending a hand to a classmate, giving back to our community, and by praying for intentions daily. As is stated in our Mission Statement, "Students, faculty, and staff of Salve Regina Academy strive together to know, love, and serve God as we commit ourselves to the study of the world around us, to the imitation of Jesus, and to all the teachings of the Catholic Church under the Queenship of Mary, our Mother.