



NOTRE  
DAME  
ACADEMY

DISCOVERY CENTER PRESCHOOL  
TOUR BOOK

# WELCOME

Welcome to Notre Dame Academy's Discovery Center. We are so glad you are considering us as a partner in nurturing and caring for your child. At NDA, we create a culture that offers the opportunity for each child to grow spiritually and academically. In our Discovery Center, we offer a child-focused environment that sparks their curiosity and imagination through play, inquiry, and discovery. Through this hands-on approach, each child is encouraged to discover their unique, God-given gifts.

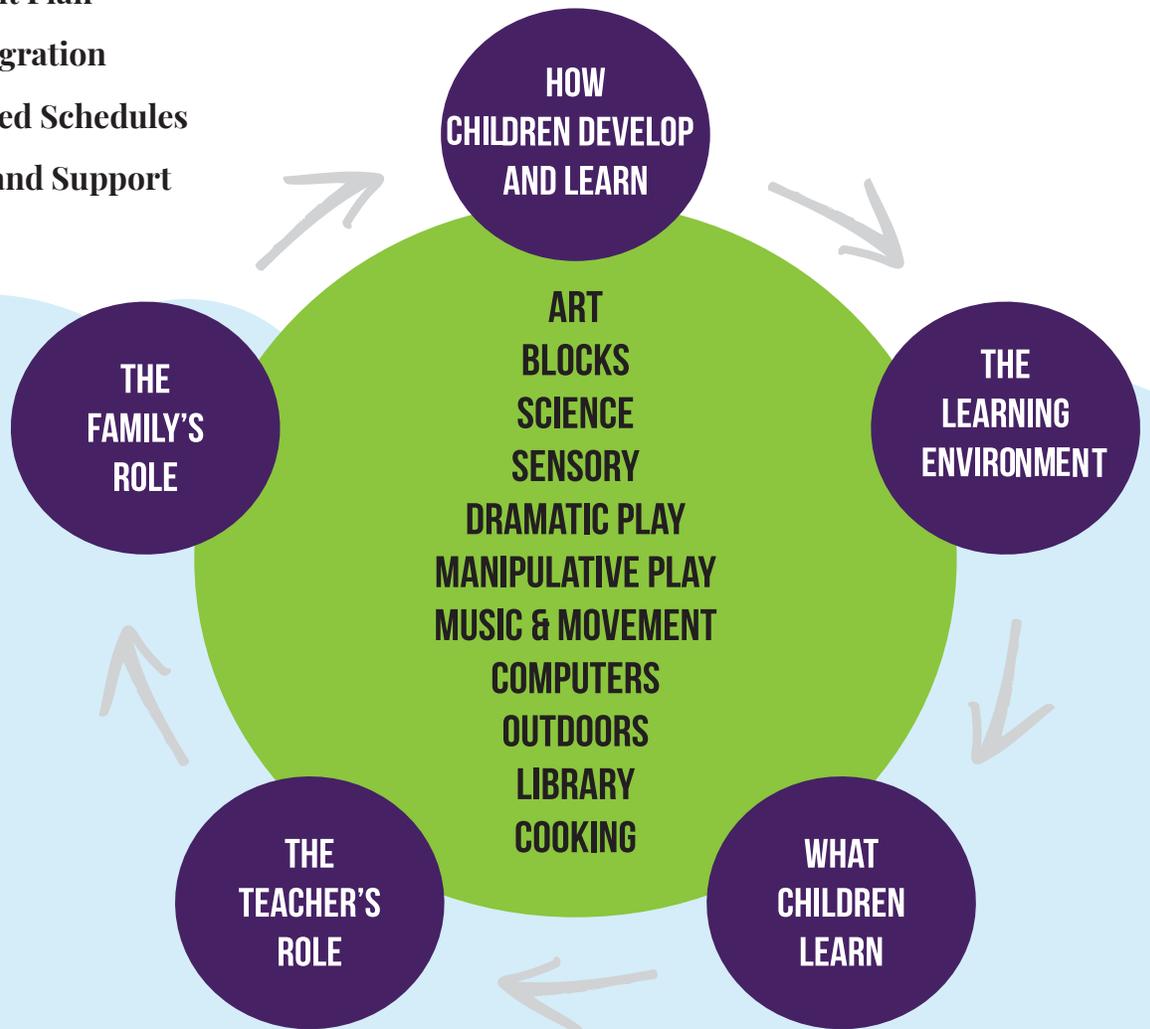
As you continue to read, you will learn more about how we support your child and family in our preschool program and beyond. Our dedicated and educated staff is at the heart of our success. We are proud of our school and the commitment to the development of the whole child in a family atmosphere of kindness and inclusiveness. I hope you feel that sense of family from the moment you walk in our doors.

With gratitude,

Dr. Bonita Jungels, Principal

## WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE

- **Highly Qualified, Caring Teaching Team**
- **Strong Curriculum**
- **Student Assessment Plan**
- **Catholic Faith Integration**
- **Flexible, Customized Schedules**
- **Parent Education and Support**



# FAITHFUL BEGINNINGS

## Curriculum Enrichments

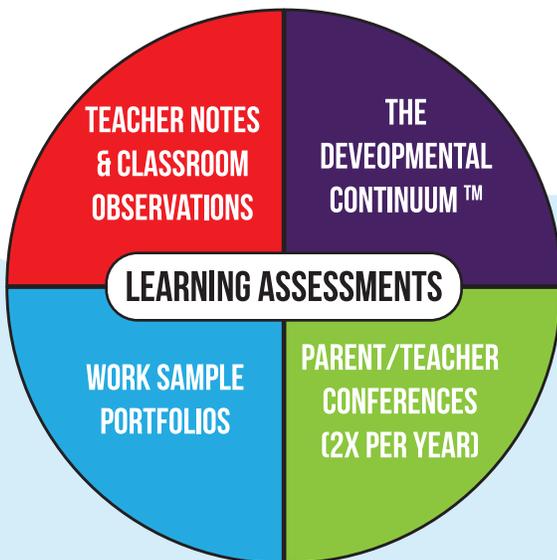
- Handwriting Without Tears®
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)
- Spanish
- Music and Art
- Library
- Phy. Ed (MDH “CATCH” Program)
- Nutrition (MDH “LANA” Program)

## Highest Quality Ratings

- NAEYC Accreditation
- 4 Star Parent-Aware Rated (highest MN quality rating)
- offered throughout school year.

The Discovery Center Program seeks to build a strong Catholic identity in our environment, striving to awaken in each child their unique, God-given gifts through:

- Recognizing each student as a child of God.
- Participating in Daily Prayer.
- Incorporating Bible lessons with each Unit of Learning.
- Participating in service opportunities with the school.
- Celebrating Liturgical seasons.
- Using Catholic preschool curriculum focused on providing children with their first introduction to their faith and virtues.



# AGE JOURNEYS



## KINDERGARTEN-READINESS KINDERSTART PROGRAM (4 & 5 YEAR OLDS)

Preparing for success! Four year-olds are ready to be challenged with language, critical-thinking and new information. We support their learning through an engaging, hands-on environment that inspires their imagination and curiosity. Our Kinderstart lead teachers have education degrees in early-childhood or elementary education with Kindergarten certification and have a MN teaching license, or an MA in Education.

- School-year and Summer programs.
- Part and Full-time schedules, with full and half-day options available.



## TODDLERS EXPLORERS PROGRAM (24-35 MONTHS)

Toddlers are on the move! They learn through play and hands-on activities to develop the cognitive, emotional, social and physical skills that are important building-blocks for future learning success. Our toddler lead teachers have degrees in child-development, education or family studies.

- School-year and Summer programs.
- Part and Full-time schedules, with full and half-day options available.





## PRESCHOOL DISCOVERY CLASSES (3 & 4 YEAR OLDS)

Becoming independent! Young three year-olds are taking on new challenges every day. We plan engaging, hands-on lessons to guide learning and develop skills for future reading, math, friendships and more! Discovery lead teachers have education degrees with a MN state teaching license, or have a degree in a related field and meet the DHS Licensing Lead teacher requirements.

- School-year and Summer programs.
- Part and Full-time schedules, with full and half-day options available.



# 9 ENVIRONMENTS

WE USE THESE NINE LEARNING AREAS IN OUR CLASSROOMS TO OPTIMIZE CHILDREN'S DEVELOPMENTAL LEARNING OBJECTIVES.



## COGNITIVE

Preschool children are curious about the world and are able to acquire, organize and use information in increasingly complex ways.



## SPIRITUAL

Young children have a natural sense of awe, wonder and mystery. During these early years, we have the opportunity to unwrap a child's spirituality and develop their connection to God.



## STEM LEARNING

Science-Technology-Engineering-Math: Experiences in these areas help preschoolers develop many skills while engaging their natural curiosity.



## LITERACY/LANGUAGE

Before a child learns to read and write, the path to literacy has already begun. Playing with books, scribbling on paper, tracing letters on an e-tablet are all steps of emergent literacy.



## SOCIAL STUDIES

Social studies is the study of people and the ways they relate to others. The focus of social studies for infants and toddlers focus on self-development within.



## SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

Children are best able to learn when they are comfortable in an environment where they feel loved and secure. The world is a complicated social puzzle!



## ART/MUSIC

Children who are engaged with and learn to appreciate music and the arts are able to demonstrate what they know. This allows them to expand their thinking about creativity.



## FINE MOTOR

Fine motor control involves the coordinated movement of small muscles in the hands and fingers. Strong fine motor skills are essential as we approach many self-help and life tasks.



## LARGE MOTOR

Large motor skills involve movement of the large muscles in arms, legs, and core body. Activities include walking, running, skipping, jumping, throwing, climbing, biking, balancing, dancing and more.

# EXTENDED ADVENTURE PROGRAM

BEFORE AND AFTER-SCHOOL + ENROLLMENT DAYS



The Extended Adventure Program (EAP) is a wrap-around care program that provides a warm and relaxed environment where children play with friends and continue to learn while having fun.

- Breakfast provided between 7:00-8:00 AM; After-school snack provided at 4:30 PM.
- Activities include additional large muscle time, creative activities and games.

## TEACHING TO THE WHOLE CHILD

Our classrooms, curriculum and teaching approach is designed to meet the needs of young children. “I Can” statements that capture:

- Academic growth
- Social-emotional learning
- Feeling loved
- Valued as a Child of God

These are all important pieces to a child’s self-esteem, friendships and future success in school.



# FITNESS CENTER



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO  
SCHEDULE A SITE TOUR, VISIT US AT:  
[WWW.NDA-MN.ORG](http://WWW.NDA-MN.ORG)

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Through Faith  
We Serve.

We are proud to have earned NAEYC Accreditation, the mark of quality and excellence for early childhood education. The program is also 4 Star Parent Aware rated; the highest quality rating possible.

