



NAVIGATING KINDERGARTEN



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KINDERGARTEN, HERE WE COME!

HELLO PRESCHOOL FAMILIES,

As we hit the midpoint of the school year, we know that many of you already are thinking ahead to your child's future. As you make decisions about where to continue your child's education, we want to provide you with helpful information about the transition to Kindergarten, what to expect, and how St. Francis Xavier prepares your student for success in the primary grades and beyond.

Just as we took time to prepare during Advent, we are also excited to continue to prepare your preschooler for the changes Kindergarten will bring.

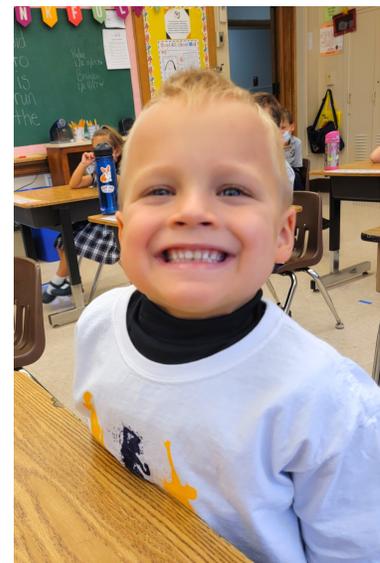
In this issue of Navigating Kindergarten, we will introduce you to the many special curriculum offerings we are

blessed to have here at St. Francis Xavier School. While these classes, including physical education, computer, spanish, art, and music, may not use typical textbooks, they are crucial in developing the brain, body, and person of each student. As we continue to utilize our X- STREAM Program through middle school, we will continue to focus on S - science, T - technology, R - religion, E - engineering, A - arts, and M - math. As always, all of our curriculum is aligned to both Diocesan and State of Ohio standards.

As I reflect on God's great gift of His son, our Savior, Christ Jesus, I am so grateful that we have the opportunity to share and pass on His gift to our students each and every day.

God Bless,

Mrs. Danene Beal



"Only surround yourself with people who will lift you higher."
-Oprah Winfrey

MEET OUR AMAZING SPECIAL TEACHERS

Physical Education

MRS. AMANDA MONTANA



Physical Education at St. Francis Xavier School in Kindergarten focuses a lot on making responsible decisions and incorporating healthy physical activities and games into their daily lives. How is this accomplished? Phys. Ed. focuses primarily on motor skill learning through a wide variety of activities, games, sports, leisure activities, knowledge of health and wellness concepts, and most importantly promoting a Christ-centered atmosphere that focuses on positive attitudes and behaviors. Kindergarten has Phys. Ed every third day all year long. Some course content includes:

- Movement Awareness
- Underhand/Overhand Throwing
- Catching
- Kicking (Stationary and Moving)
- Locomotor Movements (skipping, hopping, running, walking, leaping)
- Fleeing and Dodging
- Personal and General Space
- Pathways and Patterns
- Eye-Hand Coordination
- General concepts and skills of different sports (soccer, basketball, baseball, etc.)
- Use a variety of equipment (scooters, parachute, jump ropes, hula hoops)

As students progress into early elementary grades, a lot of these skills and concepts are repeated. We begin to focus more on how to use these specific skills in a variety of different games and sports. We focus on how our body should look when we are completing sports skills and trying our best at developing strategies during game play.

MEET OUR AMAZING SPECIAL TEACHERS

Computer and Technology

MRS. CHRISTA BORLING



Kindergarten students learn mouse skills, website navigation, how to locate keys on the keyboard, and an introduction to very basic coding concepts. Students also begin learning about digital citizenship and online safety and the importance of these concepts when they are on the computer. We also discuss the various parts of the computer (mouse, keyboard, and monitor) and basic troubleshooting when one of the components don't work. Students use Microsoft Paint and other online drawing tools to illustrate their learning throughout the year.

In the primary grades, students build on the skills learned in Kindergarten such as mouse skills and website navigation. They are introduced to their student email address and how to use it to log in online and use Google applications such as Docs and Classroom. Students begin to learn about hand placement on the keyboard and beginning keyboarding skills. Students also begin to learn about word processing using both Microsoft Word and Google Docs.

First-grade students learn how to complete activities on Google Sheets and Google Slides. We continue to talk about digital citizenship and internet safety. Students begin to learn a little more about coding using a variety of different programs.

In second grade, students build on past skills. They use coding programs including Code Monkey and also learn to code the Dash robots using the Wonder apps on iPads. Second graders will also use Google Classroom to access and turn in assignments.

MEET OUR AMAZING SPECIAL TEACHERS

Spanish

MRS. DIANE BUGNER



The kindergarten, students begin having Spanish class each Monday morning for 35 minutes and will continue until the end of May. We will concentrate on the basics: simple greetings and short phrases, numbers 0-40, colors, weather phrases, days, months, animal words, alphabet, and easy commands for the classroom. We use the sign of the cross in Spanish with a short prayer which will be recited at the start and end of class. The students will enjoy singing Spanish songs and childhood poems and reading classic books in Spanish to expose them to the new language. The kindergarten students are anxious to learn and practice their new words. I encourage parents and siblings to help the young students and encourage using simple Spanish at home.

In the primary grades, Spanish continues to meet once a week for a class period building up the language skills in small increments. It is meant to be a fun experience.

Music Education

MRS. LINDSAY HASTINGS



In Kindergarten we begin to learn the basics of reading music with rhythms and note names. We also talk about the contrasts in music: loud vs. quiet, fast vs. slow, high pitched sounds vs. low pitched sounds. We also do a lot of singing, and we play instruments like rhythm sticks, lollipop drums, and bells! We play lots of games to practice these skills.

In the primary grades, we continue to build our knowledge of reading music with the practice of notes and rhythms, adding more types of notes and rhythms as we progress. In second grade we start playing xylophones, as well as tambourines and more percussion instruments. We also talk about the instrument families and listen to music from different times and of different genres.

MEET OUR AMAZING SPECIAL TEACHERS

Librarian

MRS. ERIN BECKER



At the beginning of the year, kindergarten students will learn how to care for library books and what it means to borrow a book. We'll also practice selecting a book and returning books properly to the shelves. Within the first month, Kindergarten students will be allowed to check out one library book per week. Also during library, we will practice rhyming during our weekly "Rhyme Time"

in which students learn a nursery rhyme and practice reciting with rhythm and identifying the rhyming words. We extend this to listening for rhyming words in some of our read alouds. Throughout the year, students will also learn other library skills, such as distinguishing between fiction and non-fiction, and enjoy read-alouds and crafts.

Continuing into first grade and beyond students continue to learn and practice library and literary skills such as how to find fiction and non-fiction books, recognizing point of view, learning about literary devices such as onomatopoeia, writing letters, and understanding genre. Students continue to enjoy read-alouds and drawing and art projects.

