

# St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School

## PRESCHOOL PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Deciding which early childhood program is the best fit for your family can be challenging. Creating a list of the types of things you hope your child will learn and experience during their time at school is a good place to start.



### Do you want your child to:

- Grow in faith?
- Develop strong social skills and relationships?
- Gain confidence in their abilities?
- Try new and challenging things?
- Eagerly explore the world?
- Demonstrate curiosity, creativity, and imagination?
- Improve their communication skills?
- Master foundational academic concepts?
- Establish positive habits?
- Have fun and enjoy school?
- Feel a sense of belonging?
- Know that they are cared for and valued?

When you start thinking about what you envision for your child, and focus on the elements that are most important to you, it can make the process easier.

Here are some of the ways we strive for excellence in the Preschool Program at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic School.

### Our People

- ❖ Our teachers are highly qualified with a combination of college degrees, Early Childhood Credentials, and extensive experience with preschool-aged children.
- ❖ Our teachers and assistants participate in ongoing professional development.
- ❖ Teachers promote positive relationships with children; they are responsive and nurturing.
- ❖ Open communication exists between teachers, parents, and school administrators; information is exchanged about children's development and learning.



*We pray. We learn. We care.*

## Our Classrooms

- ❖ Our classroom environments are creative, inviting and stimulating.
- ❖ Our rooms are well-equipped with sufficient materials that are organized and accessible to children.
- ❖ Our environments are adapted to the needs of children and set up for a wide range of activities that support learning.
- ❖ The building and the classroom are safe and secure; a system is in place for supervision at all times.

## Our Learning

- ❖ Our curriculum fosters all areas of a child's development – spiritual, cognitive, emotional, language, physical and social – and is aligned with Diocese of Raleigh Curriculum Standards for Early Childhood.
- ❖ We use effective teaching approaches that are developmentally, culturally and linguistically appropriate for the young children we serve.
- ❖ The children are engaged in activities including arts and crafts, music, movement, alphabet and number activities, science and sensory activities, dramatic play, block play, writing activities, and manipulative toys.
- ❖ The daily schedule allows for small and large group learning, structured and independent activities, fine motor and large muscle play and quiet time.
- ❖ Children have access to enrichment programs such as Spanish, music, PE and art.
- ❖ Ongoing assessment of children's progress is provided.

## Our Community

- ❖ Classroom communities are developed where children gain confidence and self-esteem and are given supportive approaches to problem-solving.
- ❖ The preschool program is part of an established setting for learning, and an integral part of the elementary school. There is a plan in place for the transition into kindergarten.
- ❖ The school community is family oriented and encourages parents to be involved.
- ❖ Collaborative relationships with parents are established and maintained.
- ❖ Students are welcomed into a community of faith and begin learning about positive virtues and caring for others.
- ❖ Children engage with teachers and each other; they are confident, happy and comfortable.
- ❖ The school builds relationships with neighborhood organizations and connects families with community agencies and resources.



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