



Welcome to the Regina Luminis  
Early Childhood Program

Because so much of a young child is true, beautiful, and good, it is often said that the essence of a child's nature helps us to understand the image of God. At Regina Luminis Academy, we seek to preserve the beauty of a child's soul while continuing to form our students in wisdom and virtue in order to know what is good and to do what is good.

We seek to begin unlocking Salvation History as we journey to teach our children that Christ is and was before everything and that His Incarnation changed the world. It is during the early childhood years that we begin to build and nurture the habits of thinking. If children learn to think well, they will speak well, read well, and write well.

## Early Childhood 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 Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program. We also concentrate on training children in character development.

Children learn through play. We believe that play is the work of children. Our 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 these early 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 school 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).

## 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.

# 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
- Practical Life
- Science
- Our Catholic Faith

# Early Childhood Objectives

## Religion

- Learn about God and His awesome 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
- Learn about the Saints - Superheroes of the Faith
- Learn prayers and songs

## Math

- Counting to 100
- Identifying numerals
- Counting objects
- Count by 10's, 5's and 2's
- Sorting by color, shape, and size
- Recognizing and repeating simple patterns
- Identifying shapes
- Matching
- Time/Money
- Simple Addition and Subtraction

## Literacy

- Alphabet: letter names and sounds
- Blending sounds and CVC, CCVC words
- Full name-recognize/spell/write
- Correctly hold a pencil or crayon
- Retell familiar stories

- Learn simple nursery rhymes and fingerplays
- Understand that books are read from left to right
- Increase vocabulary
- Develop listening skills
- Begin orally reading Kindergarten readers

## 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.

## 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.

## Literature

Children will be read aloud to daily including, but not limited to, such works as:

*The Story of Peter Rabbit*, Beatrix Potter  
*The Tales of Peter Rabbit*, Beatrix Potter  
*Mother Goose Rhymes*, Traditional  
*Winnie the Pooh*, A.A. Milne  
*The Wheel on the School*, Meindert De Jong  
*Far Out the Long Canal*, Meindert De Jong  
*The Velveteen Rabbit*, Margery William  
*The Mousehole Cat*, Antonia Barber  
*Time of Wonder*, Robert McCloskey

*The Wind in the Willows*, Kenneth Grahame  
*Frog and Toad* (series), Arnold Lobel  
*Dr. Seuss Collection*, Dr. Seuss  
*Curious George* (series), H.A. Rey and Margaret Rey  
*Madeline* (series), Ludwig Bemelmans  
*Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*, Robert Frost  
*The Story of Ferdinand*, Munro Leaf  
*Harold and the Purple Crayon*, Crockett Johnson  
*Aesop's Fables*, Aesop

## Poetry

The students will memorize and recite various works of poetry, prayers, and Bible verses throughout the year.

## Prayer

Students will attend daily Forum Prayers and Scripture reading with the entire school assembly as well as Mass twice weekly on Monday and Friday mornings at 8:30 a.m. (parents are welcome to join us). We will also join our school community in monthly recitation of the Holy Living Rosary.

## Music and Gym

Kindergarten students will participate in Music and Gym classes each week.

## 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



## Sample Schedule

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning Circle	Morning Circle Virtue, Prayer, Bible Story,	Morning Circle Friendship Time, Prayer, Poetry	Morning Circle Exercise, Prayer, Friendship Club	Morning Circle Messages, Prayer, Poetry	Morning Circle, Show and Tell, Prayer, Poetry
1 <sup>st</sup> Period	Math Guided Center- Counting	Math Guided Center- Shapes/Colors	Math Guided Center- Money	Math Guided Center- Calendar	Math Guided Center- Patterns
Snack	Snack/Outdoor Play	Snack/Outdoor Play	Snack/Outdoor Play	Snack/Outdoor Play	Snack/Outdoor Play
2 <sup>nd</sup> Period	Phonics-Intro Letter	Phonics- Guided Center	Phonics-Intro Letter	Phonics- Guided Center	Review Both Letters
3 <sup>rd</sup> Period	Nature Walk	Gym Class	Catechesis of the Good Shepherd	Music Class	Art Class
Lunch	Lunch/ Outdoor Play	Lunch/ Outdoor Play	Lunch/ Outdoor Play	Lunch/ Outdoor Play	Lunch/ Outdoor Play
4 <sup>th</sup> Period	STEM Activity	History	Science	Religion	Fun Day Dramatic Play, Legos, etc.
5 <sup>th</sup> Period	Free Play/Games Clean-up	Free Play/Games Clean-up	Free Play/Games Clean-up	Free Play/Games Clean-up	Free Play/Games Clean-up

