

## **PRIMARY CURRICULUM**

The **Religion** program introduces students to basic Catholic teachings, practices, and prayer experiences. The invitation to know, love, worship, and follow Jesus culminates with the reception of the sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist in Grade 2.

**Language Development** covers a vast area of instruction in the Primary. Through a phonetic-based literature program, students are introduced to the fundamentals of reading readiness. Continued emphasis is placed on strategies and skills important to the reading and writing process. Additional efforts in storytelling and creative writing aid students in becoming successful readers, writers, and communicators. Manuscript printing instruction builds on fine motor development with cursive writing being introduced in Grade 2.

The study of **Mathematics** builds an understanding of fundamental number concepts and basic mathematical operations by using patterning, concrete objects, pictorial representations, and abstract symbols. Emphasis is placed on active learning, opportunities for practice, and problem-solving processes and strategies.

Primary **Science** focuses on helping students answer questions about the world in which they live. Skills are introduced which help the students learn to think, explore, experiment with, and understand a wide range of topics in the life, physical, and earth sciences. SGM Science Fair is in-class projects with optional individual participation.

In response to the ever-changing and developing area of technology, the goals of **Computer** education focus on the integration of learning and problem-solving. Primary students use computers to experiment, reinforce classroom lab skills, and communicate creatively. Interactive storybooks, games, paint and word processing software, simple programming, and basic telecommunications skills are used.

## **GRADES K, 1, 2**

The study of **Spanish** is mandatory for all Primary students. The goals of the foreign language program include developing an appreciation for becoming bilingual and learning about an alternate culture. Oral communication is stressed through the presentation of simple vocabulary, conversation, and song.

Through the **Social Studies** program, students begin to understand and appreciate the physical, social, and cultural aspects of their families, neighborhoods, and country. Students also begin to learn about various global communities.

In **Art** classes, students begin to learn basic “art” terminology and are introduced to various art forms. Instruction includes the exploration of color, shape, and design. Activities allow for the development of emerging creativity through experimentation with a variety of mediums. Student work is displayed year round and an Art Fair is held each spring.

Primary **Music** classes include instruction in basic musical elements through participation in a wide variety of experiences which include singing, moving, playing instruments, and listening. Students are gradually introduced to different composers and encouraged to enjoy and appreciate all types of music. SGM participates in Archdiocesan music festivals.

Students reinforce the basic techniques of hopping, skipping, and jumping in **Physical Education** classes. Simple games and aerobic exercises are introduced. Emphasis is placed on building confidence and self-esteem. Developing a good sense of sportsmanship and appreciation for a healthful lifestyle are stressed.

**Focus Assemblies** and **School Counselor classroom visits** help students develop a healthy self-esteem, personal potential, responsibility, understanding, social skills, and problem-solving techniques. Teaching, reinforcing, and encouraging positive ways of behaving are emphasized.