Welcome!

Our preschool curriculum at St. Maria Goretti School is made up of several components, all of which are interconnected to provide an enriching and developmentally appropriate curriculum for students.

Creative Curriculum®
Creative Curriculum® is a widely used, research-based preschool curriculum. It is designed for early childhood programs serving children ages 3-5 and is based on the concept of teachers organizing their rooms into interest areas and using them effectively to implement a developmentally appropriate curriculum that incorporates the Early Learning Standards. The interest areas in our preschool classroom at St. Maria Goretti School are as follows: Blocks, Dramatic Play, Toys and Games (puzzles, math manipulatives, etc.), Art, Reading Corner, Writing Center, and Discovery. The Creative Curriculum® philosophy is that children learn while playing, and center-time activities will incorporate learning opportunities in all academic areas – literacy, math, science, and social studies. Teachers are able to guide students’ learning as they explore and interact with one another.

Stories of God’s Love
“Stories of God’s Love” is the religion book for preschoolers in the Benzinger religion program. Units are as follows: We Gather as the Friends of Jesus, God Knows and Loves Us, God Gave Us the World, Jesus Is God’s Own Son, God Gave Us Our Church Family, We Talk to God in Prayer, and a special chapter that includes the holidays and is to be used throughout the year – We Celebrate Holy Days and Holidays. Songs, posters, and pamphlets to go home accompany each lesson.
Happily Ever After
The Happily Ever After literacy program is the precursor to the SuperKids program that St. Maria Goretti students use in first and second grades. Each of the 10 units in Happily Ever After is based on a selection from children’s literature and teaches literacy skills such as print awareness, phonological awareness, visual development, listening and speaking, vocabulary, conceptual development, fine motor, and comprehension.

Responsive Classroom®
The Responsive Classroom® approach to learning connects students’ social/emotional development and academic learning throughout the school day and year. Responsive Classroom® provides structure to the school day, teaches discipline, and helps students to build academic engagement. It is designed to work in conjunction with any curriculum.

Learning Without Tears®
Learning Without Tears® is the precursor to the Handwriting Without Tears® program developed by occupational therapists. Depending on where they are developmentally, your children will work on forming shapes or correctly forming uppercase letters of the alphabet, among other fine-motor activities.

Other
Pre-K students who are going to kindergarten next year will have Computer class once a week, and all students will have Physical Education class each week. (Full-day students will have two P.E. sessions weekly.) There will be a time for snack every morning. Children should bring a healthy snack to school each day. Full-day students should plan to bring or buy lunch as well.

We look forward to helping your child grow and learn!