



*To play, to create, to express—these are the primary tasks of every student in our Early Childhood Program.*

## SAINT AGNES PRE-K PROGRAM

St. Agnes has helped prepare young children for the challenges of kindergarten since 1989. The classroom experience offers developmentally appropriate activities that allow children to grow socially, physically and intellectually. This is accomplished through many satisfying sensory and sensory-motor experiences.

Our program hosts a variety of activities inside and outside the classroom. Field trips are abundant, usually one a month. Visits from community helpers, parents, grandparents, and other interesting people enrich the children's experiences.

### Our program includes:

- creative and fine arts experiences
- language and literacy activities
- development of personal and social skills
- mathematics and scientific thinking activities
- library time
- music, songs and finger plays
- field trips
- activities in phonemic awareness
- organized indoor and outdoor group play activities
- outdoor free play opportunities

## DAILY SCHEDULE

Class time is 2 1/2 hours. Morning class: 9 am – 11:30 am  
Afternoon Class: 12:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Two programs are offered for 4 year old children. They may attend a morning session, for three days a week, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, OR a five day session in the afternoon, Monday through Friday. (The five day session must have at least 10 students enrolled to exist.)

3 year old children attend the morning session on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There is no afternoon session for 3 year old children.

Children must be 3 or 4 years old by December 1st of the entering school year. The five day, afternoon session is appropriate for 4 or 5 year old children who may not be mature enough for a full day Kindergarten program.

### Arrival

Greeting Morning Routine to prepare for the day.

### Playtime

Child and teacher directed free play, centers, art project, small group instruction

### Clean-up

Snack Child of the day signals clean-up session

### Circle Time

Yoga Breathing & Movements, Flag, Prayer, Songs, Calendar, Weather, Reinforce Skills, Introduce New Concepts, Theme Work, Sharing Time

### Music

Songs, Instruments, Movement

### Outdoor Play

When weather permits

### Library Time

Weekly visits to our school library

### Snack Time

Grace is sung. Children are encouraged to provide a healthy snack.

### Story Time

Theme related literature is shared.

### Gathering/Dismissal

Summation of the day. Farewell.



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# SAINT AGNES SCHOOL

## Pre-K Program

*Education with Heart and Soul*





*“Play is a central component in children’s mental growth. Play helps children make meaning in their world, it helps them learn about themselves, and equally crucially, it helps them to learn how to get along with others”*

– Einstein Never Used Flash Cards, p. 240

## FOCUSING ON THE WHOLE CHILD

Learning about God’s world and how to get along in it is one of the most important parts of our program. Teaching children that God made them and all things in the world, that God loves them each as an individual and that we are all a part of God’s family is routinely focused on in our classroom.

The staff and children work together to create an atmosphere of loving concern that helps each child grow gradually in independence and cooperation. The experience helps increase the children’s sense of responsibility in a school setting.

Imaginative play is a precious commodity that is often devalued or encroached upon when adults get anxious about “academic achievement” in today’s competitive society. In fact, this kind of play in childhood forms the foundation upon which learning is based. As children play out their ideas, they practice taking on the role of others and experience the world from another’s point of view. This type of thinking and reasoning underlies reading comprehension, and indeed all abstract reasoning.

When children are engaged in imaginative play, they are totally engaged physically, mentally, and emotionally. They are using language, making and sustaining social connections, and trying out their own ideas and elaborating on them. When you ask your children what they did at school and they say “I played,” you should be delighted.

## ACCREDITATION

Our program follows numerous guidelines of NAEYC, National Association of the Education of Young Children, Middle States Commission on Elementary Schools and our Rochester Diocese in regards to a developmentally appropriate approach to teaching the needs of the whole child. The young child **PLAYS TO LEARN**. To play, to create, to express—these are the primary tasks of every student in our Early Childhood Program.