

A NATIONAL SCHOOL  
OF EXCELLENCE

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PROGRAM

Serving students in Preschool,  
Transitional Kindergarten  
and Kindergarten



# READY, SET, GROW!



Early childhood is a special time when your child learns through **exploration, discovery, and play**. The St. Mark Early Childhood program offers young students a full-day curriculum designed to teach the whole child: mind, body, and spirit. Our goal is to nurture your child's interests and skills in a safe, positive, and caring environment that inspires self-confidence, independence, and a lifelong love of learning.

**Age-appropriate curriculum focuses on language, literacy, math, and handwriting, as well as fine and gross motor skills.** Students also receive instruction in science, social studies, religion, art, music, drama, Spanish, computer literacy, technology-assisted activities, library, and physical education. Structured and unstructured discovery and playtime develop social skills. Upon completion, students are well prepared for Kindergarten and elementary school.

## OUR PROGRAMS

### PRESCHOOL (AGES 3-4)



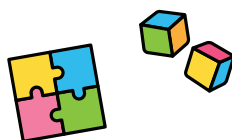
Through weekly themes, Preschool classes build a knowledge base, develop skills, and promote self-confidence through academic, spiritual, and kinesthetic activities. Children must be potty-trained to attend.

### TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN (AGE 5)

Transitional Kindergarten is designed for the child who turns five during the months of May-October, and who may not be ready to attend Kindergarten. The program offers a Kindergarten curriculum, but at a modified pace. Students must attend Kindergarten the following year.

### KINDERGARTEN (AGE 5)

Daily lessons expand and provide students with a deeper understanding of academic subject areas. Special emphasis is placed on reading, phonics, writing and math skills as students prepare for first grade.



*"Our children all love going to school every day."*



## DIFFERENTIATION

Differentiated instruction is integral to the St. Mark curriculum. We meet students where they are. Whole group instruction is followed by small groups and customized classwork. Within classroom lessons, students are given additional enrichment or assistance as needed.

## STREAM CURRICULUM AND TECHNOLOGY

Lessons are enhanced with the latest technology including virtual/augmented reality, coding, iPads, computer instruction, interactive smart boards, and an integrated STEM/STEAM/STREAM curriculum.



### SMARTLAB®

Students benefit from a fully integrated, customized SmartLab facility where they explore multiple disciplines through applied technology. Early Childhood students visit the lab on a rotating basis and engage in activities such as coding, robotics, and engineering concepts.

## OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



The "Backyard," St. Mark's outdoor learning environment, encourages the development of fine and gross motor skills, an appreciation for God's creation, and the opportunity to learn while enjoying the great outdoors:

- Gardening
- Outdoor Art and Music
- Outdoor Reading Venue
- Early Childhood Playground

## FAITH IN ACTION

At St. Mark, we live our Catholic faith through daily religious instruction, weekly church services, and faith-based activities. Early Childhood students participate in:

- Weekly All-School Mass
- Early Childhood Chapel Time
- Daily Religion Class
- Prayer Partner Program
- Virtue of the Month



## COMMUNITY SERVICE

Early Childhood students learn firsthand about the joy of assisting those in need by participating in monthly All-School Service Projects such as:

- Blankets For Veterans
- Care Packages for Military Personnel
- Laps for Leukemia/Lymphoma Society
- North Texas Food Bank
- Salvation Army Angel Tree
- St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry



## PHYSICAL FITNESS

Exercise is an important part of development.

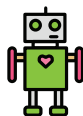


- Preschool students attend daily Music & Movement class and outdoor recess.
- TK and Kindergarten students attend daily P.E. class and recess.
- Students may also participate on sports teams formed by school parents through local city leagues.

## ACTIVITIES

Students can explore something new through participation in the many extra-curricular activities offered.

- After School Enrichment Clubs
- Scouting Organizations
- Drama



*"St. Mark is my child's home away from home."*



**ST. MARK**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

WHERE FAITH AND  
KNOWLEDGE MEET

## AT A GLANCE

FOUNDED  
**1969**

STUDENTS SERVED  
PreK3, PreK4,  
Transitional Kindergarten,  
Kindergarten

STUDENT-TEACHER RATIOS

**8:1**  
Preschool

**10:1**  
Kindergarten

Instructional Aides are utilized  
in every classroom.

ACCREDITATIONS

Texas Catholic Conference  
Education Department

Southern Association  
of Colleges and Schools

AdvancED

FACULTY/STAFF

All teachers are certified.  
Many hold additional  
certifications and  
advanced degrees.

EXTENDED CARE

7:15 AM through 6:00 PM  
on school days

## AWARDS AND HONORS

- Two-time U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award Recipient
- Named one of the top three U.S. Catholic Schools for Technology Integration
- Three-time Diocese of Dallas HALO Educator of the Year Award Recipient
- Common Sense Media Digital Citizenship Certified School
- *Plano Star Courier* "Best of the Best" Private Schools
- Catholic Foundation Work of Heart Awards

## LEARN MORE ABOUT US

Visit our website and apply online.

**stmcs.net**

Follow us on social media.



Call the school office to schedule a tour.

**972-578-0610**



**ST. MARK**  
CATHOLIC SCHOOL  
WHERE FAITH AND  
KNOWLEDGE MEET

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Plano, Texas 75075

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The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Dallas admit students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. They do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school administered programs. According to the policy of the Diocese of Dallas, the school reserves the right to screen all students. The final decision for admission is the responsibility of the school's chief administrator or designee.

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