Kindergarten Curriculum

Overview - Our Kindergarten students will learn in a developmentally appropriate manner which means that they will participate in play-based learning in addition to participation in projects, classroom learning, textbook lessons, and adventure-based classes.

Theology - At Salve Regina Academy, the study of theology is infused in every subject throughout our day as students encounter stories of the Saints and biblical lessons in their study of Language Arts, and as they learn to view the world as God's creation in Science and Social Studies. By starting our day with our school-wide Theology Practicum, our students will learn to apply theology to their everyday life through time spent worshipping God in the Church at Mass, or engaging various prayers or devotionals. We will also follow the Spirit of Truth curriculum from Sophia Institute. During their Kindergarten year, students will be introduced to the loving goodness of the Blessed Trinity, meet the members of the Holy Family, and learn who the saints are and what they teach us. They will also explore why virtue is good and sin is bad, the importance of developing good habits, and how to speak to God in prayer.

Language Arts - Little Stories for Little Folks is a two-year, Catholic, phonics-based reading program designed to be started in kindergarten and completed in first grade. Beginning with colorful flashcards and active games for alphabet letter and sound recognition, the program progresses to pre-reading exercises which teach the student to blend sounds into words. The child then begins reading the 45 booklets which are illustrated mini-stories containing words from new phonics concepts, as well as words learned in previous lessons, to provide maximum word exposure (nearly 7,000 words!). Our Kindergarten students will also work through Little Folks’ Letter Practice from Catholic Heritage Curriculum. This workbook introduces letter formation and beginning phonics while simultaneously exposing children to tenets of our Catholic Faith.

Social Studies - Students will begin to explore how people and families are alike and different. They will be exposed to various cultures and traditions. As students learn about different Saints in their Theology class, they will explore the continents/countries in which they lived as well as the differences in their cultures compared to ours.

Science - Due to our multi-grade classes, science will be taught on a rotating schedule. This year’s science text for our K/1 class Behold and See: On the Farm is from Catholic Heritage Curricula. As children begin to discover the astounding world that God created, they at the same time begin to uncover the mysteries of science. Rather than being at odds, these two discoveries issue from one and the same Source. This Catholic science text presents to the child both Creation and Creator, in a context familiar to the child: the family. Activities reinforce and bring topics to life in little hands and minds. Through these lessons, children learn the scientific method of observing, comparing, grouping, and measuring change. In addition to learning the material from this textbook, students will also participate in our school gardening project and will be exposed to native animals and plants, and local agriculture through adventure-based learning.

Mathematics – HMH Into Math was built from expert insights and real teacher feedback to deliver a student-centered, outcomes-driven approach to learning mathematics that supports deeper understanding of concepts along with true procedural fluency and application embedded throughout. These solutions were designed to foster a longstanding culture of learning that helps students to grow and continue growing year after year by allowing teachers to tailor lessons to the needs and learning
styles of their students. At the core of this curriculum is the belief that growth at every level is possible, and its driving goal is to create fearless problem solvers.

**Art** - *Art Masterpieces: Rhyme-Time Collection* is designed to develop a young child's appreciation for art and poetry. The prints included in the collection—by artists such as Millet, Homer, and Rubens—are presented alongside traditional children’s rhymes for the student to memorize. The detailed picture studies encourage close observation of the paintings and instill a recognition of beauty, composition, color, and line. In addition to teaching art appreciation, our Kindergarten and First grade students will be using *Art with a Purpose*, a program from Catholic Heritage that teaches art skills including coloring without voids, shading, feathering, cutting with scissors, three-dimensional art, silhouettes, tracing, and simple facial features.

**Library** - We will be using the Gorham Public Library in order to introduce our Kindergartners to the wonderful world of books. They will learn about the different types of books available, basic library etiquette, and how to locate books in a library. Our students will experience story time with a special focus on books with lessons about virtues and morals.

**Music** - Music plays an enormous role in a child's education and assists with brain development, particularly with relation to language and reasoning. Music will be incorporated into our Theology lessons as children learn liturgical music as well as various songs that assist with memory retrieval. They will also participate in our school-wide concerts which will incorporate seasonal music as well as classic selections.

**Physical Education** - Our goal is to foster a life-long love of physical activity and to introduce our students to various ways to enjoy God's creation. At the Kindergarten level, we initiate this process by nurturing the development of gross motor skills and body awareness through games and activities that are easy and fun to play. In addition, our students will be participating in hikes and nature walks which will challenge their balance and endurance while exposing them to the beautiful trails that we have here in the White Mountains. Over the course of their time at Salve Regina Academy, students will be introduced to diverse age-appropriate outdoor activities such as snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, canoeing, swimming, ice skating etc.

**Language** - Salve Regina Academy students will participate in our school-wide language program *The Latin and Greek Roots Challenge* by The Rooted Mind. This is a fun, educational program designed to introduce students to Latin and Greek roots, prefixes, and suffixes along with their meanings, which are the "building blocks" of over 60% of the English language. The underlying intent of the program is to instill in students the discipline to "deconstruct" words into their component roots and, therefore, to unlock the meaning of those words.