

Mission Statement

St. Rose of Lima School exists to bring the Good News of the Gospel to the people of St. Rose of Lima Parish and its neighboring communities.

By imitating Jesus and making choices consistent with our Catholic faith and teachings, the total school community strives to welcome the daily challenges and responsibilities of life as opportunities for growth.

In this environment, children are guided to develop intellectually, spiritually, socially, morally, and physically into the unique images of God they are created to be.

Programs and policies of the school are built on love and respect for life, personal growth, openness to innovation, and family involvement.

TIME SCHEDULE	Begin - 8:00 A.M. Lunch and Recess – 11:00-12:00 Noon Dismissal - 2:50 P.M.
DAILY PROGRAM	Religion, Mathematics Readiness, Social Studies, Science, Kid-writing, Reading Readiness/Language Experience
WEEKLY SPECIALS	Music, Art, Physical Education, Library, Computer (starting in mid-September)
RECREATION	Free Play - Recess
DRESS	Wear appropriate clothing for a school atmosphere. School uniforms are not required at this level.
FIELD TRIPS	Local Educational Trips
CLASS NEWSLETTER	Published monthly to make you aware of what is being accomplished.
PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCE	December and March or upon request by teacher or parent.
PROGRESS REPORTS	December, March and May
TRANSPORTATION	School districts transport both ways with the Exception of York City
GRADUATION	May/June
FEES	Milk Fee – Determined in June due to market conditions.

GOAL

Our goal is to help children become independent, self confident, inquisitive learners. Since children learn as they explore, observe, and interact with each other, our learning environment is one that encourages active participation on the part of each child. We strive to nurture their faith development by demonstrating good faith practices and Christ-like attitudes, which will make a difference throughout their lives.

SCREENING PROCESS

A Screening Program is conducted in May/June prior to entrance into Kindergarten for appropriate class placement.

Basic skills evaluated in the Screening include:

- Personal Data Response
- Color Recognition
- Picture Vocabulary
- Visual Discrimination
- Visual Motor Skills
- Gross Motor Skills
- Rote Counting
- Identification of Body Parts
- Follows Verbal Directions
- Numeral Comprehension
- Prints Personal Data
- Syntax and Fluency

Parents will receive an evaluation report by mail.

KINDERGARTEN CURRICULUM

RELIGION

Children are taught to begin their own journey to God by observing the beauty, wonder, and joy-giving elements of their lives. They are shown how all these things are gifts from a loving God.

From this fundamental realization, the children are introduced to the ways God communicates love: through Jesus, God's Son; through the senses; and through the Christian community.

In summary, our program, nurtures the children in an atmosphere of love that points them toward God, so that they will be more ready to live, pray, and celebrate with God's Family.

LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

ALPHA TIME is a multimedia, multisensory beginning language arts program. It affords each child a variety of oral language and literature experiences necessary to meaningful comprehension of the written word. No entry skills are presumed. All activities and games are based on classroom activities in which children will actively participate.

ALPHA TIME also takes into account individual differences and levels of performance. A student's participation in classroom activities helps a child achieve a positive self-image, relate to other children, and verbalize ideas and feelings. Such oral communication is a prerequisite to learning to read.

The activities and experiences in ALPHA TIME help children acquire a variety of skills and concepts as well as the appropriate vocabulary with which to talk about their experiences. The components are designed to familiarize children with stories, poems, music, and art, and to stimulate their interest in written symbols, picture storybooks, filmstrips, and other audiovisual materials.

The Huggable Letter People are the agents through which the children participate actively and totally in group living, creating, discovering, exploring, and dramatizing. They are the medium for recognizing the letters of the alphabet and the sounds they make in words.

The Let's Read" component is a graduated series of 35 books, with the Letter People as the main characters. Through the books they are introduced to high frequency and decodable words.

The Huggable and other ALPHA TIME components bring with them language experiences and skills, which include:

1. Visual/oral/auditory discrimination of alphabet letters, colors, shapes, and sounds.
2. Handling books properly (e.g., holding book right side up; turning pages one at a time; following a left-to-right progression in looking at pages).
3. Practicing comprehension skills on an oral level (e.g., Use of storybooks, flat pictures, picture books, and casset tapes) to develop the following:
 - Main idea (what story is all about in few words)
 - Details (noting specific information)
 - Sequence (ability to retell a story in its proper order)
 - Inference (using story clues to gain information not stated directly)

- Classification (noting things which are related or in the same category)
- Interpreting and identifying emotions

4. Developing vocabulary in informal activities (songs, conversation, discussion, creative dramatics, storytelling) and recognizing parts of speech (e.g., antonyms, synonyms, verbs, compound words, prefixes, and adjectives).
5. Developing Spelling as young children listen and internalize the sound around them, they begin their first attempts to make words. During their “kid-writing”, children will use “phonemic” spelling. These represent their best attempt based on the letter sounds they know. The natural progression is to represent a word with only a beginning letter, then to include ending sounds, followed by medial vowels.
6. Listening to and following directions.
7. Social living (recognizing and respecting individual differences and gaining insights and understanding of a variety of personalities - both their own and others).
8. Dramatization (role-playing, puppetry, finger plays, pantomime).
9. Music and rhythms (appreciation and participation).

MATH

This program is designed to teach children the basic skills and understanding they will need in order to fare well in elementary school mathematics. These basic skills and understanding are:

- .Ability to count intelligently in a variety of concrete situations, with a solid understanding of what one is doing.
- .Ability to sort, classify, compare and order.
- .Ability to understand and create simple and complex patterns.
- .Ability to identify and compare shapes.
- .Ability to choose and form shapes to fit a pattern puzzle.
- .Introduction and sequencing of time to the hour.
- .Skill in simple measurement and estimation, using counting units.
- .Ability to recognize numerals and to write legibly the numerals 0 through 20.
- .Introduction of addition and subtraction with sums and minuends through 6.
- .Introduction of place value to the tens place.
- .Identify and demonstrate the monetary values of penny, nickel, and dime.

These skills are taught through lively and enjoyable activities, with a balance between concrete "hands on" activities and more verbal, reflective activities. Throughout, there is an emphasis on thinking and on problem solving.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The social studies program concentrates on building children's self-identity through frequent demonstrations. Students increase their awareness of people around the world. We also incorporate "The Second Steps" Program (a social skills program).

SCIENCE

Children are introduced to the simple science concepts of observing, classifying and identifying. Children will discover and increase knowledge of their five senses, plants and animals, earth and space, and drugs and alcohol. We also use a program called "Too Good for Drugs". This encourages children to live healthy "drug-free" lives.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education and movement are an integral part of young children's growth. Children should progress at their own rates in developing physical skills, enjoying physical activity, improving physical fitness, learning to move body parts, and developing a positive self-concept. Wearing apparel for class - play clothes and sneakers.

MUSIC

Music provides experience in singing, playing musical instruments, listening to recordings, and responding creatively to music through bodily movements.

ART

Art is another channel for creative expression as children paint, draw, print, and construct materials as well as engage in other art related activities. Children are often more interested in the process than the result. They use color, line, and form to communicate ideas and feelings.

LIBRARY

Children's literature at story time. Selection of books from both class and school libraries. Literature stories to accompany themes.

COMPUTER

Computer education consists of learning the keyboard and using the computer as a creative tool. Each child has direct instruction in the computer lab once a week and multiple opportunities to work independently at classroom computers to improve academic skills (starting mid-September).

VOLUNTEERS

Parents are afforded the opportunity to help in the Kindergarten/5 program. If you'd like to assist in the classroom please pick-up a "Child Abuse Clearance Form" at the school office. This form must be on file for all volunteers in the school.

Revised January 2008