

## **PRE-KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY**

We see our program as a partnership between school and home. We recognize that this stage in children's lives is crucial in their social, emotional, intellectual, physical, and spiritual development. The goal of the Pre-Kindergarten is to provide a well-rounded program to address the needs of the children and to work with the home in this process.

Our program is designed to help the child develop his/her strengths and become a unique individual, yet be able to fit into society. We strive to provide the child with experiences that support self-worth, while preparing him/her for Kindergarten and the world beyond. The activities used to promote this growth will be centered around weekly themes which will be flexible enough to adapt to the interests and needs of the children.

In a Catholic Pre-Kindergarten, religious development is of primary importance to us. It will be approached simply and in the total context of the child's life. We believe values are cultivated in a child not only through direct teaching, but also through the example experienced in everyday situations. We will learn short prayers to be said at meals and group times. Songs, stories, and activities will often be of a religious nature.

Our program attempts to guide youngsters to understand that people and the world are gifts of a loving God. Using this positive framework, we try to nurture each child's curiosity and sense of wonder.