



Primary Education Program

The Beginning Development of God's Masterpieces

Our Early Childhood education program spans from Pre-K 3 through Kindergarten. Through disciplined learning and active, social and fun activities, students remain engaged and begin a lifelong love of learning. Our goal for every child is to value himself or herself as one of God's masterpieces. We help the students to learn the basics of our Catholic faith while developing strong social skills that will guide them throughout their school career. Our teachers create a nurturing environment that develops a sense of trust and security among the students while setting the academic foundation for learning. All of our primary education teachers are state certified and are assigned a full-time assistant. Since parents are the most important teachers in the lives of our students, we work closely with them to support at home the lessons and values students learn in school.

KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten begins at age five (birthday by September 1 of the current school year). Our curriculum is a standards-based approach to literacy and language development. Thematic units integrate social studies, science, math, health, safety, movement, nutrition, cooking, music and art.

VPK-4

VPK-4 is a pre-kindergarten program for four-year-olds based on the *Houghton-Mifflin* curriculum which is an age-appropriate, standards-based approach to literacy and language development. The program has a strong mathematics component and integrates social studies, science, health, safety, movement, music, and art into the themes taught. There is a further component in which children learn social skills and develop a strong Catholic faith life. As the children grow, we offer a wider variety of experiences, skills, and knowledge so students become more independent in all aspects of daily life, both at home and in school.

PRE-K 3 PROGRAM

Pre-K 3 prepares students for pre-kindergarten and begins the early learning process. Our curriculum uses *The Letter People* preschool curriculum organized around themes that integrate knowledge across subject areas. Each child engages in explorative play and begins to make sense of what is being experienced. The *Letter People* focuses on oral language, phonological and phonemic awareness, print awareness and alphabetic knowledge. The program content reaches across all subject areas, including mathematics, science, health and safety, art, music and development of large and small motor skills. Major emphasis is placed on personal growth, interpersonal relations, and conflict resolution – all aspects of social/emotional development. We also use *Stories of God's Love* to help our young children take their first steps on their faith journey. *Stories of God's Love* teaches children appropriate Scripture stories that tell them of God's love and connects these stories to the children's lives.

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Fast Facts about our Early Childhood Program

All of our Early Childhood programs offer faith-based academics and span the 180-day school year. Students are required to wear approved school uniforms at all grade levels.

KINDERGARTEN - For children who are 5 years old by September 1, 2016.

- Class average size of 18 students
- School hours are 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

VOLUNTARY PRE-K 4 (VPK) - For children who are 4 years old by September 1, 2016.

- Maximum 20 students per class
- Full-day Pre-K 4 (VPK) class (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)
- Half-day Pre-K 4 (VPK) class (8:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon)

IMPORTANT VPK INFORMATION

Parents who would like to register their child for VPK must call the Early Learning Coalition office located at 2675 Winkler Ave., Suite 300, Fort Myers, FL 33901, 239-935-6100. The office days and hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Bring proof of your child's age and proof of residency to the 4C office. Proof of age includes eligible child's birth certificate, signed immunization records, or passport. Proof of residency includes parent's driver's license (showing current address) or utility bill. (Florida's VPK program pays about half of the school's tuition for eligible students.)

PRE-K3 – For children who are 3 years old by September 1, 2016.

- Class average size of 18 students
- Children must be potty-trained
- Full day – 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM
- Half-day – 8:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

