

## PHILOSOPHY

We believe that each child is precious to God; therefore, we consider the children entrusted to our care an important responsibility. Children need to feel safe, secure, nurtured, and loved. We also believe that God's desire is to give us abundant eternal life. We seek to share that gift with children and their families through all we do.

*[Jesus] took a little child and had him stand among them. Taking him in his arms, he said to them. "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me, but the one who sent me." Mark 9:36-37*

*[Jesus says,] The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. John 10:10*

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16*

Young children are filled with nearly unlimited energy, exuberance, and curiosity. This is a time of great intellectual, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual growth. This foundation, which is formed in the early years of a child's life, proves important in the development of their values and attitudes. Since the Bible also describes us as body, soul and spirit, we believe in nurturing the "whole child".

*Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6*

Based on this knowledge, our program provides a well-balanced day of learning and play. Our curriculum is designed to teach children through challenging instructional methods (mind and spirit), stimulating physical activities (body), Bible memory and singing, and interesting and engaging learning experiences. The curriculum includes, but is not limited to, experiences in Bible teaching, language arts, math, science, social studies, music and motor skills, Spanish, and art. These guided activities are structured to meet the developmental stage of each child, as well as to encourage individual responsibility while providing a sense of success and accomplishment. We believe learning should be enjoyable using "hands-on" experiences, which help develop a positive self-concept.

Jesus' Great Commission is to "make disciples" of all nations. We also seek to help children learn to follow Jesus, nurturing a strong relationship with the heavenly Father (**celebrate**), encouraging children to love and respect each other (**live**), and providing opportunities for the children to support mission projects and provide for the needs of the community (**share/serve**). By teaching this, we are building on St. John's mission to connect our neighbors to true riches in Jesus.

*Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20*

Christian principles are integrated through weekly chapel, stories, songs, the example of loving adults, and happy school experiences. Through these activities, the children discover spirituality and values, which they share with their families, and which will serve them throughout their lives. We believe that spiritual growth also plays an important role in the child's total development.

*Hear, Oh Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord our God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about it with them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

*Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation. Joel 1:3*