

**ST. VALENTINE SCHOOL**  
**PRE-SCHOOL**  
**3-4 YEAR OLDS PROGRAM**  
**CURRICULUM**



St. Valentine School  
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St. Valentine School  
Pre-School Program

## **Philosophy & Goals**

Our Pre-School Program at St.Valentine School is designed to promote a nurturing and safe environment encouraging spiritual, social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development of each child. The program is designed to develop the types of skills that are needed for kindergarten.

We are dedicated to providing the best possible Catholic Education in a nurturing and learning environment. Our faith is a rich springboard from which all learning is done. Knowing God, his angels and saints, and understanding Church traditions is the base for all that the children will learn. By creating an atmosphere of love, respect, personal responsibility and social concern, children will learn how to be positive, productive children of God.

These important areas of development will be reinforced on a daily basis through activities that will encourage a positive self-image, enhancing age appropriate communication skills and the small and large motor skills of each child.

Our program will promote the development in each child and a readiness for successful learning. It will prepare them socially through interactive centers that are both teacher directed and child directed. The children will participate in both one on one and group activities that they will be able to take home and share with their families. Each child will create a portfolio of their work, which showcases the skills that they have been working on all school year.

We greatly encourage parental involvement in our classroom. The teacher will send out a monthly calendar and letter, as well as a weekly newsletter detailing and sharing upcoming events in the classroom. There will also be times when the students will have “homework” to do with their families and share with their classmates. We will have events to include parental involvement in the classroom. This will enable parents to view their child in a new structured environment and encourage them to share in their child’s education.

Our program here at St. Valentine School will provide our children with a safe and happy environment in which to learn and grow beginning in preschool and continuing on through eighth grade.

## Pre-School Curriculum

### Religion

**Course Overview:** This course uses Bible Stories as the source for learning about God's love and building awareness of their identities as young Christians. There are also supplemental activities for the preschoolers to take home and do with their families. We also include daily prayer in our classroom.

Three Year Olds	Four Year Olds
Listen to Old Testament & New Testament Stories	Listen to Old Testament & New Testament Stories
Daily Prayer and thanksgiving	Holy Family
Celebrate Catholic Holidays: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Feast of St. Valentine	Daily Prayer and thanksgiving
Learn about God's Love	Learn about God's Love
Donate and help others in need in the community	Celebrate Catholic Holidays: Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Feast of St. Valentine
Life of Jesus	Donate and help others in need in the community
Teachings of Jesus	Life of Jesus and teachings of Jesus
Sign of the Cross	Sign of the Cross

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## Science

**Course Overview:** The students will use their senses to observe and describe the natural world and process information. The children will explore and experience, science through hands-on activities. Children will observe lives of plants, animals, and insects. Children will explore simple chemistry concepts, by missing common household items. Children will listen to non-fiction books read aloud.

Three Year Olds	Four Year Olds
Participates in science investigations	Participates in science investigations
Identifies simple parts of the body	Identifies simple parts of the body
Observe Weather Conditions	Observing Weather Conditions
Explore mixing colors	Observing insects
Explore the world using five senses	Exploring the world using five senses
Observe insect life	Observe and assist with classroom pet
Observe and assist with classroom pet	Use a variety of Science Tools to gather information
Use a variety of Science Tools to gather information	Keeps record of observations by drawing pictures and dictating sentences
Identify eight basic colors	Creates books to share information with his/her family
Experience the world around them, through field trips, gardening and nature walks	Measure and mix ingredients in cooking projects
	Experience the world around them, through field trips, gardening, and nature walks

## Pre-School Curriculum

### Language Arts/Fine Motor

**Course Overview:** The Children are exposed to the alphabet and environmental print. They are introduced to letter name, formation, and sounds by, the letter of the wee activities. Children learn that print has meaning, recognize and write their own names. The children listen to stories and tell their own stories. We create a natural classroom environment where writing tools and paper are always available in every center.

<b>Three Year Olds</b>	<b>Four Year Olds</b>
Sensory Writing Activities	Sensory Writing Activities
Writing Experiences	Journal Writing
Draw pictures to convey message	Inventive Writing
Dictate writing	Hold a pencil correctly
Using crayons, pencils, painting	Using scissors and gluing
Recognize his/her name	Write his/her own name
Listen Quietly in Story Time	Respond to stories and recall events
Attention Span Increase	Stringing Beads
Respond to stories and recall events	
Easel Painting Activities	

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## Creative Arts

**Course Overview:** The children will participate in the areas of Fine Art, Music, Drama, and Dance/Musical Movements. The children will have the opportunity to use the following art materials, but not limited to: crayons, markers, watercolor, Tempera Paint, Finger-paint, colored pencils, art chalk, oil pastels, and modeling clay.

Three Year Olds	Four Year Olds
Create paintings, drawing, and sculpture	Create paintings, drawing, and sculpture
Experiment with mixing colors	Experiment with mixing colors
Participate in Group Singing	Learn traditional songs
Participate in movement songs and dances	Participate in movement songs and dances
Introduce to variety of children's musical instruments	Use scarves, rhythm sticks to practice rhythm
Participate in dramatic play at Center Time	Participate in dramatic play at Center Time
Act out animals and their sounds	Dramatize familiar stories, life experiences
Repeat rhythmic patterns	Act out animals and their sounds
Use art materials properly	Develop Fine Motor Skills
Easel painting	Scissor skills, gluing

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## Social Studies

**Course Overview:** The children will learn how to cooperate in a classroom community. They will participate in projects to help others in need. Children will explore simple concepts of history through nursery rhymes, fairy tales, Bible Stories, and children’s nonfiction picture books. They will learn about America, Michigan, and the community in which our school is located through songs, pictures, guest speakers and stories.

<b>Three Year Olds</b>	<b>Four Year Olds</b>
Practice problem-solving skills in social situations	Practice problem-solving skills in social situations
Work in group of students on a variety of projects	Work in groups or with a partner on a variety of projects
Share classroom materials with a group	Share classroom materials with a group
Practice using simple manners and Table Manners	Practice using manners: Please, Thank You, Excuse Me, and table manners
Communicate his/her needs	Communicate his/her needs Communicate with peers
Taking care of own basic needs: cleans up, using Kleenex, putting on outerwear, etc.	Taking care of Basic needs, Zipping buttoning, tying shoes, etc.
Good Self Image	Personal Information: Address, Phone Number, Birth Date, First and Last Name
Positive attitude towards school	Explore Symbols and Holidays
Playing, sharing with peers/ Respect and show concern for peers	Explore their community and the people who live there.
Appropriate control of self/feelings	USA Flag and MI Flag
Accept and respond to teacher’s authority	Pledge of Allegiance

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## Physical Education/Large Motor

**Course Overview:** Everyday there is scheduled time to work on developing their gross motor/large motor skills, and we have access to the school gym and playground area. The children will learn ways to keep their bodies healthy by daily exercises, group games, nature walks on the school grounds and group discussion. While the activities are teacher directed there is time for free play. The following are the list of skills covered in each pre-school program.

Three Year Olds	Four Year Olds
Alternate feet on the stairs	Walk up/down stairs alternate feet
Gallops	Walks forward/backward
Jump in place	Jumps in place (2 feet)
Balance on: Left foot, Right foot	Balance (left foot, right foot)
Hops on: 1 foot, 2 feet	Hops on: 1 foot, 2 feet
Throw a ball forward	Throw a large ball
Kicks a ball forward	Kick a large ball forward
Take part in Group Games/ Teamwork skills	Catch a large ball/ Bounce a large ball
	Gallop/Skip
	Forward Somersault
	Take Part in Group Games/ Teamwork skills