

# LOWER SCHOOL (GRADES K-7)



Roanoke Catholic Lower School is comprised of both elementary and middle school divisions. Students' days begin at 8:00 AM. Grades K-5 end at 2:45 PM, while Middle School (Grades 6 & 7) dismisses at 3:00 PM. As a college preparatory school, our certified teachers instruct in a spiral approach that constantly reviews and adds age-appropriate new material. With an average class size of 16 students and a 7:1 student-to-teacher ratio, our students receive the individual attention they need to succeed.

## SPECIALS

Each week, students in Grades K-5 receive instruction in art, music, computer skills and library. All students in K-5 have two physical education classes each week. Middle School students rotate their "special" subjects, devoting 45 minutes to Art or Band at least twice a week, and quarterly rotate through foreign language, guidance, and library. Students in 6th and 7th grades have P.E. once a week. All Lower School students have recess daily.

## RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

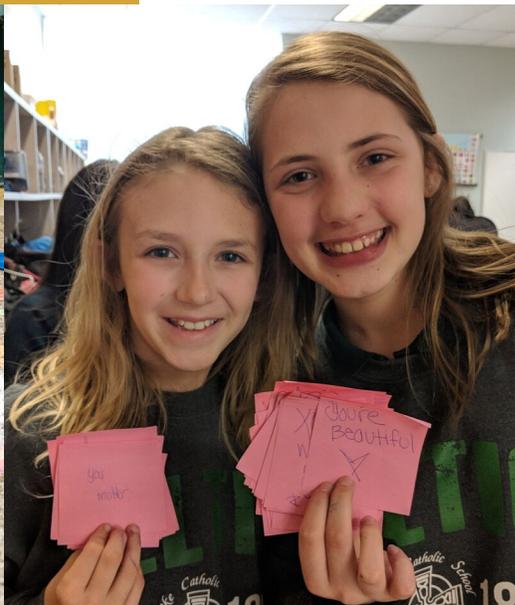
We recognize the potential within each student and embrace the challenge to provide assistance and programs to serve students with learning differences, in accordance with the resources available within the school and provided by Roanoke City. Parents are considered an important part of the process. Students who have a documented disability but do not qualify for services through the local public school may be eligible for accommodations through a Student Accommodation Plan written at Roanoke Catholic.



## BLENDING LEARNING WITH FAITH AND FAITH WITH DAILY LIFE

All students, regardless of their faith backgrounds, study religion daily. Classes consist of prayer, Bible study, Catholic teachings, and planning of liturgical celebrations. Students attend Mass or other liturgical celebrations between two to four times per month. Each class takes a turn planning and executing the celebration for the rest of the school. Sacramental preparation is reserved to the parishes.

We believe in teaching students how to be good citizens, and we support students in serving their community. Each religion class adopts a local social service agency. The students learn about how that agency helps people, and, how they, as a class, can help a local service agency in town. Examples of these agencies include Ronald MacDonald House, Madonna House, St. Francis House, and RAM House.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM



Our Early Childhood Program is dedicated to the physical, social, and emotional development of the young child in a nurturing Christian environment. Our Early Childhood Program consists of Early Learners (ages 3 and 4) and Junior Kindergarten (ages 4 and 5). Fully certified teachers and aides staff our classrooms to support our 1:7 teacher-to-student ratio. Program hours are 8:00 AM - 2:45 PM Monday-Friday.

Each school day is planned with age-appropriate activities to enhance socialization skills, personal independence, physical development, and basic school readiness in a comfortable, happy, play-oriented setting. Indoor and outdoor play are part of each day.

Standards for Early Learners build foundational skills and allow for children to transition into a more structured setting while preparing them for Junior Kindergarten. Standards for Junior Kindergarten continue to build upon those foundational skills and focus on essential Kindergarten readiness skills. These standards allow for scaffolding of skills, multi-sensory teaching and learning, problem-solving, spiritual growth, and differentiation of instruction.

A primary goal in our Early Childhood Program is to build self-esteem. Students are encouraged to develop a sense of independence and interdependence, learning the social skills necessary to be part of a group. Our program also fosters self-discipline and a love of learning, tapping into the children's natural sense of curiosity.

All applicants must be able to toilet themselves independently.



## CURRICULUM

Each day begins with circle time, which includes weather, calendar, Pledge of Allegiance, and prayer.

**Religion:** Students learn the Sign of the Cross, Grace before meals, the Our Father, and Hail Mary. Bible stories, weekly Chapel, and the liturgical seasons of Advent, Lent, and Easter are also taught.

**Language Arts:** Students learn both uppercase and lowercase letters through letter books, letter characters, and song. They practice language skills, including rhyme, sequencing, and speaking before a group. Reading books is a daily part of the curriculum.

**Math:** Students learn to count to at least 31 during the daily calendar activities, to recognize numbers 1-12, recognize shapes, count objects, identify patterns, and sort and classify objects.

**Social Studies/Science:** The curriculum groups these two subjects in weekly units, such as seasons and holidays, community helpers, space, shapes, colors, fire safety, dinosaurs, the ocean, transportation, families, insects, the five senses, zoo animals, and more!

**Physical Education:** Students take physical education classes twice a week with the elementary physical education teacher. Students also have daily recess on the playground.

**Music:** Students meet with the school's music teacher once a week and learn a variety of songs. They also participate in an annual Christmas program.

**Library:** During their weekly visit to the library, students explore different types of literature and may check out books.

**Art:** Art is part of the daily curriculum. Each weekly themed unit includes an art project. Students use different mediums to complete each project. Cutting, gluing, and painting are among the techniques students practice. They also visit the school's art teacher once a week.

**Field Trips:** Trips differ each year but can include the fire station, Mill Mountain Theatre, a pumpkin patch, story time at Gainsboro Public Library, Kids' Square, and a bakery.

