

Preschool Program:

This class is designed for students who will be 3 years old by September 1 and are able to use the bathroom independently. This program will focus on socialization skills as well as academic readiness skills such as shapes, colors, counting, sorting, and concepts of print.

Class Offered: Mondays/Tuesdays or Wednesdays/Thursdays

Pre-Kindergarten Program:

This class is designed for students who will be 4 years old by September 1 and are able to independently use the bathroom. The program will focus on socialization and development of skills needed for kindergarten including beginning phonics skills, addition, and independence.

Classes Offered: Monday-Friday Half days

Young Five's Program:

Young Five's is designed to give your child the extra gift of time. Students who need additional time with academics or socialization before entering full-day kindergarten can benefit from our Young Five's program. This program will focus on socialization and kindergarten preparedness skills such as beginning phonics skills, math concepts, reading, and independence. Students must be 5 by March 1.

Classes Offered: Tuesday-Friday Full days

Childcare Connection

Our childcare staff lovingly plans activities for the students following the same curriculum goals as our early-childhood teachers, ensuring a continuous program for extended-stay students.

St. Michael Lutheran Preschool Program

"Education with Christ at the Heart!"



7211 Oakland Drive
Portage, MI 49024
269-327-4889

*A Ministry of St. Michael
Lutheran Church*

School Readiness

St. Michael Lutheran Preschool is taught by qualified teachers and assistants. Our preschool programs use thematic units to help children achieve skills that will prepare them for school including following directions, sitting and listening, cutting, tracing, sequencing and playing with others, as well as letters, shapes, colors, numbers etc. Students learn to recognize numbers, shapes and colors through music, poems and cooperative learning projects.

Religion

Throughout the day our faith is incorporated into all subject areas as well as actions displayed by teachers. We expose students to a variety of Bible stories which discuss practical application and Biblical truths. Songs and prayers are used to reinforce the Bible lessons.

Fine Motor Skills

Students build fine motor skills while beading, cutting, gluing, painting, coloring, buttoning, zipping and molding. Students in preschool classes will practice writing their names and numbers as well as all letters of the alphabet.

Language

Throughout the class teachers interact with students to help them expand their language skills. The daily structure is designed to encourage the use of language amongst peers.

Literacy

Literacy opportunities surround our early-childhood students. The library center is kept well stocked. Simple signs are on the walls and students quickly master name recognition as they find their name and practice writing their name every day. Students in the 3's and 4's program learn to recognize letters and sounds and in TK they begin blending simple words.

Art

We love to make messes (and learn how to clean them up)! The focus of art projects is on the *process* not the *product*.

Mathematics

Our students are exposed to a wide variety of math skills. This includes work in sorting and classifying as well as measuring. We also do addition and subtraction, as well as graphing. We count the days of the month and the number of friends in school each day.

Science

Science concepts are an important part of our center time. Our sensory tables are kept full of items to activate the mind of budding scientists and include activities such as sinking/floating, melting, digging in dirt, measuring, molding and much, much more!

Music

Music is an important part of our learning environment. Singing may be used to reinforce Biblical themes, for celebrations or to master a specific concept. Background music might help us monitor our volume, and sometimes we use music just to be silly! Additionally, all of our early-childhood classes have the opportunity to attend music class where they are introduced to basic choral concepts such as singing and rhythm. Our 4's and 5's program participates in music class once a week that is taught by our St. Michael

Lutheran School music teacher.

Gross Motor

Young students love to move! We do some type of gross motor activity everyday. We may go outside or to the gym or just hang out in the room and move to music.

Socialization

Socialization is threaded throughout our day's activities. Students are continually exposed to activities that encourage cooperative play.

Objectives for Development and Learning

Social-Emotional

- Can control own emotions and behaviors in different situations
- Creates and sustains positive relationships with others
- Participates cooperatively and constructively in group situations
- Gains independence

Physical

- Demonstrates traveling skills
- Demonstrates balancing skills
- Demonstrates fine-motor strength and coordination

Language

- Listens to and understands increasingly complex language -directions
- Uses language to express thoughts and needs
- Uses appropriate conversational and other communication skills

Literacy

- Demonstrates phonological awareness
- Demonstrates knowledge of alphabet
- Demonstrates knowledge of print and its uses (recognizing own name)
- Comprehends and responds to books and other texts
- Demonstrates emergent writing skills (writing own name)

Mathematics

- Uses number concepts and operations (adding, subtracting)
- Explores and describes spatial relationships and shapes
- Compares and measures
- Demonstrates knowledge of patterns

Science and Technology

- Uses scientific inquiry skills
- Demonstrates knowledge of the characteristics of living things
- Knowledge of physical properties of objects and materials
- Knowledge of Earth's environment
- Uses tools and other technology to perform tasks (computers, balance scale, etc)

Social Studies

- Demonstrates knowledge of self
- Shows basic understanding of people and how they live
- Explores change related to familiar people or places
- Demonstrates simple geographic knowledge

The Arts

- Explores musical concepts and expression
- Explores drama through actions and language
- Explores dance and movement concepts