

# ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL



## IN THE KINDERGARTEN

with Mrs. Emerson and Mrs. Giegerich

### 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.

### How do you teach students empathy for fellow students?

During various lessons in Religion we have the opportunity to allow the students to share their feelings and teach them the basic concepts of how to act with kindness towards others. We use stories and have even tried to role play an example so they can see how to be empathetic and help others in need. We want our students to help others and stand up for one another. Currently, we just made cards for some of the homebound parishioners and the students were so excited about it. They are hoping their cards put a smile on the faces of those stuck at home.

### 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. We are always surprised to see what they come up with and what new stories they will come to share. 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!

### 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 words 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.