

Classroom Connections

The heart of every good school is found in its classrooms. The activities that teachers and students work hard at every day are the key to our school's success. If you want to learn more about what your children are doing in the classroom, please visit our Classroom Connections below.

3 & 4-Year-Old Preschool

Teacher: Mrs. Kayte Schryer
(231) 420-6767
kschryer@bishopbaraga.com

Aide: Mrs. Brenda Dunham
(231) 625-9562
bdunham@bishopbaraga.com

Class Curriculum:

We are proud to be a nurturing place for the youngest members of the Bishop Baraga School family; a happy place where age-appropriate activities involve preschoolers' bodies, minds and spirits.

Our activities include the following:

- Active times alternated with quieter times.
- Listening skills are developed during short group and circle times.
- Activities target large and small muscle development.
- Nutritious snacks are emphasized.
- Early literacy activities throughout the session.
- Activities designed to develop early math, science and reading skills.
- Large group, small group and individual activities.
- Daily music activities.
- Daily hands-on art projects.

Kindergarten

Teacher: Mrs. Carrie Stemple
(231) 627-5608
cstemple@bishopbaraga.com

Aide: Ms. Leanna Sherman
lshearn@bishopbaraga.com

Class Curriculum:

Religion - The kindergarten religion curriculum is designed to open our children to God's love through discovery of the many good things God has placed in their world, which lead them to an awareness of God's presence in their everyday lives. They reflect on God's goodness in creation, in the wonder of their own unique selves and in the love of the people around them. The children experience being brothers and sisters in God's family. In kindergarten, we learn how to be kind (respecting

ourselves and others), careful (protecting ourselves and being safe) and caring (taking care of our belongings and school environment). The children attend Mass twice weekly in the school chapel.

Reading - The kindergarten program seeks to instill a love of learning and desire to read. It is designed to give our children experiences in good literature and the tools to aid them in becoming successful, independent readers.

Reading concepts include:

Concepts of print:

- Directionality - moving left to right and top to bottom on a page
- One-to-one matching using fingers to point to words as we read
- Punctuation marks “voice marks” – using our voices to express meaning

Upper and lowercase letter recognition

Top-to-bottom letter formation in writing

Use of reading strategies to decode (read) words and writing strategies to encode (spell) words:

- Alliteration (groups of words that begin with the same sound)
- Rhyming
- Letter/Sound association
- Contextual clues
- Visual clues

The children also meet weekly with our third grade “reading buddies.” They read to us and we read to them.

Math - Kindergartners are active, inquisitive and eager to learn with short attention spans and boundless energy. The math program helps children to flourish in an active environment, learning best through hands-on exploration using a variety of manipulatives.

Math concepts include: Rote counting 0-100, number recognition 0-30, number quantity, comparing numbers, simple addition and subtraction, patterning – all done using manipulatives.

Technology - Kindergartners attend computer classes weekly and have access to computers within the classroom.

Physical Development / Health Education - Kindergartners attend physical education classes twice weekly, as well as daily classroom activities that develop large and small muscle groups through games, exercises and rhythm. The Michigan Model Comprehensive Health Program is experienced throughout the year.

Music - The children attend a weekly music class as part of our school curriculum. They also experience rhythms and songs daily in the classroom.

Social Studies - The children learn about themselves and how they relate to the world around them. Units of study include:

- Myself and others – how we relate to each other
- Exploring citizenship – how rules provide for order and safety
- Geography – places on earth and how to locate them
- Families & Culture – learning about similarities and differences in all families
- Time & Change – comparing families past and present
- Economics – identifying jobs that provide goods and services - interdependence

Science - The science program endeavors to build a solid foundation of basic science concepts. The relationship between science content and our children's daily life is emphasized. Units of study include:

- All about me
- Nutrition
- Weather
- Exploring earth
- Exploring space
- Using energy
- Plant growth
- Animals
- Homes for Living Things (ecology)

Community Involvement – The students become involved in their community through several field trips (Knaebe's Apple Farm, Cheboygan Animal Medical Clinic and Yogi Bear Campground) and also through interactions with guest speakers (Firefighters, Police Officers, Nurses, Dental Assistants). The kindergarten children are also included in schoolwide field trips and guest speakers' presentations, as appropriate, which are provided by the school.

First Grade

Teacher: Ms. Jennifer Scheele
(231) 445-1778
jscheele@bishopbaraga.com

Aide: Mrs. Jan Franz
jfranz@bishopbaraga.com

Class Curriculum:

First grade is a tremendous growth year in terms of learning. We work with many hands-on activities and manipulatives to help teach the skill areas listed below. We also work with the students in preparation for written skills needed for second grade.

Religion - Our book is based on Christ, Our Life. We emphasize building our faith through Old and New Testament stories, seasons of the Church, Baptism, Holy Days and stories of the Saints.

Math - We work on concepts in the following areas: Recognition, counting and proper writing of numbers up to 100; counting by 2s, 5s and 10s; recognizing

even/odd numbers; identifying greater and lesser numbers; basic addition and subtraction; telling time; counting money; problem solving; geometry; graphing; and fractions.

Language Arts - Our new reading series is a comprehensive reading, phonics, spelling, grammar and writing program. Reading consists of whole and small group classes. Emphasis is on skills to help sound out words, learn basic sight words and develop writing techniques.

Social Studies - Our units include community, citizenship, geography, history and jobs (goods and services). We include enrichment programs and activities to enhance the awareness of the world around us.

Science - Our experiment-based curriculum includes the study of plants, animals, sound, light, heat, movement, machines, earth, weather, space, senses, health and physical growth.

Handwriting - We practice letter formation and proper size of upper and lower manuscript letters on a daily basis.

We also offer computers, gym, art, Spanish and music on a weekly basis. In addition, curriculum-related field trips are taken and special presentations are offered on site.

Second Grade

Teacher: Mrs. Mary Redmond
(231) 627-4255
mredmond@bishopbaraga.com

Class Curriculum:

Second Grade students are able to become more independent and responsible. One of the main parts of our curriculum is to help the students develop the study skills they will need in the future. These skills include using an assignment planner, using time wisely and studying from notes.

Religion - The main focus of second grade religion is an understanding of the Sacraments of Initiation and the Mass.

Science - Topics covered include plants, animals, fossils, dinosaurs, matter, sound, heat, light, force, magnets, electricity, rocks, erosion, weather and nutrition. Many hands-on activities are used to reinforce the concepts taught.

Math - Math concepts are taught using a variety of instructional styles and many hands-on manipulatives. These concepts include money, time, fractions, shapes, measurement, tables and graphs, and adding and subtracting with regrouping.

Reading / Language Arts - Second graders learn traditional phonics, spelling and grammar. There are also several writing units for composition. While using textbooks, as well as good literature, our reading program goal is to motivate students to actively read. Comprehension and decoding skills are also an important part of the program.

Social Studies - In that second graders are becoming more aware of the world around them, our curriculum includes enrichment opportunities to learn about different cultures and experiences. We learn about communities, geography of the U.S., local, state and federal government, history and economics. Map skills are also included in the Social Studies curriculum.

Handwriting - Students use the manuscript alphabet in second grade. We review what was learned in previous grades and practice for continued neatness in penmanship.

Spanish - Second graders quickly adapt to speaking many phrases in Spanish. We learn vocabulary associated with places we live, our body parts, the calendar and various foods.

Third Grade

Teacher: Mrs. Molly Mousseau
(231) 818-0119
mmousseau@bishopbaraga.com

Class Curriculum:

Third grade is a transition to a higher level of thinking. The textbooks are written at a higher reading level and the format is more detailed than in second grade. Emphasis is placed on math and learning multiplication facts, learning cursive writing, finding the fifty states on a map and developing organization and study skills. The work is supplemented with a variety of activities that promote learning and stimulate interest.

Religion - Topics include the parts of the Mass; sacraments, especially Reconciliation and Eucharist, Apostles' Creed and God's plan for us. Included in Religion are anti-bullying activities.

Math - Concepts are taught using a variety of instructional styles and many hands-on manipulatives. Concepts taught include addition and subtraction with regrouping, multiplication, geometry and fractions.

Reading - Continued phonics study along with improved comprehension and oral reading skills. Emphasis on drawing conclusions, making inferences, sounding out

words, topics, main ideas and details.

Science - Topics covered include plant and animal growth and change, environments, matter, forces and machines, energy, sound, changes in the earth's surface, solar system and body systems. There are many hands-on activities to reinforce the concepts taught.

Social Studies - Third graders learn about communities, government, citizenship, American culture, geography and economics. Map skills are a part of the Social Studies curriculum.

English - Emphasis is on grammar with several units on writing skills.

Handwriting - Learning cursive letters and writing in cursive.

Also included in the third-grade program are physical education, music, art, Spanish and technology.

Fourth Grade

Teacher: Mrs. Heather Lake
(231) 268-9588
hlake@bishopbaraga.com

Class Curriculum:

Religion –

Unit 1: Growing in Jesus Christ Faith, Beatitudes, Liturgical Seasons, Ordinary Time, Penance and Reconciliation, Mass Readings

Unit 2: The Commandments Help Us to Love God - First, Second and Third Commandments, Advent and Christmas

Unit 3: The Commandments Help Us to Love Others - Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth Commandments, Lent and the Triduum

Unit 4: We Are Called to Holiness - The Ninth and Tenth Commandments, Easter, Altar serving and Venture Magazines

Reading - Skills: Sequence, Author's Purpose, Main Idea, Cause and Effect, Fact and Opinion, Draw Conclusions, Compare and Contrast, Generalize, Setting, Graphic Sources

Strategies: Word Structure, Summarize, Answer Questions, Graphic Organizers, Story Structure, Context Clues, Prior Knowledge, Dictionary/Glossary, Visualize

Fluency: Modeling and practicing fluent reading

Writing: Writing incorporating the Six Traits of Writing

Cursive Writing - Review cursive letters and practice legible handwriting. Improving the five factors: shape, size, smoothness, spacing and slant

Grammar - Sentences, Nouns, Verbs, Adjectives, Capitalization and Punctuation, Pronouns, Adverbs

Michigan History - Geography and regions, Early people, Statehood, Civil War, Growth, Depression, World War and Recovery, Michigan Today: Government, Living and working in Michigan, Enjoying Michigan

Spelling - Weekly Tests, word and sound practice, dictionary skills, Spelling Bee

Science - Matter, Force and Motion; Electricity and Magnetism; Light and Sound; Measuring Weather; The Makeup of the Earth; Exploring the Oceans; Movements in the Solar System; The Digestive, Circulatory and Nervous Systems; Keeping Your Body Systems Healthy; Michigan Model

Math - Review addition and subtraction, place value, time, money, measurement
Emphasis on multiplication and division, fractions and decimals, geometry, word problems, charts and graphs, probability and statistics.

Fifth Grade

Teacher: Ms. Hilary Stover
hbeavers@bishopbaraga.com

Class Curriculum:

Religion - Religious instruction focuses on the following topics:

- Sunday Readings
- Jesus Shares His Life and with Us
- Jesus Shares His Mission with the Church
- Seven Sacraments
- New Life In Christ
- Celebration of Baptism
- Liturgical Year
- Ordinary Time
- Coming of the Holy Spirit
- Celebration of Confirmation
- Jesus Christ the Bread of Life
- Celebration of the Eucharist
- Living as Prayerful People
- Advent & Christmas
- Turning to God
- Celebration of Reconciliation
- Jesus the Healer - Celebration of Anointing of the Sick
- Mary, Model of Discipleship

- Lent
- Triduum
- Faith, Hope and Love
- Called to Live as Jesus' Disciples
- Matrimony
- Holy Orders
- One Holy and Catholic and Apostolic
- Easter
- Sharing Faith in Class and Home

Math - Topics including the following:

- Whole Number and Decimal: Place Value, Addition and Subtraction
- Multiplication of Whole Numbers and Decimals
- Division of Whole Numbers and Decimals (1 and 2 Digit)
- Geometry
- Fractions and Mixed Numbers
- Fraction Operation and Customary Linear Measurement
- Fraction Multiplication
- Length, Perimeter and Area
- Measurement
- Ratio, Percent and Probability

Science – Science instruction focuses on 4 main areas of study: Life Science, Physical Science, Earth Science and the Human Body. Specific topics are given below.

Life Science: Comparing Living Things, Reproduction and Change, Adaptations, Ecology

Physical Science: Classifying Matter, Investigating Motion, Forms of Energy, Electrical Energy

Earth Science: The Changing Earth, The Earth's Crust, Climate, Astronomy

Human Body: Respiration and Excretion, Living a Healthy Life

Physical Education – Students participate in a variety of different games and activities including: Floor Hockey, Cage Ball, Four Square, Dodge 'em, Ball Handling Exercises, Tag Games, Parachute Games, Arm and Leg Muscle Building, Volleyball, Track and Field Events, Softball (whiffleball), Flag Football, Basketball, Kickball, Archery, Presidential Physical Fitness, Gymnastics (Floor Exercises), Badmitten

Technology – Technology topics include:

- Keyboarding
- Paint, Draw and Graphics
- Word Processing
- Information Systems
- Network Awareness
- Internet / Telecommunications
- Multimedia
- Electronic Presentations

Spelling - Spelling is individualized using words from the Language Arts series as well as from individual work, spelling bee lists and various other resources.

Grammar - We use the grammar book from our Scott Foresman Language Arts program which covers parts of speech, punctuation and capitalization. Students are also exposed to a variety of grammatical pitfalls through a daily "Caught ya."

Writing - We use the Six Traits of Writing to give students a complete writing experience. Through this program they are introduced to many different types of writing. Other supplementary materials are used as well.

Reading - The Scott Foresman reading program exposes students to many different genre such as: Expository nonfiction, historical fiction, poetry, folklore, biographies, fiction and excellent children's literature. Skills are woven into the units to help students with comprehension, decoding words, spelling, vocabulary, writing and grammar. This reading series has a strong emphasis on science and social studies.

Handwriting - At this level there is no formal handwriting class, but work is expected to be in cursive (unless otherwise stated) and neat.

Art - Students are introduced to the seven areas of art: line, shape, color, value, texture, form and space through various projects. They are also introduced to several key artists with some student projects modeled on the work of these people.

Spanish - Spanish is geared around a series of videos that strive to teach students basic Spanish vocabulary, simple sentences and the beginnings of verb conjugation. Other supplementary materials are also used, such as games and practice worksheets.

Sixth Grade

Teacher: Mr. Chase Closs
(231) 420-0794
ccloss@bishopbaraga.com

Class Curriculum:

Religion - The sixth grade religion curriculum focuses on the history of the Catholic Church. Beginning with the apostolic age and the age of persecution, students are introduced to the accomplishments of men and women of faith throughout the centuries. As well, the successes and difficulties that the Church has faced within and without is studied, but always with a view to help students face the challenges of our own time. Finally, we study the saints, seasons and special days of the Church calendar and learn various prayers of the Church. The sixth graders are leaders in several religious activities here at school such as: Leading the rosary, the Stations of

the Cross and serving and reading at daily Mass.

Social Studies - This curriculum centers on the Western Hemisphere. The students study the geography, cultures, government structures and economics of Canada, Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean and South America. They continue their study of U.S. history from the end of the Revolutionary War up to the Industrial Revolution. Their year culminates in a week-long trip to Washinton D.C. to see our government at work and visit historical places in the D.C. area that were covered in history classes.

Spelling - Spelling is individualized using words from the Language Arts series as well as from individual work, spelling bee lists and various other resources.

Grammar - We use the grammar book from our Scott Foresman Language Arts program which covers parts of speech, punctuation and capitalization. Students are also exposed to a variety of grammatical pitfalls through a daily "Caught ya."

Writing - We use the Six Traits of Writing to give students a complete writing experience. Through this program they are introduced to many different types of writing. Other supplementary materials are used as well.

Reading - The Scott Foresman reading program exposes students to many different genre such as: Expository nonfiction, historical fiction, poetry, folklore, biographies, fiction and excellent children's literature. Skills are woven into the units to help students with comprehension, decoding words, spelling, vocabulary, writing and grammar. This reading series has a strong emphasis on science and social studies.

Handwriting - At this level there is no formal handwriting class, but work is expected to be in cursive (unless otherwise stated) and neat.

Art - Students are introduced to the seven areas of art: Line, shape, color, value, texture, form and space through various projects. They are also introduced to several key artists with some student projects modeled on the work of these people.

Spanish - Spanish is geared around a series of videos that strive to teach students basic Spanish vocabulary, simple sentences and the beginnings of verb conjugation. Other supplementary materials are also used, such as games and practice worksheets.

Math - Topics include the following:

- Statistics - Real World Use of Whole Numbers
- Connect Arithmetic to Algebra
- Decimals
- Measurement
- Patterns and Number Theory
- Addition and Subtraction of Fractions

- Multiplication and Division of Fractions
- Geometry of Polygons
- Integers and the Coordinate Plane
- Ratio, Proportion and Percent
- Solid and Measurement
- Probability

Science – Science instruction focuses on 4 main areas of study: Life Science, Physical Science, Earth Science, and the Human Body. Specific topics are given below.

Life Science: Structure and Heredity, Changing and Adaptation, Ecosystems and Biomes

Physical Science: Heat and Matter, Changes in Matter, Moving Object (Newton Laws), Light, Color and Sound

Earth Science: Technology and Weather, Earth Processes, The Universe, Resources and Conservation

Human Body: The Body's Control Systems, Drugs and Your Body

Physical Education – Students participate in a variety of different games and activities including: Floor Hockey, Cage Ball, Four Square, Dodge 'em, Ball Handling Exercises, Tag Games, Parachute Games, Arm and Leg Muscle Building, Volleyball, Track and Field Events, Softball (whiffleball), Flag Football, Basketball, Kickball, Archery, Presidential Physical Fitness, Gymnastics (Floor Exercises), Badmitten

Technology – Technology topics include:

- Google Docs/Slides/Sheets
- Paint, Draw and Graphics
- Word Processing
- Information Systems
- Internet / Telecommunications
- Multimedia
- Electronic Presentations
- Spreadsheets

Seventh Grade

Teacher: Ms. Marley Smith
msmith@bishopbaraga.com

Class Curriculum:

Religion - The seventh grade religion curriculum focuses on the history of the Catholic Church. Beginning with the apostolic age and the age of persecution, students are introduced to the accomplishments of men and women of faith throughout the centuries. As well, the successes and difficulties that the Church has faced within and without is studied, but always with a view to help students face the challenges of our own time. Finally, we study the saints, seasons and special days of the Church calendar and learn various prayers of the Church. The seventh graders

are leaders in several religious activities here at school such as: Leading the rosary, the Stations of the Cross and serving and reading at daily Mass.

Social Studies - This curriculum centers on the Eastern Hemisphere. The students study the geography, cultures, government structures and economics of Europe, The Eastern Mediterranean, Russia, Asia, Africa, and the Arabian Peninsula. Their year culminates in a week-long trip to Washinton D.C. to see our government at work and visit historical places in the D.C. area that were covered in history classes.

Spelling - Spelling is individualized using words from the Language Arts series as well as from individual work, spelling bee lists and various other resources.

Grammar – Grammar is individualized and covers parts of speech, punctuation and capitalization, sentence structure, etc... Students are also exposed to a variety of grammatical pitfalls through a daily "Caught ya."

Writing - We use the Six Traits of Writing to give students a complete writing experience. Through this program they are introduced to many different types of writing. Other supplementary materials are used as well.

Reading - The students begin novel studies through mini-lessons that focus on reading skills or strategies or literature circle procedures are interspersed throughout each unit where they are most relevant. Novels vary in genre and lexile range. Students are taught to be critical thinkers, higher order thinking questions are asked and discussed, and grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and writing are woven in to each novel.

Handwriting - At this level there is no formal handwriting class, but work is expected to be in cursive (unless otherwise stated) and neat.

Art - Students are introduced to the seven areas of art: Line, shape, color, value, texture, form and space through various projects. They are also introduced to several key artists with some student projects modeled on the work of these people.

Spanish - Spanish is geared around a series of videos that strive to teach students basic Spanish vocabulary, simple sentences and the beginnings of verb conjugation. Other supplementary materials are also used, such as games and practice worksheets.

Math - Topics include the following:

- Statistics - Real World Use of Whole Numbers
- Connect Arithmetic to Algebra
- Decimals
- Measurement
- Patterns and Number Theory
- Addition and Subtraction of Fractions

- Multiplication and Division of Fractions
- Geometry of Polygons
- Integers and the Coordinate Plane
- Ratio, Proportion and Percent
- Solid and Measurement
- Probability

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