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KINDERGARTEN



KINDERGARTEN



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Introduction: A Vision of Education

Young children are sponges; they absorb all that is around them. These early years are therefore of utmost importance in the child's formation. In these years a child needs beauty in images, experience to grow in wisdom, words to lift up the mind to ends that are noble, structure and discipline to build habits that effectively use what is in his mind, and reflection and rest to internalize the information. These skills will prepare students to be successful when they later encounter the classics for the first time.

These elements are intentionally present in the Kolbe Academy curriculum. The literature book list, music list, and Art Journal are ordered to provide the child with experiences of beauty in their world. Our Art Journal pages are intended to expose the child to God's creation; to composition through exercises in color and shape; and to their own creative capacity. The literature book list and recommended music list is carefully curated to ensure exposure to truthful stories that demonstrate for the young student what natural consequences and responses certain actions will receive.

Look & Learn, the classical companion, educates the student in the areas of history, science, art, and religion. It centers the life of Christ as a launching point for every area of study, and encourages students to make connections between Jesus' life and their own daily lives. It also provides exposure to the beauty of the faith and of art.

The Student Journal allows the student to reflect, rest, and internalize the information they have learned. The child must make what he has learned his own and this reflective piece will help the child accomplish these through various modes.

There are two core skill courses in the kindergarten program: Math and English. Each workbook orders the worksheets for students, so they learn skills sequentially and work through the material at a standard, consistent pace. Through these workbooks they will learn the structure and disciplines needed for future learning.

Kindergarten is a time of rapid developmental growth in young children. Their motor control will dramatically improve over the year. Their ability to focus on "schoolwork" will continue to develop, though you will notice they will want to focus on one or two things at a time.

There is a wide variety of abilities in kindergarten. The classical components help the student build habits and expose them to the liturgical calendar and the life of Jesus. They also encourage the student to begin building memorization, observation, and sequencing skills which will serve the child in later years. Through poetry and literature, Kolbe students are intentionally exposed to the patterns of language. The math and English courses provide the student with activities to master key skills related to numbers, number theory, reading, and phonics. The courses are designed with intentional flexibility. There are places where a student can stop and practice more if needed, or speed on if the student excels.

School itself for students this age should never be more than 1.5 hours of formal learning per day. This is best broken up into three smaller chunks. Start with math or reading each day and then move to the other subjects.



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Kindergarten Readiness Checklist:

Social skills

- Can complete an activity according to a simple direction
- Stays with a short activity to completion
- Asks for help
- Listens

Motor skills

- Puts puzzles together
- Cuts with scissors
- Holds and uses crayons, markers, pens, and pencils correctly
- Colors a picture and shows recognition of boundary lines
- Completes a simple maze correctly
- Builds using blocks
- Throws and catches a ball
- Rides a tricycle

Math & logic concept development

- Classification: Groups objects based on various attributes such as size, shape, color, or other distinguishing features.
- Ordering and Sequencing: Arranges objects or events in a particular order, such as by size, shape, or another attribute. Understands concepts like before and after, and can use terms like today, yesterday, and tomorrow to describe the passage of time.
- Comparing and Contrasting: Identifies similarities and differences between objects or groups of objects. Can use comparative language like "more," "less," and "same as" to describe size, quantity, or other attributes.
- Spatial Concepts: Understands basic spatial relationships such as in/out, under/over, on/off, front/back, etc.
- Numeracy Skills: Counts items up to ten and recognizes numbers 1-10. Understands that numbers represent quantity and can distinguish numbers from letters.
- Basic Geometry: Draws and identifies basic shapes like squares, circles, and triangles.
- Basic Arithmetic: Grasps concepts of none (zero), adding, taking away, more than, and less than, though their understanding may still be limited to small quantities.



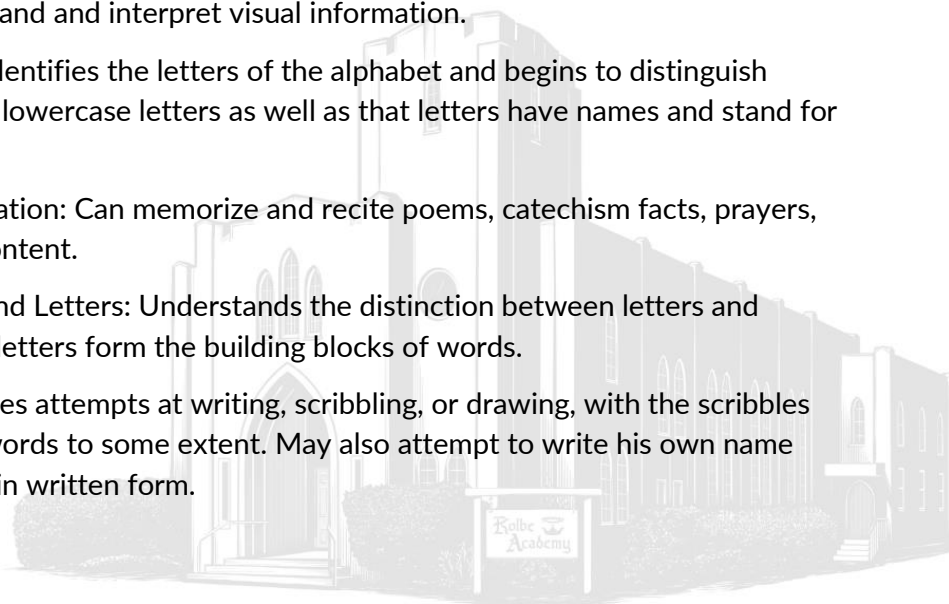
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Kindergarten Readiness Checklist (Continued)

Language skills

- **Conversational Skills:** Engages in conversations using complex sentences, expressing ideas and thoughts more clearly and coherently.
- **Clear Articulation:** Articulates ideas clearly, allowing others to comprehend their thoughts and expressions more easily.
- **Curiosity and Questioning:** Demonstrates curiosity by asking questions to seek information and explore their interests.
- **Following Instructions:** Understands and follows oral instructions that involve two or more steps, demonstrating an improved ability to process and carry out multi-step tasks.
- **Storytelling and Narration:** Crafts original stories and narrates stories and everyday experiences, demonstrating an increasing proficiency in language and storytelling skills.
- **Story Sequencing:** Sequences events in a story, incompletely but correctly, demonstrating an understanding of narrative structure and the ability to identify the order in which events occur.
- **Independent Reading:** Examines books or pictures, demonstrating growing reading skills and an ability to understand and interpret visual information.
- **Alphabet Recognition:** Identifies the letters of the alphabet and begins to distinguish between uppercase and lowercase letters as well as that letters have names and stand for sounds.
- **Memorization and Recitation:** Can memorize and recite poems, catechism facts, prayers, or other memorable content.
- **Understanding Words and Letters:** Understands the distinction between letters and words, recognizing that letters form the building blocks of words.
- **Early Writing Skills:** Makes attempts at writing, scribbling, or drawing, with the scribbles beginning to resemble words to some extent. May also attempt to write his own name and recognize his name in written form.





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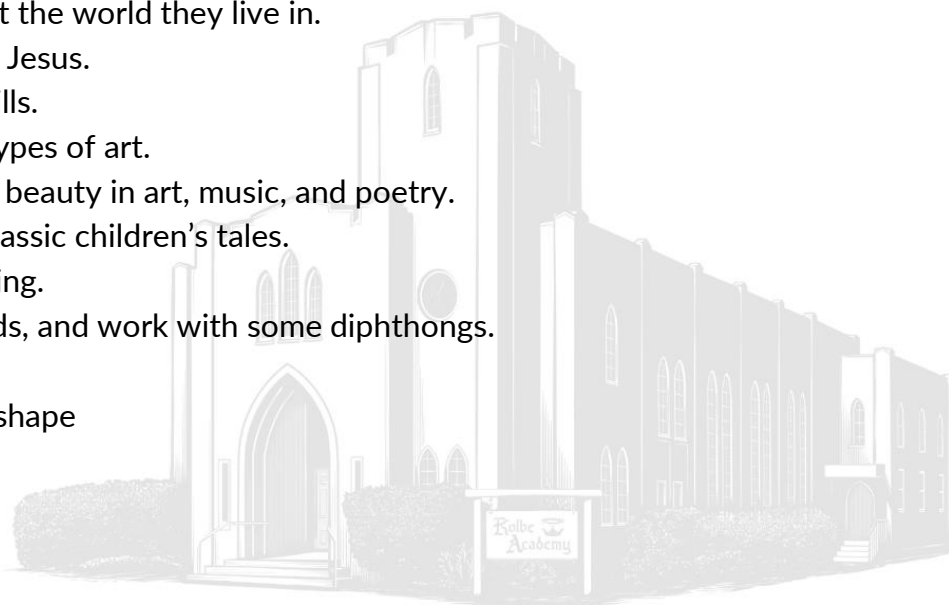
Course Description:

This course has a liturgical focus as the student journeys through the seasons in the Church. The focus is on the student's world and the world that Jesus lived in. The religion, history, and science found in these books is framed around that theme. The student is encouraged to build his memory through a study of poetry, Baltimore Catechism questions and answers, and bible verses. Classic stories provide the student with examples of virtue, and art and music expose the student to beauty. The phonics program follows a traditional approach to phonics-based instruction. The mathematics program provides a solid introduction that will serve the student well in whatever program they move to after.

Learning Outcomes:

This course will enable the student to:

- Articulate key teachings of the faith.
- Demonstrate mastery of key science concepts.
- Increase wonder about the world they live in.
- Learn about the life of Jesus.
- Practice fine motor skills.
- Experience different types of art.
- Surround himself with beauty in art, music, and poetry.
- Hear and learn from classic children's tales.
- Master print handwriting.
- Read CVC, CVCe words, and work with some diphthongs.
- Add and subtract.
- Work with geometric shape





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Course Materials: All book materials can be found at the Kolbe Bookstore

Required Materials:

- Kindergarten Math & Logic Workbook
- Kindergarten Journal
- Kindergarten Look & Learn
- Kindergarten English A
- Kindergarten English B
- Kindergarten Art Journal
- Kindergarten Teacher Manual
- Phonogram Flash Cards

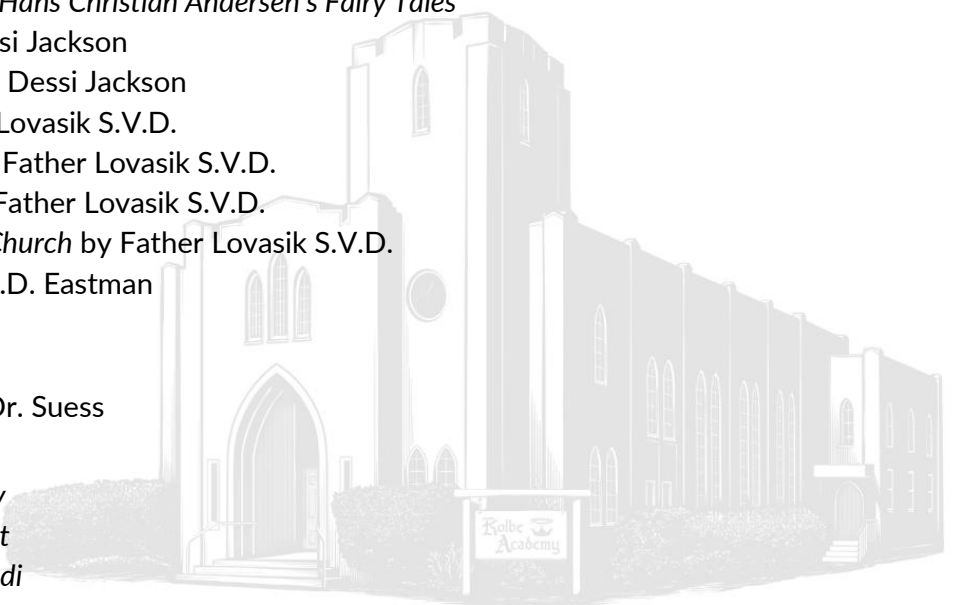
Supplemental Materials:

Literature

- *One Morning in Maine* by Robert McCloskey
- *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey
- *Blueberries for Sal* by Robert McCloskey
- *Complete Beatrix Potter Collection*
- *The Little Red Lighthouse and the Great Gray Bridge* by Swift & Ward
- *An Illustrated Treasury of Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales*
- *Roses in the Snow* by Dessi Jackson
- *The Saint and His Bees* by Dessi Jackson
- *Saint Anthony* by Father Lovasik S.V.D.
- *Saint Martin de Porres* by Father Lovasik S.V.D.
- *Saint Francis of Assisi* by Father Lovasik S.V.D.
- *The Sacramentals of the Church* by Father Lovasik S.V.D.
- *Are You My Mother?* by P.D. Eastman
- *Hop on Pop* by Dr. Suess
- *Go Do Go* by Dr. Suess
- *Green Eggs and Ham* by Dr. Suess

Music

- *Swan Lake* by Tchaikovsky
- *The Magic Flute* by Mozart
- *The Four Seasons* by Vivaldi
- *The Carnival of the Animals* by Camille Saint-Saëns





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Grading Guidance

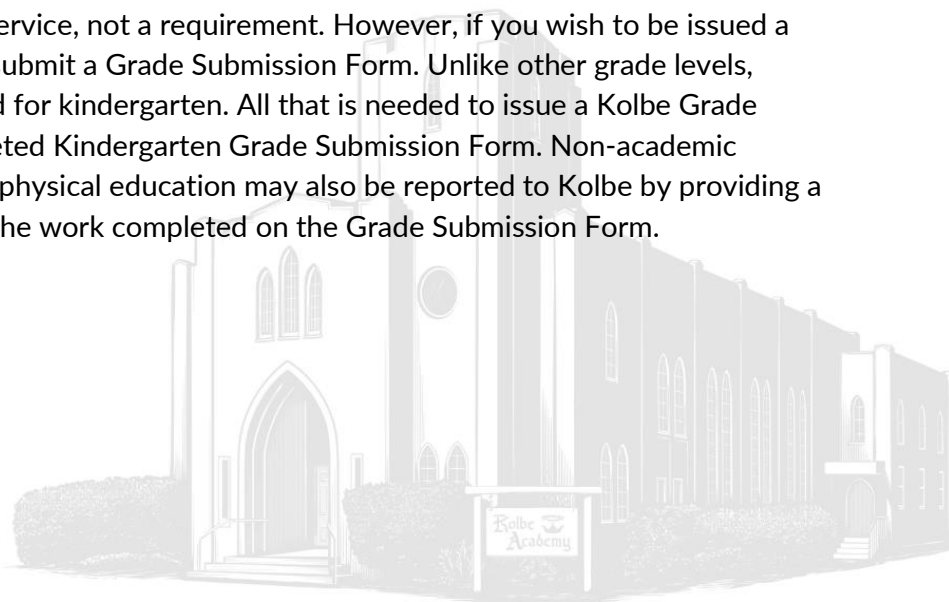
General Guidance

Grading kindergarten work requires a different approach compared to grading older students' work. It is important to focus on encouraging and supporting their development rather than assigning traditional grades. Here are some best practices for assessing and providing feedback for kindergartners:

- Encourage and praise effort rather than focusing solely on correct answers.
- Use positive language to highlight what they did well before providing constructive feedback.
- Emphasize growth and improvement over time.
- Use observations as an assessment tool. Observe their interactions, social skills, motor development, problem-solving abilities, and creativity during activities.

Grade Reporting

Grade reporting is an optional service, not a requirement. However, if you wish to be issued a Kolbe Grade Report, you must submit a Grade Submission Form. Unlike other grade levels, graded samples are not required for kindergarten. All that is needed to issue a Kolbe Grade Report is the signed and completed Kindergarten Grade Submission Form. Non-academic subjects such as music, art, and physical education may also be reported to Kolbe by providing a brief description and grade for the work completed on the Grade Submission Form.





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Course Plan Components:



Weekly Plans | Daily assignments for all coursework displayed in a chart for each week.



Prayers | Reference for the prayers to memorize in the course.



Reading List | A comprehensive booklist including required and supplemental reading suggestions.



Music List | A comprehensive list of music for listening in the course.



Seasonal Menus | Monthly charts displaying a variety of enrichment activities for each season.



Readiness Checklists | Both Kindergarten and First Grade readiness checklists are included for reference.



Optional Exams | Included at end of course plan



Kindergarten *weekly planner*

Week of: _____

WEEK 1

MEMORY WORK/
PRAYER

LOOK AND LEARN/
JOURNAL

MATH

ENGLISH

MUSIC/ ART/
LITERATURE

MON

Pray the "Angel of God" prayer together. Begin learning the first stanza of "A Was an Apple Pie" poem.

Complete the Lesson 1 Art page in the Look & Learn and Lesson 1 Religion page in the Look & Learn.

Complete 2 pages in the student text.

Complete 3 pages in the student text. See Teacher Manual for instruction.

Read a good book from the **Literature List**. (Appx. B)
(*One Morning in Maine*)

TUES

Pray the "Angel of God" prayer together. Work on your poem for 3 minutes every day. Review this week's bible verse.

Complete the Lesson 1 History page in the Look & Learn and Lesson 1 History page in the Journal.

Complete 2 pages in the student text.

Complete 3 pages in the student text. See Teacher Manual for instruction.

Read aloud a reader from the **Literature List** (Appx. B)
*or if student is reading well, have the student read the reader to you.

WED

Pray the "Angel of God" prayer together. Work on your poem for 3 minutes every day. Review this week's bible verse.

Complete the Lesson 1 Science page in the Look & Learn and Lesson 1 Science page in the Journal.

Complete 2 pages in the student text.

Complete 3 pages in the student text. See Teacher Manual for instruction.

Do Lesson 1 in the Art Journal.

THUR

Pray the "Angel of God" prayer together. Work on your poem for 3 minutes every day. Review this week's bible verse.

Complete the Lesson 1 Religion page in the Journal and Lesson 1 Poetry page in the Journal.

Complete 2 pages in the student text.

Complete 3 pages in the student text. See Teacher Manual for instruction.

Play "Old Maid" with your child.

FRI

Pray the "Angel of God" prayer together. Review this week's bible verse.

X

X

X

Relax and listen to *Peter and the Wolf* from the **Music List**. (Appx. C)

weekly NOTES:



Kindergarten *weekly planner*

Week of: _____

WEEK 2

MEMORY WORK/
PRAYER

LOOK AND LEARN/
JOURNAL

MATH

ENGLISH

MUSIC/ ART/
LITERATURE

MON

Pray the "Glory Be" together. Begin learning the second stanza of "A Was an Apple Pie" poem.

Complete the Lesson 2 Art page in the Look & Learn and Lesson 2 Religion page in the Look & Learn.

Complete 2 pages in the student text.

Complete 3 pages in the student text. See Teacher Manual for instruction.

Read a good book from the **Literature List**. (Appx. B) (*Make Way for Ducklings*)

TUES

Pray the "Glory Be" together. Work on your poem for 3 minutes every day. Review catechism question from Look & Learn Religion page.

Complete the Lesson 2 History page in the Look & Learn and Lesson 2 History page in the Journal.

Complete 2 pages in the student text.

Complete 3 pages in the student text. See Teacher Manual for instruction.

Read aloud a reader from the **Literature List** (Appx. B)
*or if student is reading well, have the student read the reader to you.

WED

Pray the "Glory Be" together. Work on your poem for 3 minutes every day. Review catechism question.

Complete the Lesson 2 Science page in the Look & Learn and Lesson 2 Science page in the Journal.

Complete 2 pages in the student text.

Complete 3 pages in the student text. See Teacher Manual for instruction.

Do Lesson 2 in the Art Journal.

THUR

Pray the "Glory Be" together. Work on your poem for 3 minutes every day. Review catechism question.

Complete the Lesson 2 Religion page in the Journal and Lesson 2 Poetry page in the Journal.

Complete 2 pages in the student text.

Complete 3 pages in the student text. See Teacher Manual for instruction.

Play "Seven-in-a-row" with your child.

FRI

Pray the "Glory Be" together. Review catechism question.

X

X

X

Relax and listen to *Peter and the Wolf* from the **Music List**. (Appx. C)

weekly NOTES:



Kindergarten *weekly planner*

Week of: _____

WEEK 3

MEMORY WORK/
PRAYER

LOOK AND LEARN/
JOURNAL

MATH

ENGLISH

MUSIC/ ART/
LITERATURE

MON

Pray the "Hail Mary" together. Begin learning the third stanza of "A Was an Apple Pie" poem.

Complete the Lesson 3 Art page in the Look & Learn and Lesson 3 Religion page in the Look & Learn.

Complete 2 pages in the student text.

Complete 3 pages in the student text. See Teacher Manual for instruction.

Read a good book from the **Literature List**. (Appx. B)
(*Blueberries for Sal*)

TUES

Pray the "Hail Mary" together. Work on your poem for 3 minutes every day. Review new catechism question.

Complete Lesson 3 History page in the Look & Learn and Lesson 3 History page in the Journal.

Complete 2 pages in the student text.

Complete 3 pages in the student text. See Teacher Manual for instruction.

Read aloud a reader from the **Literature List** (Appx. B)
*or if student is reading well, have the student read the reader to you.

WED

Pray the "Hail Mary" together. Work on your poem for 3 minutes every day. Review new catechism question.

Complete Lesson 3 Science page in the Look & Learn and Lesson 3 Science page in the Journal.

Complete 2 pages in the student text.

Complete 3 pages in the student text. See Teacher Manual for instruction.

Do Lessons 3 and 4 in the Art Journal.

THUR

Pray the "Hail Mary" together. Work on your poem for 3 minutes every day. Review new catechism question.

Complete Lesson 3 Religion page in the Journal and Lesson 3 Poetry page in the Journal.

Complete 2 pages in the student text.

Complete 3 pages in the student text. See Teacher Manual for instruction.

Play "Memory" with your child.

FRI

Pray the "Hail Mary" together. Review new and previous catechism questions for 5 minutes.

X

X

X

Relax and listen to *Peter and the Wolf* from the **Music List**. (Appx. C)

weekly NOTES:

