

Pre-K Curriculum

Overview - At this age, we will be promoting learning through play. Young children learn best through play and so our curriculum for this age revolves around different forms of play including free play, pretend play, active play, and structured play.

Theology - At Salve Regina Academy, the study of theology is infused in every subject throughout our day. By starting our day with our school wide Theology Practicum, our students will learn to apply theology to their everyday life through time spent in the church either attending Mass or completing various prayers or devotionals. In addition, excerpts from the Bible, lives of the saints, and stories with moral instructions will play a big role in our Pre-K class. Our students will also be taught using Catholic ABC's which includes one lesson for each letter of the alphabet, with a corresponding craft, bible verse, visual aids, and a saint of the week!

Language Arts - In addition to being introduced to letters and letter sounds throughout the school day by various games, tasks, and daily routines, our students will also participate in a reading readiness program called *Happily, Ever After*. This program integrates all language arts skills, provides explicit instruction for every step of learning, incorporates multimodal instruction including physical activities, and aims to motivate children to love reading. It particularly focuses on the development of language and vocabulary, fine motor skills, direction following skills, and listening skills.

Social Studies - Through play and conversation, our Pre-Kindergarten students will be introduced to new concepts regarding their environment. They will gain a better understanding of their classroom, school, and church community as well as their family - both immediate and extended. In addition, through reading lives of the Saints and learning about the history of important Holy Days, our students will be exposed to different cultures and will begin to understand the concept of a bigger world.

Science - Our Pre-K students will be introduced to science topics through adventure-based and hands-on learning. Through participation in gardening including planting and harvesting, students will learn the basics of plant growth and identification. We will cultivate an interest in native animals and plant life by exploring area forests during various seasons and introducing students to the concepts of adaptation and hibernation. Students will also have the opportunity to learn about our local agriculture and interests including farming and maple sugaring.

Mathematics - Throughout the school year, students will be introduced to basic math concepts. By repetition of information, our students will gain confidence in the identification of colors and shapes, counting, recognizing numbers, understanding the calendar, sorting objects by various characteristics, and creating patterns. These lessons will take place throughout the routine of the school day so that students realize that math plays a prominent role in daily life. Students will also spend time in small groups which will allow them to progress at their own pace. Above all, lessons will be formed with the knowledge that multisensory activities spark greater interest and improve retention by engaging as many senses as possible.

Art - The focus of art during preschool is to allow creativity, teach students about the use of various mediums, and to promote fine motor skill development. Students will participate in coloring, painting, gluing, cutting, and assembling various works of art for their parents to enjoy!

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 including leveled readers. In addition, we will be using the Gorham Public Library in order to introduce our Preschoolers 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 - Music plays an enormous role in a child's education and assists with brain development, particularly with relation to language and reasoning. Music will be incorporated into our Theology lessons as children learn liturgical music as well as various songs that assist with memory retrieval. They will also participate in any school-wide concerts or theater productions that may take place throughout the year.

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 Pre-K 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. Whenever possible, we include our preschool class in our monthly Adventure PE which covers outdoor activities such as snowshoeing, kayaking, 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.