

Regina Luminis Academy Early Childhood



"Let the Children Come to Me" by Carl Vogel von Vogelstein, 1804

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“The most important period of life is not the age of university studies, but the first one, the period of birth to the age of six.”

-Marie Montessori

Philosophy

Regina Luminis Academy is a Catholic, classical school committed to a faith based education that respects the spiritual, physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development of each individual child. We provide a Catholic learning environment in which Jesus Christ is the center of our day through prayers, lessons, Bible reading, the lives of the Saints, and participation in the Good Shepherd program. We also concentrate on training children in character development.

Children in the preschool years learn through play. We believe that play is the work of children. Our preschool environment is intentionally planned to stimulate the development and learning of young children through lesson plans that allow the child to be creative and to explore. The environment is continually prepared and changed to reflect the lessons and development of the child.

The teacher will guide the children in their exciting journey of discovery by using well planned lessons and encourage each child's ability and creativity to reach his or her full potential.

We believe that the preschool years are foundational in a child's discovery of self. A key focus of our school is to nurture each child's self-esteem as a child of God and to help them to reach their full development by allowing their innate personalities and talents to develop.

We seek for our preschool to be a place of joy in which the children clearly see themselves as a creation of God that is “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:13).

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“We cannot know the consequences of suppressing a child's spontaneity when he is just beginning to be active. We may even suffocate life itself. That humanity which is revealed in all its intellectual splendor during the sweet and tender age of childhood should be respected with a kind of religious veneration. It is like the sun which appears at dawn or a flower just beginning to bloom. Education cannot be effective unless it helps a child to open up himself to life.”

-Marie Montessori

Program Goals and Methods

1. To grow in faith and understanding of God's love for us and the world around us.
2. To encourage the building of a positive self-esteem and create an environment of respect for all.
3. To provide a well prepared environment that motivates a child's learning and creativity through “hands-on” opportunities.
4. To offer a curriculum that provides faith based learning, literacy activities, math and science exploration, dramatic play, as well as fine and gross motor skill development opportunities.
5. To model appropriate language and support social development so that children learn to communicate effectively with others.

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Our Classroom Environment

The classroom will be divided into various well prepared and planned centers to motivate learning through a child's creativity and exploration. The child will be guided throughout the day as the teacher supports learning through periods of direct instruction and child- initiated activities and choices. Shelves, cubbies, and materials will be clearly labeled and organized. The best learning takes place through meaningful play and exploration, so the classroom environment will add different materials every day.

Centers

- **Blocks and Building**
- **Dramatic Play**
- **Library**
- **Literacy**
- **History/Maps**
- **Math**
- **Fine Motor**
- **Writing**
- **Art**
- **Science**
- **Our Catholic Faith**

Regina Luminis Academy Early Childhood Half-Day Schedule / Four- Year Olds with K

8:10 -8:30	Arrival/Greeting/Free Play Choice
8:30-8:50	Meeting Time at Circle/Morning Prayer/Calendar/Daily Schedule
8:50-9:50	Centers
9:50-10:15	Snack and Clean-up
10:15-10:30	Outdoor Play
10:30-10:45	Literacy Circle/Letter of the Week
10:45-11:15	Centers
11:15-11:35	Story Time
11:35-11:40	Closing Prayer
11:50	Dismissal

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Full-Day Schedule/ Kindergarten / (Five -Year Olds)

8:10-8:30	Arrival/Greeting/Free Play Choice
8:30-8:50	Meeting Time at Circle/Morning Prayer/Calendar/Daily Schedule
8:50-9:50	Centers
9:50-10:15	Snack and Clean-up
10:15-10:30	Outdoor Play
10:30-10:45	Literacy Circle/Letter of the Week
10:45-11:15	Centers
11:15-11:35	Story Time
11:35-11:40	Closing Prayer
11:50-12:38	Lunch
12:40-12:50	Meeting Time / Prayer/ Daily Schedule
12:50-2:30	Reginal Luminis Academy K Curriculum

(Texts: Who Am I? Image of God Series (Ignatius Press), Math MCP, Sound Beginnings,D'Nealian Handwriting K , Nicholson, Nancy:Little Stories for Little Folks: Catholic Phonics Readers, Bromeier, Linda: Little Angel Reader A

2:30-2:40 **Storytime/ Prayer**

2:45 **Dismissal**

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Concepts to be Explored

Religion

- Learn about God and His love for us
- God created the world
- God created all people and living things
- God created our families to love and care about one another
- Read Old and New Testament Bible stories to learn about Jesus and Mary
- Saints
- Learn simple prayers and songs

Math

- Counting to 30
- Identifying numerals 1-10
- Counting objects to 10
- One-to-one correspondence of objects
- Sorting by color, shape, and size
- Recognizing and repeating simple patterns
- Identifying a square, rectangle, circle, and triangle
- Matching
- Time/Money

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Literacy

- Alphabet: letter names and sounds
- First name-recognize/spell/write
- Correctly hold a pencil or crayon
- Re-tell familiar stories
- Answer questions about stories
- Learn simple nursery rhymes and fingerplays
- Show interest in books and understand that books are read from left to right
- Increase vocabulary
- Develop listening skills
- Sequencing

Fine Motor Skills:

Children will have many opportunities throughout the day to increase fine motor skills through various activities: play with modeling dough, scissors, writing, painting, utensils, building blocks, and art experiences.

Gross Motor Skills

Children will have many opportunities to be active throughout the day through movement and outside activities.

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Science

- Use science tools: magnifying glasses, magnets, etc.
- Explore nature through nature walks, gardening, and other explorations
- Learn about insects
- Weather and plant life during each season
- Five senses
- Measurement
- Learn about animals, their homes, and the food they eat

Art

- Practice a variety of art processes: painting, drawing, sculpture, collage, etc.
- Use a variety of art materials: crayons, tempera paint, watercolor paint, colored pencils, markers, oil pastels, art chalk, clay
- Sing traditional songs and songs that enhance the curriculum
- Participate in movement songs and dances
- Use a variety of children's instruments
- Explore dramatic play

Social Skills

- Practice problem-solving skills in social situations
- Share classroom materials
- Communicate with peers and adults using manners: please, thank you, excuse me, table manners
- Practice independence in meeting own needs
- Be able to communicate personal information: name, age, address, and telephone number.

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Curriculum Framework

Using *Twenty-Six Letters to Heaven* by Sarah V. Park students will explore:

- Letter of the Week
- Saint of the Week
- Virtue and Scripture Verse
- Book List

Student Portfolios

Each student's work will be kept in a portfolio in order to:

- Document Progress and Growth
- Support Instruction
- Guide Instruction
- Communicate to Parents

Parents will be invited to meet with the teacher in October, February and May to discuss their child's progress.

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O Mary, Virgin most powerful and Mother of mercy, Queen of Heaven and Refuge of sinners, we consecrate ourselves to thine Immaculate Heart. We consecrate to thee our very being and our whole life; all that we have, all that we love, all that we are. To thee we give our bodies, our hearts and our souls; to thee we give our homes, our families, and our country. We desire that all that is in us and around us may belong to thee, and may share in the benefits of thy motherly benediction. And that this act of consecration may be truly efficacious and lasting, we renew this day at thy feet the promises of our Baptism and our first Holy Communion. We pledge ourselves to profess courageously and at all times the truths of our holy Faith, and to live as befits Catholics who are duly submissive to all the directions of the Pope and the Bishops in communion with him. We pledge ourselves to keep the commandments of God and His Church, in particular to keep holy the Lord's Day. We likewise pledge ourselves to make the consoling practices of the Christian religion, and above all, Holy Communion, and ves, in so far as we shall be able so to do. Finally, we promise thee, O glorious Mother of God and loving Mother of men, to devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the service of thy blessed cult, in order to hasten and assure, through the sovereignty of thine Immaculate Heart, the coming of the kingdom of the Sacred Heart of thine adorable Son, in our own hearts and in those of all men, in our country and in all the world, as in heaven so on earth. Amen.

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