



# The Evangelist

**ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL**  
TO LIVE LEARN AND LOVE AS JESUS TAUGHT



Mrs. Kreis and Mrs. Giegerich strive to ensure kindergarten students are "well-rounded" individuals. While math and reading are very important, they also want students to have great manners, treat others with kindness, be problem solvers, and have a variety of educational skills as they move into the "big" building for first grade. Kindergarteners love having the opportunity to experience specials classes, such as music, gym, library, computer science, and Spanish.

## How do you teach students to make choices for themselves?

We always give our students the opportunity to explore activities that may interest them the most. For example, some days we put out center activities where they are encouraged to complete a game or activity at each table. The students are given the freedom to go to each table independently and accomplish each task. We always try to give them these opportunities to make choices and we find it's important to praise them for a job well done. This is also the time to help them make those choices when they don't know what to do.



## What kinds of hands on learning do you utilize in kindergarten?

We use manipulative for hands-on learning in the following subject areas:  
**Reading:** picture cards, leveled readers, iPads, Instant Learning Centers games, sight word cards, white boards, and games/activities on the Smart Board. **Math:** Smart Board, Instant Learning Center games, games that correlate with and through our math curriculum, iPads, puzzles, board games, cubes.

## How do you prepare students for first grade?

Our goal is to have all of our students at an average to above average reading level by the end of kindergarten. We perform weekly assessments to help students achieve this goal. Each week we prepare developmentally appropriate lessons for the skills that will be covered. We often collaborate with the first grade teachers during the year to ensure we are meeting the goals each child needs to make a smooth transition into next year. If a student is struggling, we always make sure that student is getting the help they need by communicating with parents. We have taken time to work one-on-one with those students and collaborate with our resource teacher and principal to make sure they are getting the assistance they need. Eventually, opportunities are given in class for that child to work independently so they feel a sense of confidence as the move into first grade.

## What are your favorite things about teaching kindergarten?

The kids!!!! We love their curiosity and love for learning. It's never a dull moment. Seeing them change from the beginning of the year to the end of May is such a joy and a sense of accomplishment. We just can't get enough!

# PRESCHOOL

Preschool is always buzzing with learning activities. Marytherese Polak and Melissa Schmidt teach the 3 & 4 year old preschool programs.



**What types of hands-on learning do you utilize in preschool?** Students engage in daily center work, which is designed to help them learn to work collaboratively in small group settings. This gives the preschoolers opportunities to practice specific academic skills, while also learning social skills, self-regulation, and time management. Examples of center activities include sound matching games, counting and sorting, number matchups using manipulatives, bingo games focusing on the alphabet, numbers, colors, and shapes, plus marble runs, gears, jumbo pegs, play-dough, etc.

**We really enjoy creating interactive, hands-on activities for the preschoolers.** Some of our favorite lessons include using puppets to teach various skills, learning about life cycles

through raising butterflies, gardening, etc.

**Preschoolers develop a sense of responsibility and a number of social-emotional skills that help to prepare them for kindergarten and beyond.**

Students are taught to clean up after play time, snack time, and all activities. As their language skills continue to develop, they become more comfortable and confident in verbalizing their needs. They learn when it is their turn to speak and when to listen and follow directions. They have many opportunities to interact with peers through activities and play which helps them learn how to appropriately express their feelings in a positive way, as well as learn how to share. The staff also reinforces ways to help students become more independent, including how to



pack and unpack their belongings every day.

**SJE's preschool teachers and aides help prepare students for a successful transition to kindergarten.** Throughout the year, students work on the lower/uppercase alphabet, number recognition, and writing their names independently.



**A typical day at preschool spans a number of activities that provide students with independent playtime, structured activities and hands on learning.** Students learn through engaging in table activities, prayer, show and tell, songs, story time, centers, free-choice time, group time, outdoor play, wow words, religion lessons, and a multitude of other age appropriate activities.

KINDERGARTEN

ATYPICAL DAY

As students arrive we put our coats and backpacks away and work on a quiet activity

**Prayer, Pledge & Attendance**

**Morning Work**

Students work on a worksheet relating to a skill we are working on. The teacher and aide also use this time to practice sight words or check homework with individual students.

8:00am

**Calendar**

We sit together on the carpet and identify days, months, year, seasons, patterns and estimations.

**Math**

Our math lesson is based on Savaas curriculum. It is interactive as we watch videos, discuss the lesson, and work on problems together on a Promethean board and worksheet. Answers are checked by the teacher or aide as they look over each student's work.

9:00

**READING/PHONICS/HANDWRITING**

As a class we build words together, sequence stories, identify sight words, nouns, verbs and syllables, blend phonemes, practice rhyming, form letters with manuscript and practice punctuation

10:00

**LUNCH/RECESS**

Students have the option of ordering a hot lunch or bringing one. They eat at their tables and go outside for recess on the playground. Students have outdoor recess as long as it isn't raining and is above 20°F.

11:00

**SPECIALS**

Kindergarteners have one to two specials every day. Specials include Spanish, Gym, Library, Music and Computer Science. Students leave our classroom and attend the special in the specials classroom.

12:00

**RELIGION**

Students practice prayers and learn proper Mass behavior by attending all school Mass with their 8th grade buddies on Wednesdays. We read short stories from the Bible, learn about Saints, Advent, Easter and Lent. We teach God's love for all and how to show it to others.

1:00pm

**SCIENCE**

Our science curriculum is HMH Dimension. Students learn about plants, animals, seasons, weather, our five senses and much more through videos, worksheets and tactile learning.

**SNACK**

Students have fifteen minutes for a brain break and snack that they bring from home before we finish up the day.

2:00

**CLEAN UP AND PACK FOLDERS AND BACKPACKS**

3:00

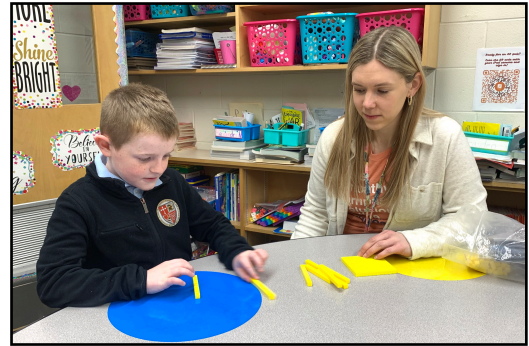
**DISMISSAL 2:35PM**

Students are dismissed and can leave by bus, as a car rider or Adventure Club. Car riders are walked to the front parking lot where we wait for parents.

# RESOURCES

## with Mrs. Rich

Students at SJE who need a little extra help with their studies are able to get the support they need with Mrs. Rich in Resources. On any given day, Mrs. Rich will work with small reading groups, typically K-5 students, who need extra instruction and practice with reading. She administers tests to K-8th grade students and checks in with them on a regular basis, especially if she sees a falling grade or missing assignment. She helps students with organizational skills, reminds them to write down homework assignments and monitors their plans. She provides targeted interventions to individual students on decoding, reading comprehension, writing, etc.



"I truly want to make a difference in each child's academic, social and emotional growth while collaborating with teachers to make sure each student's needs are being met. Keeping track of students' grades and addressing negative behaviors with tools to help them become more positive are also part of my daily schedule. Communication with classroom teachers is key to being able to plan appropriate assignments and help struggling students become more successful" says Mrs. Rich.

Mrs. Rich assists students in a number of ways, whether it's pushing into students' classes to give them extra support or bringing them to the Resource Room to provide small group or one-on-one help. There are students who take both standardized state tests and classroom tests in Resource, so that they are able to receive appropriate accommodations.

# AHEAD OF THE CURVE

SJE added a high school level science class to the curriculum. Eighth grade students have the opportunity to take a high school level science class in biology during their last year at SJE. It opens up a path for students across varying levels. Students who excel at science and biology will be able to test and potentially receive credit for their Freshman year biology class a year ahead of schedule. Students who find science challenging will benefit from a year of biology, giving them a strong foundation for the Freshman biology class they will build upon.

Additionally, students who excel in math at SJE have the opportunity to test into an advanced math program. Those students take Algebra 1 during their eighth grade year and will potentially receive high school credit upon passing completion. Students who begin high school with credits already earned have the advantage of freeing up academic time to take additional and more advanced classes, helping them be better prepared for ACT and SAT testing at the end of their high school career.

## SJE CLUBS

Tutor Club  
 Middle School  
 Student Council  
 National Junior  
 Honor Society  
 Art Club

Children's Choir  
 Math Club  
 Robotics Club  
 Media Club  
 Spelling Bowl  
 Chess Club

## SJE SPORTS

Cross County  
 Track  
 Basketball  
 Soccer  
 Volleyball

## ENRICHMENT

Media Team  
 Mind & Body  
 Robotics  
 Art  
 Drama

## Important Dates

January 26-Feb 1	Catholic Schools Week
January 29	Current Family Registration
February 10	New Family Registration Opens
February 14	NO SCHOOL - E-Learning Day
February 17	NO SCHOOL - Presidents Day
March 14	Quarterly Tuition Due
March 24-28	NO SCHOOL - Spring Break
April 18-21	NO SCHOOL - Easter Break
April 22	School Resumes
May 1	Preschool Orientation @ 9:00am
May 1	Kindergarten Orientation @ 11:00am
	Kindergarten Screenings for New Students
May 21	Last All School Mass
May 22	Last Day Pre 3
May 23	Last Day Pre 4
May 29	Field Day
May 30	Last Day Grade K-8



### Prospective Families

Mrs. Angie Buchanan is SJE's Director of Admissions. For more information about registering or touring the school, please contact her at (219)365-5451 x262