



Celebrating Academic Excellence

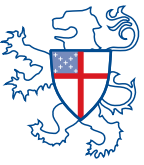


OUR MISSION



The mission of St. Mark's Episcopal School is to provide an academically enriched program in a nurturing Christian environment.





HISTORY

St. Mark's Episcopal School was founded in 1979 as a Christian outreach of the Church. The clergy and parishioners felt it was important to offer a preschool alternative emphasizing a loving and nurturing Christian environment. The School has grown steadily in accordance with the guidelines set forth by the National Association of Episcopal Schools and the Vestry of the Church.

The following programs and classroom spaces have been added:

- 1980 — Kindergarten
- 1982 — Lower School Grades
- 1995 — Middle School
- 2001 — Robb Field Sports Complex
- 2002 — Fine Arts Building



The School and Church are housed in several buildings on a five-acre site. In addition, there is a six-acre sports complex with multi-purpose fields, courts and pavilion.

A Christian school is a special place. It requires an understanding and a commitment to the purpose which is clearly stated in the School's statements of mission and philosophy. The Church's Vestry charges the School Advisory Board with the responsibility of establishing policy for the School which reflects these values and beliefs. These policies and beliefs are reinforced by the clergy, administration and faculty of the School and should also be supported by parents and students.

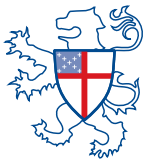
The Vestry represents the lay leadership of the Church, and together with the Rector, appoints individuals to serve on the School Advisory Board. The School Advisory Board consists of 14 members: Thirteen regular members and a Vestry representative, each of whom have a vote. Eight of the regular members are members of the Church, but the remaining five do not have to be members of the Church. The Rector of the Church is a voting ex-officio member and the Head of School is a non-voting ex-officio member.

PHILOSOPHY

St. Mark's Episcopal School is designed to provide a well-rounded educational environment that will help children develop and grow intellectually, emotionally, socially, physically and spiritually. We recognize that children are unique individuals with differing needs, talents, abilities and gifts that must be nurtured and developed. We strive to allow children to recognize their individual talents and abilities and to experience success in academic and social situations. We feel that children need opportunities for learning in group situations where they can experience the democratic process. We feel that close cooperation with parents is essential in helping children mature and develop good learning and social habits.

We also believe that God created humans to live in a community, and one of our goals at St. Mark's is to help develop and build a Christian community. Through Christian Education, we endeavor to help children become aware of being part of the body of Christ. We stress Christ's two great commandments — love of God and love of neighbor.

We strive to recognize and encourage self-motivation and self-discipline in children and to help students develop a positive self-image. One of our most important obligations is to provide opportunities for children to assume responsibility for their own actions and for their own learning processes and to come to an understanding of cause and effect in human relationships and academic performance.



OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a challenging curriculum and environment that will develop the academic interests and talents of every student and to prepare each student to assume major responsibility for his/her own learning.
2. To create a Christ-centered atmosphere where each individual is aware of being a child of God and, therefore, acts in a responsible and loving way toward all other members of the community.
3. To develop the student's understanding of the rights and responsibilities of a democracy and to provide citizenship experiences necessary to function in a free American society.
4. To encourage the student to use a wide range of learning resources.
5. To make the best possible use of each staff member's unique talents and interests.
6. To help each student develop a positive self-concept and to recognize and accept his/her potential and limitations.





VALUE OF ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

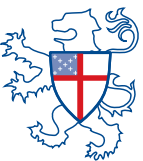
- A dedicated faculty that cares about children and learning
- Small class sizes that enable teachers to know their students' strengths and weaknesses
- A safe, nurturing environment
- A curriculum that provides academic challenge
- An extensive field-trip program that enhances the curriculum
- An enhanced after school program offering art, music, athletics, science and after school care
- A worshipping community where love of God and love of neighbor are valued and shared
- A community that encourages the development of a positive self-image
- A community where there is concern for the whole child
- A community where honesty, integrity, loyalty, courage, compassion, and justice are considered valuable concepts and are modeled and taught
- A community where students, parents and staff members enter into a partnership for learning

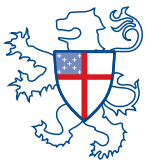
ACCREDITATION

St. Mark's is accredited by the Florida Council of Independent Schools and the Florida Kindergarten Council. St. Mark's is a member of the Episcopal Diocese of Southeast Florida and the National Association of Episcopal Schools.

SCHOOL STAFF

The teachers at St. Mark's, at a minimum, hold bachelor's degrees in education and must be certified by the State of Florida. Faculty members offer guidance and support to students and take a personal interest in the development of each student.





UNIFORMS

Students in all grades wear school uniforms that are available from a local vendor.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is the responsibility of the parents. Carpools are encouraged.

LUNCHES

Students bring their lunch each day or order special lunches offered through outside vendors.

PARENTAL PARTICIPATION

Parental involvement is essential to the creation of a quality educational environment. The School welcomes parents and encourages them to serve as volunteers and become active in the Parents' Association.

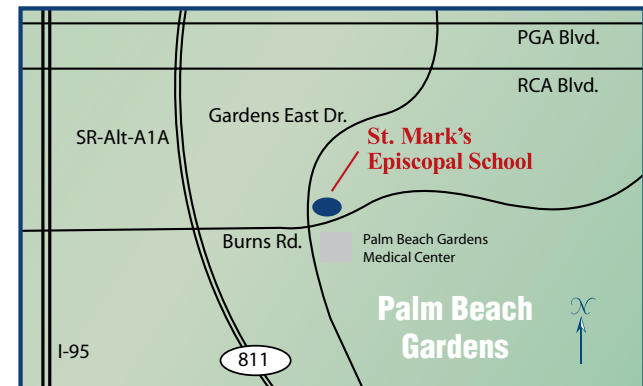
DISCIPLINE

St. Mark's School believes that God created humans to live in community. Students are taught to assume responsibility for their behavior and their own learning processes. Discipline, therefore, becomes an extremely important part of the school program. It is the training that develops self-control, character, orderliness and efficiency. It is the key to good conduct and proper consideration for others.

St. Mark's School stresses a positive approach to discipline. Expectations are carefully explained and recognition is given when students meet expectations and accept responsibilities. Logical consequences, such as time-out in the lower school and loss of privileges, occur when expectations are not met. Parents are expected to work with the school in carrying out recommendations made in the best interest of the student.



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Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410
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ADMISSION PROCEDURE/FINANCIAL AID

ADMISSION POLICY

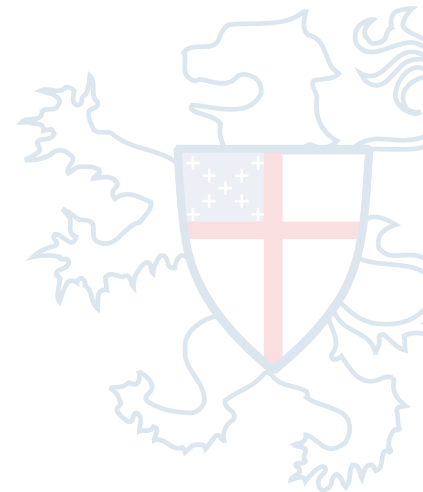
Admission is open to academically qualified students without regard to race, creed, gender or national origin. St. Mark's Episcopal School seeks students from all backgrounds who can contribute to and benefit from its PK3 through eighth grade enriched program. Students must meet the School's age, academic, and behavioral standards. To be eligible for PK3, a child must be three years old on or before September 1 of the enrollment year. All subsequent grades follow the September 1 age requirement.

ADMISSION GUIDELINES

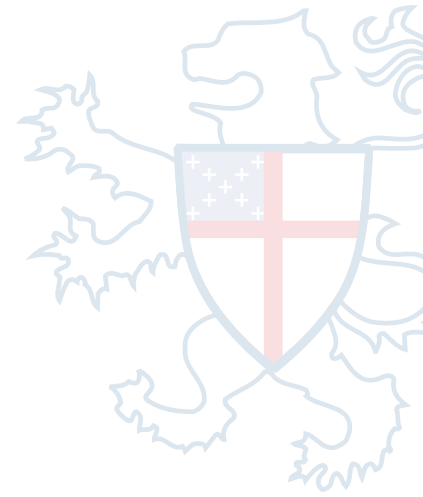
- APPLICATION – Applications are accepted throughout the year when accompanied by a non-refundable \$50.00 application fee.
- PRE-QUALIFY – Prior to testing, the following, if applicable, are required for preliminary qualification:
 - Current report card (entering grades 1 through 8)
 - Most recent standardized test scores (entering grades 1 through 8)
 - Teacher Referral Form – available from the Admission Office
- TEST – Testing, appropriate for the entry grade and year, begins in January. Testing fee-\$50.00
- ACCEPTANCE – The Admission Office, in conjunction with the Directors and Head of School, review the applicant's packet and make a recommendation regarding acceptance.
- WAIT POOL – All qualified applicants remain in a Wait Pool until an opening occurs for which they are qualified. Qualified applicants are considered in accordance with the best interest of the child and the School and offered admittance in the following order:
 - Siblings of currently enrolled students who register for the next year
 - Grandchildren of parents of current students and children of St. Mark's alumni
 - Former students who left in good standing
 - Children of active pledging parishioners of St. Mark's Episcopal Church
 - Children of active pledging parishioners of other Episcopal parishes
 - Children currently enrolled in other Episcopal schools
 - Children/grandchildren of St. Mark's School staff members
 - All others in application date order
- Applications will remain on file for two consecutive years unless otherwise requested by the parent.
- All inactive applications will remain in storage and are available for reactivation upon request by the parent.

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is available for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Applications may be completed online during the registration period. Financial aid grants are made on the basis of demonstrated need and are made within the limits of the School's financial aid budget. Need is determined and aid is awarded by the Financial Aid Committee, which includes the Rector, Head of School, Chair of the School Advisory Board, and the Business Manager. Aid is granted for one year only. A new application must be submitted for each year.



EXTENDED CARE & SUMMER CAMP



EXTENDED CARE

Extended Care programs are available for students in PK3 through eighth grade. These programs are intended to provide safe and convenient care beyond the regular school day. Morning Care is a supervised gathering with no programmed activities. The Afternoon Care program includes a time for homework, computer activities, games or craft activities. A snack is provided.

Each program is assessed a separate fee. Spaces are limited and availability is on a first-come, first-served basis. Students must register for these programs for the entire year.

MORNING CARE (Meet in the Media Center)

- 7:15 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.

AFTERNOON CARE (Two options that meet in the Media Center)

- 2:45 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- 2:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

CAMP ST. MARK'S

The School offers a summer day camp for children five and older. The camp program helps initiate and deepen relationships with friends through engaging enrichment experiences.



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Art

Art classes are offered after school to students in second through fifth grades. The classes cover a variety of mediums including three-dimensional paper projects, painting techniques, and paper collage. Students are encouraged to create lively designs and to mix media.

Art Van Go

After school art classes motivate kindergarten and first grade students to explore their potential as they learn about art while having fun.

Book Club

The students read stories from an anthology and meet weekly for a book talk to discuss the current selection. Book club is offered to students in third through fifth grades by grade level.

Chimes

St. Mark's Chime Ensemble is open to all students in third through fifth grades. The Chime Ensemble is a weekly, after-school, year-long commitment. Members perform at Eucharist several times during the school year and also present concerts with the Chorus in December and May.

Chorus

Students in third through fifth grades have the opportunity to become a member of the St. Mark's Chorus. This is a weekly, after-school, year-long commitment. Chorus members sing once a month at Eucharist and several times a year in the community. Members also present concerts in December and May with the Chime Ensemble.

Computer Club

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade may participate in Computer Club where they learn computer skills not covered in computer class.

Fun Chefs

Cooking classes are offered for students in second through fifth grades. Students learn culinary techniques and prepare a variety of recipes from around the world.

Intramural Sports

The after school intramural program provides students the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports throughout the school year. Soccer, flag football, and basketball are among the sports offered to students in third through fifth grades. Additional sports may be added.

Safety Patrol

The School's Safety Patrol program is for fifth grade students. Patrol duties include assisting students in and out of cars at arrival and dismissal. Patrol obligations include reporting for duty on time, performing duties faithfully, setting a good example, and obeying teachers and officers of the Safety Patrol. An end-of-the-year Safety Patrol activity is planned in recognition of the students' service to the School.

Science Club

High Touch-High Tech Science Company offers unique "hands-on" science enrichment activities that present science in a fun way. Experiments are conducted in a safe and exciting manner for students in second through fifth grades.

Swim Team

The St. Mark's Swim Team is composed of students in first through fifth grades. The students may participate in the fall (Sept.-Oct.) and spring (April-May) teams. All practices are held at the City of Palm Beach Gardens pool on Burns Road.

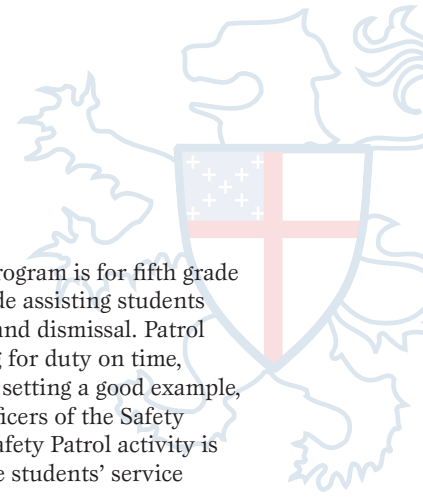
Tae Kwon Do

Classes are offered to students in kindergarten and first grade to improve balance, agility, flexibility and mental acuity while focusing on respect, discipline, and self-control inside and outside of class.

The Lion's Tale

The School newspaper, *The Lion's Tale*, published quarterly during the school year captures life at St. Mark's. Students in fifth through eighth grades interview, write, and take photographs for feature stories.

Additional programs may be added.



GRADES 6 - 8

Athletics

The middle school athletic program is comprehensive and focuses on meeting the needs and interest of students through scheduled physical education classes and an interscholastic sports program featuring eight different sports. The program emphasizes playing hard, playing fairly, developing one's own skill to the fullest, working for the good of the team, and maintaining Christian morals throughout competition. The school competes with other private schools in south Florida in the following sports:

September-October	November-December	January-February	March-April	April-May
Girls' Volleyball Boys' Flag Football	Girls' Basketball Boys' Soccer	Boys' Basketball Girls' Soccer	Lacrosse	Tennis Golf

Cheerleading is offered during boys' flag football and basketball seasons.

Extracurricular

St. Mark's is committed to providing a well-rounded educational experience which helps children develop and grow in mind, body and spirit. Therefore, a variety of extracurricular opportunities is offered to nurture and develop the interests and talents of each student.

- Art Club
- Acolyte (Eucharist service)
- Book Club
- Cheerleading
- Community Service
- Jazz Band
- Literary Club
- National Junior Honor Society
- *Paw Prints* (yearbook)
- Student Council
- School Dances
- TV Production Team
- *The Lion's Tale* (school newspaper)
- Vocal Ensemble
- Youth Group (Church)





MIDDLE SCHOOL, GRADES 6 - 8

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The St. Mark's Middle School program focuses on the traditional core subjects of English, mathematics, science, and social studies/history while offering additional enriching courses in foreign language, band, technology, physical education, and religious studies. The program provides each student with a comprehensive and challenging curriculum that reflects current research. The instructional process enables students to develop critical thinking skills and a love of learning through multi-sensory activities.

English

The English program encourages students at every grade level to develop their communication skills to the fullest extent possible through instruction in grammar, vocabulary, writing, and literature.

Grammar - The grammar component is comprehensive in scope, focusing on grammar, usage, mechanics, composition, and resources. Students learn to recognize all parts of speech through diagramming, reinforcement exercises, and writing activities. The application of grammar is integrated into the writing component of English and other subject area classes.

Vocabulary - The vocabulary component provides a format for vocabulary improvement and development of critical thinking skills through exercises reinforcing spelling, comprehension, and application of word usage.

Writing - In the writing component, students receive opportunities to practice descriptive, narrative, expository, persuasive, creative, research, and response to literature writing formats. A variety of original works in both prose and poetry are produced during English and writing wheel classes. An online writing assessment tool is used to provide immediate feedback and scoring on student essays.

Literature - The goal of the literature component is to produce successful readers who can decode all types of words, read with fluency and expression, have

well-developed vocabularies, and possess a variety of comprehension strategies. A variety of literature selections appropriate to the interests and experiences of the middle school student are explored through works of fiction and non-fiction in formats that include short stories, essays, plays, and poetry.

Mathematics

Through the math program, students are provided with a sequential set of course work to prepare them for a variety of high school entrance requirements. The knowledge and skills taught enable them to use math effectively in the future, both academically and in everyday life. Opportunities are provided for critical thinking and problem solving either in individual or group work. Hands-on activities, games, scientific and graphing calculators, and computer software enhance the program.

A diverse program providing many instructional levels has been designed to meet the requirements of all local private and public high schools.

The sixth grade course offerings are as follows:

- **Level 6 Mathematics** - This course includes working with whole numbers, integers, decimals, exponents, percentages, and fractions.
- **Pre-Algebra** - Students are introduced to algebra and geometry while solidifying arithmetic concepts, data analysis and probability.

The seventh grade course offerings are as follows:

- **Pre-Algebra**
- **Algebra I Honors** - This high school credit course provides a rigorous, in-depth study of algebra, emphasizing deductive reasoning skills as a foundation for more advanced mathematics courses. Proficient use of the graphing calculator is developed.

The eighth grade course offerings are as follows:

- **Algebra I and Algebra I Honors**
- **Geometry Honors** - In this high school credit course,

students study geometric relationships and deductive strategies used in solving real-world mathematical problems.

- **Algebra Prep** - The algebra prep program is designed to provide students with the foundation needed for the Algebra I course that will be taken in high school.

Science

The primary goal of the science curriculum is to help students become careful, open-minded observers, questioners, and interpreters of the world around them. The middle school curriculum focuses on earth science in sixth grade, life science in seventh, and physical science in eighth, and incorporates content from other subject areas. Students engage in hands-on activities and experiments in the science lab weekly to reinforce concepts taught in the classrooms. In addition, there are science related field trips at each grade level, and seventh and eighth grade students participate in the school's annual science fair and the Palm Beach County Science and Engineering Fair.

Social Studies/History

The social studies/history curriculum assists students in developing the knowledge, skills, and civic values needed to actively participate in the world today.

In order to achieve this goal, the sixth grade curriculum begins with the study of geography through various cultures around the world.

The seventh grade curriculum on world history takes a look at man's earliest ancestors and the beginnings of civilization. The study progresses through ancient civilizations to an overview of the twentieth century and problems that face mankind today.

The eighth grade curriculum focuses on the historical events that occurred in America during the period from the Age of Discovery to the twentieth century. Emphasis is placed on the cause and effect of major events that developed in America.

Foreign Language

Spanish/French – The sixth grade program stresses written and oral communication by reinforcing common vocabulary, grammar, and regular practice in conversational Spanish/French. The students are exposed to the customs and traditions of the different Latin cultures and they participate in group work, oral presentations, and research projects. The seventh grade course is a continuation of the sixth grade course. Students acquire a more advanced vocabulary and have more frequent opportunities to polish their communication skills. The **Spanish I** or **French I** course for eighth grade students offers high school credit and continues the development of communication skills and cross-cultural understanding. The focus is on reading, writing, listening, and speaking with reinforcement of the fundamentals of grammar and culture. The students will participate in a variety of cultural activities throughout the course of the year.

Band

Beginning Band for sixth grade students introduces wind, brass, and percussion instruments. The students learn the fundamentals of their instruments and group performance through classes three times each week, required at-home practice, and concert performances. Seventh grade students participate in **Symphonic Band** which exposes students to a variety of music literature and more advanced compositions based on a higher level of ability. The class meets three times a week and the students are required to complete a minimum of at-home practice hours and participate in one concert per semester. The challenging **Woodwind Ensemble** for eighth grade students matches the ability level of the student musicians to the curriculum. They practice, learn, and perform a variety of musical selections including classical, jazz, and modern compositions from many well-known composers. The class meets three times a week and

the students are required to complete a minimum of at-home practice hours and participate in one concert per semester. Seventh and eighth grade students may be eligible to represent the school by participating in the Florida Music Association Festival and solo/ensemble competitions.

Physical Education

Courses for each grade level offer instruction in a variety of sports and recreational activities that build skills and promote cooperative social interaction and teamwork. The class meets twice weekly and focuses on age-appropriate exercise.

Wheel Classes

In addition to the core classes, the middle school curriculum includes the following rotating semester or quarter wheel classes: advanced topics in mathematics, marine science, contemporary history and economics, and writing workshop. Classes in religious studies, computer (advanced Microsoft Office, web design, video production, and graphic design), art, and vocal ensemble are also part of the wheel classes.

Technology

The availability and effective use of technology at St. Mark's creates a challenging, supportive educational environment that promotes higher levels of achievement for students. Technology is integrated across the curriculum through the use of wireless laptop computers and the online research database, *EBSCO*.

Religious Studies

Religious studies courses in the middle school are a component of the wheel classes. The program consists of a semester of instruction in the following areas:

- Sixth grade—World Religions
- Seventh grade—Old Testament
- Eighth grade—New Testament

Chapel and Eucharist

Character education and Christian principles are the focus of the middle school chapel held each Tuesday. A school wide Eucharist service is held every Friday.

Field Trips

Field trips are scheduled throughout the year by the classroom teachers to enhance the curriculum of a particular grade level. Activities include visits to local government agencies, museums, art galleries, concerts, plays, and environmental areas. The cost of all trips is included in tuition.

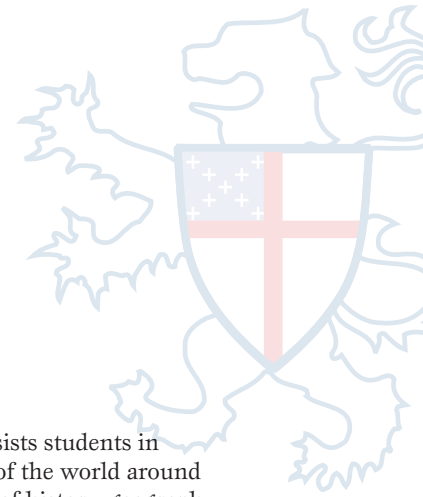
Class Trips

Middle school students participate in annual class trips that are enhancements to the social studies or science curriculums at each grade level:

- Sixth grade – Millennium Cultures program at Epcot in Orlando
- Seventh grade – Seacamp at Newfound Harbor Marine Institute in Big Pine Key
- Eighth grade – Washington, D.C.

Parents are advised of the cost of these trips in advance.





LOWER SCHOOL, GRADES K - 5

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The learning environment in the Lower School is designed to address the emotional, intellectual, physical, social, and spiritual needs of each child. The development of decision-making skills and social skills is fostered in an affirming atmosphere. Various grouping techniques and strategies are used to enhance learning. As students progress through the grades, they assume greater responsibility for independent work and for effective participation in cooperative group endeavors. Students receive classroom instruction in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. In addition, students receive instruction from special area teachers in art, Christian education, music, physical education, Spanish, computer lab, science lab, and library. The curriculum is further enhanced through relevant field trips, guest speakers, and participation in community cultural events and outreach programs. Students attend Chapel and Eucharist services each week.

Language Arts

The language arts program fosters the development of effective reading, writing, listening, speaking, and research skills. A traditional phonetic approach, supported by good literature is the core of the reading program. Students are instructed in reading comprehension skills, vocabulary development, sequencing, drawing conclusions, predicting outcomes, word analysis skills, and spelling. The language arts program encourages and cultivates appreciation and enthusiasm for literature and provides a variety of opportunities for oral and written expression. Students are taught to write through enjoyable structured activities with

emphasis on the use of appropriate grammar and effective writing process strategies. Students are exposed to a variety of different writing styles and genres. Book reports, individual and group projects, and library classes encourage independent reading and provide opportunities for students to practice skills. Students develop speaking skills by participating in poetry and verse recitations, and grade level programs. Author visits and computer software programs supplement the curriculum.

Mathematics

The math program helps students understand that math is useful and important in daily living. Math concepts taught include traditional arithmetic skills, computation, and problem solving. Concepts are introduced, revisited, and mastered through repeated exposure. Word problems, mental math problems, games, software programs, and the use of manipulative materials are key components of the math curriculum.

Science

The science program provides students with a solid foundation of knowledge about life, earth, physical, and health sciences. The program emphasizes scientific and critical thinking processes to help students become more effective problem solvers. Students participate in a weekly science lab that correlates with classroom instruction. Relevant field trips and guest speakers inspire students and help them understand concepts taught in the classroom.

Social Studies

The social studies program assists students in developing an understanding of the world around them through the exploration of history, geography, government, communities, and cultures of the world. Students integrate and share their knowledge through a variety of individual and group projects. Relevant field trips, guest speakers and participation in on-campus cultural events such as Colonial Day and International Day enhance the curriculum.

Art

The art program is designed to build a climate in which purposeful endeavors, search and inquiry, individuality, and creativity thrive. Students are exposed to various elements of art, mediums, and principles of design. The program is supplemented by relevant activities that include field trips and participation in community art events. Students receive formal art instruction once a week.

Christian Education

The Christian education program provides each student with a means to practice faith in daily living and builds a foundation for a lifelong spiritual relationship with God. Christian education classes, taught by the Chaplain, are provided at every grade level. Students participate in outreach programs throughout the year. The school community worships in the sanctuary for Chapel services on Wednesdays and Eucharist services on Fridays.

Music

The music program allows students to experience music on three levels: responding, perceiving, and producing music through voice and instruments. Students' talents are showcased through annual grade-level music programs and individual performances during Chapel and Eucharist services.

Physical Education

The physical education program focuses on developing motor skills and acquiring socially acceptable ways to interact with others in a physical activity. The development of specialized skills and strategies for team sports becomes the focal point of the program in upper elementary grades. All students, beginning with first grade, participate in the Presidential Physical Fitness program.

Spanish

The Spanish program incorporates methods and techniques that emulate first language acquisition, allowing students to learn Spanish in the same natural way they learn English. Students begin with basic vocabulary and progress in later grades to conversational Spanish and reading and writing skills.

Technology

In computer lab, students are introduced to basic computer skills and progress to proper keyboarding techniques, file management, word processing, and advanced research skills. Students are instructed in relevant Internet activities and various presentation software programs. In fourth and fifth grades, portable laptop computers are available for student use.

Resource Program

A resource teacher is on staff to provide additional skill reinforcement for students in lower school grades.

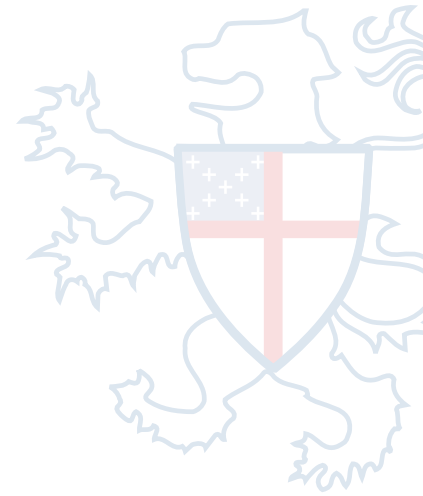
Field Trips

Field trips are scheduled throughout the year by the classroom teachers to enhance the curriculum of the particular grade level. Activities include visits to local governmental agencies, museums, art galleries, concerts, plays, wildlife refuges, and environmental areas. The cost of all trips is included in tuition.

Class Trips

The fourth and fifth grades have an opportunity to participate in annual class trips which are planned in conjunction with the curriculum for that grade level. The fourth grade travels by bus for a day trip to the Kennedy Space Center. Fifth grade students travel by bus to St. Augustine for a two-day stay. Parents are advised of the cost of these trips in advance.





PRE-KINDERGARTEN — PK3 AND PK4

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

PK3

The PK3 program is designed to allow children to develop their individual talents and abilities and to experience success in their academic and social situations. It focuses on the development of skills in motor, language, and concepts while building a foundation for effective social interaction and decision-making skills. Children work in both large and small groups and learn through teacher-directed activities and self-selected experiences. Interest centers are located throughout the classroom and allow the children to choose from a variety of learning materials. Themes incorporated into the curriculum provide unique opportunities for discovery and learning. Children attend special area classes throughout the week. These classes include physical education, library, and music. Chapel is held every week for PK3.

PK4

Language Arts

The language arts program is designed to develop beginning literacy skills and provide the basis for a solid reading and writing foundation. Rich language experiences include a student-created picture dictionary, individual and collaborative books, dramatic play, puppets, finger plays, rhymes, journals, and experience stories. Letter names and sounds are introduced and reinforced throughout the year. Book and print awareness are developed through a print-rich classroom environment and children are read to often from a variety of high quality literature.

Mathematics

Exploration of mathematical relationships and the development of thinking and reasoning skills are the principle goals of the PK4 math program. Math readiness skills are developed primarily through hands-on activities and the use of manipulative materials. Teacher-directed activities and self-selected experiences provide opportunities for children to develop skills in numeral identification, counting, shape identification, spatial relationships, sorting, patterning, graphing, and estimating.

Science

The PK4 science program is designed to build a foundation for developing curiosity about the world in which we live. Hands-on learning opportunities are provided through teacher-directed experiences, as well as through learning center activities. Themes such as life cycles, seasons, and weather are explored throughout the year and supported by relevant activities.

Spanish

Children in PK4 are introduced to basic Spanish vocabulary through age-appropriate activities, games, and songs in a weekly Spanish class.

Social Studies

The social studies program focuses on developing an awareness of self and others. Thematic units supported by the social studies curriculum include self-awareness, Native Americans, the farm, community helpers, transportation, and holidays. Special events that allow children to engage in interactive learning through relevant experiences include the Native American Powwow, Thanksgiving Feast, Donuts With Daddy, and the Mother's Day Tea.

Music

Music and movement are integrated with other curriculum areas in the classroom. Musical games and rhythm instruments enhance learning and contribute to the children's musical enjoyment. PK4 children attend music class once a week.

Art

Art is used to support other areas of the curriculum while providing a variety of creative experiences. Children are exposed to many tools and materials. Teacher-planned, as well as self-selected activities, invite children to express themselves creatively while developing essential motor skills.

Physical Education

Physical education classes three times a week and daily playground time provide opportunities for children to develop gross motor skills through planned activities and free play.

Christian Education

The Christian education program encourages appreciation for God's gifts as well as the development of a positive self-image and appropriate social skills. PK4 children attend a weekly chapel service led by the Chaplain.

Technology

Children are introduced to basic computer skills in a weekly computer lab class. Software focusing on prereading and premath activities allows children to practice skills introduced in the classroom.