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## **St. Luke's MMO and Preschool Junior Kindergarten Curriculum**

The Junior Kindergarten program develops both social and academic school readiness skills needed to be successful in Kindergarten. We use Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning which can be viewed online at <http://www.earlychildhood.virginia.gov/documents/foundationblocks.pdf>. The teachers introduce specific activities that help the students to develop cognitively, socially, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

The Music Program allows time for the children to respond to music by moving or dancing, explore by making sounds and "playing instruments", finding rhythm, and using their voice to make music by singing.

The Art Program introduces the children to a variety of art materials and provides them with an opportunity to be creative. Students will develop their fine motor skills by drawing, cutting, and gluing while using basic colors and shapes. They experiment with different textures and engage in activities that require hand-eye coordination. The children also practice following multi-step directions as well as working slowly and carefully.

During Library, the children continue to develop language skills by enjoying read-a-louds, felt board stories, rhymes, educational DVDs, books on CD, or exploring other thematic materials. They are also learning to sit for longer periods of time.

Cognitively, the children will participate in thematic units to cover basic skills and concepts. Throughout the year the students will be practice writing upper and lower case letters as well as numbers 1-10 using the Handwriting Without Tears Curriculum. Early literacy is explored using the Weekly Reader Program and other phonemic awareness activities.

Month	Skills/Concepts	Themes
September	Body awareness, graphing, Mat Man	All About Me, Colors (primary/secondary)
October	Painting and blending colors, making safe decisions, signs of fall, fine motor skills, measuring length and width, making observations	Fire Safety, Halloween, Harvest, Early Fall
November	Observing Native American artifacts, measuring, counting, beginning sounds, making costumes	Thanksgiving, Pilgrims, Native Americans, Being Thankful
December	Counting 1-25, fine motor skills, AB pattern (stripes), making a book, matching numbers to quantity	Christmas Traditions, The Story of Baby Jesus
January	Patterns, rhyming, 5 senses, shapes	Winter, Shapes, Dad's Day preparation
February	Being kind, decorating, sorting, science lab, learning about the heart, healthy lifestyles	Valentine's Day, Acts of Kindness, Heart Health
March	Water table play, observing ocean life, counting 1-5, ROYGBIV (spectrum), graphing	St. Patrick's Day, Ocean
April	Personal data, fine motor skills, decorating, egg hunt, recycling, Earth	Personal Information, Easter, Mom's Day preparation, Earth Day

May	Planting seeds, seed observation, plant care, caterpillars, tadpoles, measurement, observing life cycle changes, simple addition	Living Things Grow and Change: Plants, Animals and You
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Children will tell simple stories with an increase in vocabulary and sentence length. "Writing" these stories and ideas progresses throughout the year with teacher directed prewriting activities. Children begin to know personal information, identify upper and lower case letters of the alphabet, specific shapes and colors, body parts and common objects. Children will begin to recognize and count numbers, understand size comparisons, and duplicate patterns.

Socially, circle time activities promote understanding and respect of classroom rules, taking turns speaking, and functioning as one of a group. Center time provides children with opportunities to manage their free time, clean up their own space and materials, and cooperate well with others in a group. Show and Tell promotes self-confidence and provides practice communicating ideas clearly.

Emotionally, the children are given opportunities to display a positive approach to new experiences, feel safe and secure, and demonstrate a sense of trust. They learn to accept correction and/or redirection when appropriate. They begin to display a sense of humor, transition from activities with ease, and become aware of other's feelings.

Physically, the children utilize the playground and play toys to develop gross motor skills. They engage in activities such as running, skipping, climbing, and balancing. During indoor play, fine motor skills are developed while building with blocks and Legos, working with puzzles, and using scissors and glue to create art.

Spiritually, the children participate in prayer during their day including a blessing before snack time, sing songs about God and Jesus, hear stories about God and Jesus, and participate in bimonthly chapel lessons in the sanctuary with the church Pastor. They also learn that God created the world, that Jesus is God's son, and that God loves them. During Christmas, they will learn about the birth of baby Jesus. During Easter, they learn that Jesus rose from the dead to save the world.

Written Evaluations are completed in October and May. Parent Conferences are held in March.

Special Events include the Christmas Program in December, Dad's Day in February, Mom's Day in May, Jacob's Road Elementary School Bus Trip in May, and Preschool Graduation in May.