



## St. Francis Xavier School

*Faith, Family & Future*

215 Betz Place  
Metairie, LA 70005

Co-educational  
Grades PreK 2-7

Barbara M. Martin, Principal



### LOCATION & HISTORY

St. Francis Xavier School is located in Old Metairie off of Metairie Road. The history of the school spans 85 years since it was first opened by the Sisters of Mercy in 1926.

### BACKGROUND

St. Francis Xavier School operates as a part of the Archdiocese of New Orleans School system. In 2001 St. Francis Xavier was recognized as a National School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education Blue Ribbon School Program. St. Francis is also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

### MISSION & PHILOSOPHY

St. Francis Xavier School was founded to bring together school, Church and family by providing quality educational programs designed to teach the whole child and centered in Christian identity.

As a Roman Catholic school, St. Francis Xavier is dedicated to creating an environment in which a Christian way of life permeates all facets of the educational program by focusing on the spiritual, intellectual, social, physical, and cultural growth of its students. The charism of St. Francis is . . . *Faith, Family, Future.*

### FACULTY & FACILITIES

St. Francis Xavier has 28 certified faculty members educating approximately 450 students. In addition to a new state of the art computer lab, all classrooms have networked computers. St. Francis has a school gymnasium, art studio, band/music studio, science lab, Spanish language lab and Library.

### PROGRAMS

A rich educational program that encompasses innovative teaching strategies is enhanced with technology and the arts. An accelerated program in reading, English, math and science is offered to 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> grade students.

### EXTRACURRICULAR & EXTENDED CARE

A variety of sports and activities are offered to our students based on grade level and gender. School hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Before school care begins at 7:00 a.m. and is offered at no charge. After care hours are from 3:00-6:00 p.m. at an hourly rate.

## Why choose St. Francis Xavier School? Faith, Family, Future

### Caring community.

Teachers and staff, parents and pastor, work together to ensure that children are nurtured in a caring Christian environment.



### Excellent academic programs.

SFX'S curriculum strives to meet the individual needs of your child in a changing society. Technology is integrated throughout the curriculum.



### Instruction in Catholic faith and values.

Children develop a strong sense of moral direction now and throughout life.

### An environment of love, patience and respect.

Students learn to observe and respond to others' needs, and learn the value of compassion and cooperation.



It's what the "Family of St. Francis Xavier"  
is all about!

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER EARLY FOUNDATION TODDLER PROGRAM for 2 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

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“Young children learn best through hands-on experiences,” is the philosophy of the Toddler Program at St. Francis Xavier. Each day is filled with fun activities that excite and develop toddlers, giving them the comfort and confidence to speak those first few important words, as well as make their first friends.

Your child will develop friendships, self-esteem, and curiosity, in our Early Foundation Toddler Program as we help them explore their world in a safe and nurturing environment.

We provide child-directed activities such as art and sensory time. We provide meals and snacks, help toddlers adjust to transitions between activities throughout the day, and accommodate individual differences and developmental abilities.

## Social

- Imitating and responding to the words and actions of others
- Identifying and naming familiar items
- Engaging in conversations using pictures and puppets
- Following simple directions and asking questions



## Emotional

- Learning to understand and express emotions appropriately
- Developing strong listening skills through storytelling
- Interacting with peers in a group setting



## Physical

- Learning about body parts through songs and rhymes
- Crawling, jumping, running, kicking, and tossing
- Gaining enhanced eye-hand coordination through writing and drawing

## Intellectual

- Learning and responding to own name
- Identifying and sorting basic colors
- Developing sensory learning through music



## DAILY SCHEDULE

7:30-8:00	EARLY ARRIVAL	1:30-1:45	WAKE UP – POTTY/ DIAPERS
8:00	WELCOME	1:45-2:00	AFTERNOON SNACK
8:15-8:45	CENTERS	2:00-2:30	OUTSIDE PLAY
8:45-9:00	CIRCLE TIME	2:30	DISMISSAL
9:00- 9:15	MORNING SNACK		
9:15-9:45	OUTSIDE PLAY		
9:45-10:15	POTTY/ DIAPERS		
10:15-11:00	ART, MUSIC & MOVEMENT		
11:00-11:30	LUNCH		
11:30	POTTY/ DIAPERS		
11:30-1:30	NAP		

*After care is available for working parents for an additional fee.*

## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PRE KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM for 3 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

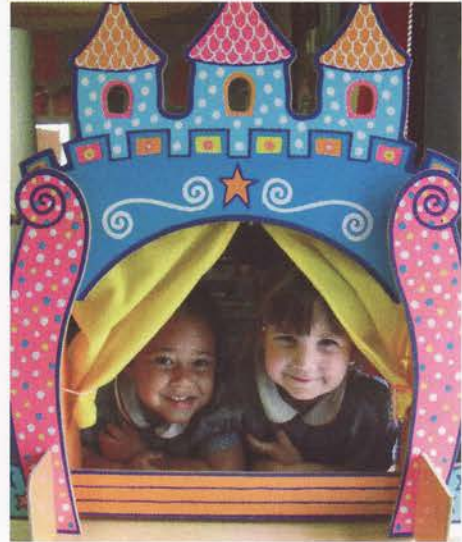
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St. Francis Xavier's program for children 3 years of age is a nurturing and developmental "theme based" curriculum that promotes a love of learning and discovery.

The day begins with Circle Time. This is a time for greeting our friends, prayers, and the Pledge of Allegiance. The theme for the week is introduced and reinforced at this time.

Throughout the day activities and manipulative table toys reinforce the theme presented and allow the student to develop both gross and fine motor skills. Frog Street Press is the publisher for the alphabet, number, color, and shape books used in the curriculum.

Students enjoy story time daily. The story of the day is centered on the theme of the week. Teacher led discussion strengthens listening and comprehension skills.



### **Language Arts/ Creative Play/ Art/ Music**

Students learn through creative play by acting out stories, playing with puppets, dance and movement. Art and music allow children to develop creative minds. Students engage through painting, drawing, use of play dough, the sand and water table.

Music is used on a daily basis to stimulate a child's senses. In addition, Mr. Mark Richards, the school's music teacher, visits the classroom weekly for a sing-a-long accompanied with guitar.

Physical education encourages healthy development. Group activities include ball games, balancing, tumbling, climbing, jump rope.

Ms. Paige, the Librarian, visits the class once a week for Story Time. Students visit the library for special events featuring guest authors.



### **Religion**

Students begin attending Mass the second half of the year. Christian values are taught so our young children grow and develop spiritually. *Stories of God's Love* is the book used for the 3 year old program.

### **Daily Schedule**

8 a.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Children receive a morning and afternoon snack.

Cafeteria lunch is brought to the class.

Nap time follows lunch.

Outdoor play is in a separate fenced in play yard.

### Skills Acquired in Pre Kindergarten

- recognize numbers 1 to 10
- match numbers to objects
- use measuring tools
- execute puzzles
- explore senses such as hearing, seeing, smelling, touching, and tasting
- learn shapes
- become familiar with the alphabet
- learn colors
- discuss the weather
- write their name
- learn days of the week and months of the year



### Children accepted into the program should display the following:

Completely potty trained by the first day of school. Your child should also be able to take care of their toilet needs.

Know his/her name.

Be able to sit quietly for 10 minutes.

Follow simple directions.

Respond to instructions by the teacher.

Know that biting and hitting is not tolerated.

# ST. FRANCIS XAVIER EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM FOR 4 YEAR OLD CHILDREN

The four-year-old Pre-Kindergarten program at St. Francis Xavier is founded on the belief that through playful interaction with people and objects, children develop knowledge about the physical and social world in which they live. Our program provides stimulating and challenging activities and material for our students to develop their love for learning in a safe and nurturing environment.

## Learning Together in Circle Time

The day begins in Circle Time with whole class practice of calendar skills, reading readiness, thinking skills, and counting activities. New skills are introduced by the teacher during this time and activities to reinforce previously learned skills are practiced with the whole group.

## Language Arts

Language development is taught through listening, speaking, writing, and reading activities. Readiness skills are introduced through the *Alpha Tales* program.

## Math

*Everyday in Pre K Math* combined with many hands-on activities make math fun. Knowledge of the calendar, skills in counting, sequencing and patterning, along with identifying, sorting and classifying shapes, are some of the math skills learned.



## Science

Encouraging children to observe and record the world around them is an important component of the program. The theme based lessons include using their five senses as tools to stimulate their curiosity. Students learn the basic needs of living things and life cycle of insects.

## Social Studies

Geography is integrated into the curriculum through the use of maps and globes. Students learn about their community, home, school and family. Field trips, songs and stories reinforce the program.



## Visual Arts

Line, shape, color, form, space, value, and texture are the basic art skills presented. Students use their imagination and judgment to look at, talk about, and create art.

## Technology

Pre-K enjoys the computer lab once a week. Age appropriate software activities are used, along with basic instruction in the use and care of the computer.

## Music

Movement and song make up the music program for our 4-year-olds. Students enjoy going to the music room once a week for 30 minutes where they enjoy singing songs and experimenting with musical instruments.

## Library/Story Time

A special time with the Librarian is filled with story time and guest authors where the children are encouraged to develop comprehension and language skills.

## Physical Education

Our physical education teacher engages the students in games that develop coordination and skills. Students go to the gym once a week, in addition to daily outside activities.

## Spanish

Colors, numbers, basic words, body parts, and songs are incorporated into the curriculum twice a week. Musical instruments and costumes make our Spanish Lab fun for our students

## Religion

Emphasis on how God wants us to treat others with kindness, love, and respect is a recurring theme in *I Am Special*. Religion is taught daily with students attending school mass once a week.

## Positive Reinforcement



Various positive reinforcement methods are used to reward good behavior.

Ex. "Caught Beeing Good" is a manipulative that is used. Children displaying good behavior remain in the green beehive. Failing to conform to warnings results in the child's name moving to the yellow hive or from there to the red. Rewards are given to children who follow directions, work quietly, and cooperate in class. Teachers always try to redirect a child's behavior in a positive way.

### Skills required for a student entering Pre Kindergarten 4

- Know and recognize his/her first and last name.
- Follow simple instructions.
- Sit quietly for at least 15 minute intervals.
- Recite the alphabet.
- Count from 1 to 10.
- Match shapes and identify colors.
- Has some understanding of letter/sound relationships.
- Go to the bathroom unassisted, be completely potty trained, and able to properly clean himself/herself after using the bathroom.
- Change and dress self independently.

### Field Trips/Resource Speakers

Teachers coordinate the use of field trips and speakers to reinforce the theme of the week. Students celebrate many special days in Pre-K, such as Grandparents' Day, Blessing of the Animals, Thanksgiving plays, Christmas programs and more.



### Skills Acquired in Pre Kindergarten

Recites required prayers.  
Writes first and last name.  
Can produce the sounds of the letters.  
Identifies capital and lowercase letters.  
Identifies opposite words.  
Recognizes numerals from 1 to 10.  
Can count by 5's and 10's to 100.  
Can order objects by size.  
Participates in role-play of stories.  
Names the months of the year.  
Can identify stages of the life cycle of the butterfly.  
Identifies the basic needs of living things.  
Can complete simple patterns with colors and shapes.  
Can locate Louisiana on a map of the United States.

Can count from 1 to 20.  
Identifies the six basic shapes.  
Identifies rhyming words.  
Uses art materials properly.  
Names the days of the week.  
Can describe the weather.

## ST. FRANCIS XAVIER KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

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St. Francis Xavier's kindergarten curriculum offers an exciting time of exploration for your child. Our developmentally appropriate, nurturing, Christian community, encourages learning by doing. Students explore and develop a love of learning through active, hands-on activities and cooperative learning skills. As your child's motor coordination increases, so too will their sense of independence, self-reliance, and self-confidence.

### Language Arts

The language arts program provides a comprehensive curriculum, which incorporates reading, language, auditory, and handwriting skills. The Scott Foresman, *Reading Street* language arts series provides a fun-filled, creative, age-appropriate atmosphere, which inspires children to interact, move, sing, and experiment. Students develop vocabulary, comprehension, sequencing/retelling, questioning techniques, phonemic awareness, book/print awareness, word-attack strategies, punctuation, and literary conventions. This phonetic-based program enables the children to participate in individual, small group, and whole-class experiences that differentiate learning.



### MATHEMATICS

The Kindergarten mathematics program provides experiences in all the strands of mathematics including graphs, patterns, geometry, time, money, sorting, estimation, measurement, and problem solving. The Harcourt math curriculum incorporates mental arithmetic activities, which encourages children to develop an abstract number sense and to move toward mastery of addition facts.



### SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES

In science/social studies students engage in hands-on experiences and opportunities to explore, discover, question, and reflect using all five senses. Children work and experiment both cooperatively and independently while discovering the world around them. They will understand the different roles in communities, local and state as well as appreciate the similarities and differences among individuals, families and traditions. Students study the solar system, learn about food and nutrition, identify seasons, weather and temperature.

### TECHNOLOGY

In addition to classroom computers, SMART boards, and LCD projectors, students enjoy the Computer Lab weekly. Children are instructed in the use of the mouse, the keyboard, and the printer. Age appropriate computer activities that develop problem-solving abilities, and reinforce concepts are presented. Students are taught the basics, computer care, the parts of the computer, how to insert, start, and exit.

### ART

Students use a variety of mediums to channel their creativity. Hands on activities provide an outlet for personal expression in 2 and 3-dimensional art forms.

## MUSIC

Kindergarten music is based on incorporating speech, singing, movement, and instrument playing. The emphasis in each class is the active participation of each child. Students learn to sing using all scale degrees, recognize musical symbols, as well as instrument families of the orchestra. Students enjoy performing with the music lab once a week.

## SPANISH

Kindergarten students will continue to focus on the spoken language. Students will actively participate and gain confidence in listening and responding. The program will be flexible to allow for various levels of competency. Instruction takes place twice a week in Spanish Lab.



## LIBRARY

During weekly visits Kindergarten students enjoy story time and book checkout. Introductory library skills, responsible library usage, and literature appreciation are taught in library class. Parents are encouraged to visit the Library, check out books and read with their child nightly.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Kindergarten students continue to work on gross motor skills as well as group and individual skills. More emphasis is placed on manipulatives, (i.e. hula hoops, beanbags, jump ropes, balls etc.). The PE teacher provides opportunities to practice these skills through the introduction of organized games.

## RELIGION

*Faith First* teaches lessons in Christian values to further strengthen the Catholic faith. Teachers emphasize the importance of treating each other with kindness, love, and respect. Students attend mass weekly with the entire student body.

## Field Trips/Activities

Field trips and activities reinforce the classroom curriculum. Kindergarten students participate in all school related activities when age appropriate. Students enjoy celebrating Grandparents' Day, participating in the Mission Fair, Blessing of the Animals, All Saints Day and a host of other classroom activities.

### Skills Required for a student entering Kindergarten

- Identify and write first and last name
- Know the alphabet
- Count to 10
- Recognize numerals 1 to 10
- Identify capital letters
- Identify six basic shapes
- Can order objects by size
- Can complete a simple pattern with colors and shapes
- Uses art materials properly
- Participate in role-play of stories
- Name the days of the week
- Name the months of the year
- Can describe the weather



## MULTI-DISCIPLINARY APPROACH to LEARNING



A NATIONAL SCHOOL  
of  
EXCELLENCE

A multi-disciplinary approach to learning is used to encourage creativity, cooperative learning, and independence. Skills are integrated into the curriculum with a strong emphasis on art, music, literature and technology.



Written and oral expression, reasoning ability, reinforcing concepts, and problem solving are incorporated into all subject matter.



Cooperative learning, and discussion helps the student develop esteemed listening skills.



SACS/CASI  
ACCREDITED

SACS accreditation certifies that St. Francis Xavier's curriculum maintains standards that engage and motivate active learning, and serve as the foundation for future growth.

# INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS, EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES & MORE

## Interscholastic Sports

St. Francis Xavier's Athletic Program provides an opportunity for physical, social, and emotional growth. Good sportsmanship combined with Christian values is reinforced at all levels.



Volleyball

Cross  
Country



Baseball

Basketball

Flag Football

## Extra Curricular Activities

St. Francis Xavier offers students an opportunity to channel their talents and creativity in other areas. Service to community is stressed as a way to create a spirit of fellowship among students.



Chess

Art Club

Band

Spanish Club

Student Council

Cheerleading

Dance Team

Altar Servers

Choir

Service Club



Boy & Girl Scouts

Creative Club

Cooking Club

