



## BLESSED SACRAMENT JESUIT PREPARATORY SCHOOL

### *~Kindergarten Syllabus 2017-2018 School Year~*

**Ms. Kolbeck's teaching philosophy:** Teaching is a gift and a great responsibility. I am passionate about teaching Kindergarten for many reasons. I strongly believe that a child's first experiences in school can set the tone for the rest of their academic careers. Children can be in school for more than 20 years of their life. With such a significant portion of their lives being affected, it is imperative that teachers instill a deep love of learning in children. If children are taught to love learning, to be actively engaged in the world and ideas around them, and to seek knowledge and answers on their own, they will grow up having the motivation and intrinsic desire to learn and excel. These qualities can stay with them for their entire lives.

**Professional Background:** I completed my undergraduate degree at Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa. My bachelor's degree was in elementary education with endorsements in early childhood and special education. I received my master's degree from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. I received my master's in reading instruction. After graduating from college I taught 4-year-old Kindergarten in my home state, Wisconsin. I then moved to California in 2014 and have taught at Blessed Sacrament since then. This will be my fourth year teaching at Blessed Sacrament. I am excited to continue with my second year as being Vice Principal for grades PK-2 for this school year.

### **Subject area overviews: What will we learn in Kindergarten?**

**Language Arts:** The language arts program that we use in grades TK through 2<sup>nd</sup> is called Superkids. Superkids is an incredible reading program that is designed specifically for the younger grades because it focuses on exactly the skills they need to learn in those grades to be successful lifelong readers. Attached is a very detailed list of all the skills that the students will learn throughout the year in Superkids.

**Math:** Throughout this year in Math the students will learn so much about numbers, measurement, geometry, basic operations, and problem solving. By the end of Kindergarten students will be able to count to 100 by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's. They will be able to complete basic operations such as addition and subtraction using numbers 1-20. They will be able to identify and create shapes. They will be able to sort objects by different attributes. These are just some of the skills your child will learn throughout the year in Math.

**Science:** In science, the Kindergarten students will learn about force and motion, physical properties of objects and how they are used, changes in weather patterns. Students will also learn to compare the characteristics of animals that make them alike and different from other animals and non-living things. In addition to animals, students will learn all about plants and the characteristics that define them.

**Social Studies:** In Social Studies this year we are going to focus on 4 main themes: Me, My Family, My Classroom Community, and My World. These four units will take the students on adventures of learning about families, cultures, communities, and the world. We will learn a lot about what it means to be a contributing member to society and to our communities.

**Religion:** This year your child will learn so much about their faith, God's love for us and how to be living examples of Christ's love. They will hear many Bible stories, learn about Jesus' life and mission, and also learn about the Saints and their lives. The students will grow in their understanding of the Church's sacraments and our Catholic faith as a whole.

### **Assessments:**

The district wide standardized assessments that we take at Blessed Sacrament are the STAR assessments. The students take the STAR assessments online. The data that we receive from these assessments provides detailed information about students' skill strengths and their needs for improvement. The data from the STAR assessments also give a clear indication of where our students are and where they need to be. The dates for the STAR assessments are listed below for your convenience.

**STAR testing dates:**      Beginning 8/21-9/8      Fall 11/1-11/5      Winter 2/5-2/16      Spring 5/17-5/31

The Kindergarten students regularly take Superkid's assessments as well. These assessments show if the students have understood the skills learned in previous lessons, or if they need additional help to master the skills. Assessments will be shared with parents at parent-teacher conferences and I will always contact you if there is ever any news to share.

## Additional Information For The Year:

**Kindergarten P.E. Day:** Tuesday (Students must wear their P.E uniforms and running shoes)

**School Mass:** Tuesday mornings-8:30 a.m. Students must be in full uniform. Vests are required for mass.

**Early Dismissal Day:** Fridays.

Every Friday we get out of school at 12:15 p.m.

**Drop Off and Pick Up Procedure:** Always use the gate leading into the school from Cassil Street. Both in the morning and after school, if you need to park to come into the school for any reason, please enter on Cassil and then make an immediate right to the parking lot. To simply drop your child off, please continue straight and follow the driving path towards the left and drop your child off in the "Drop Off Zone." There will always be teachers outside in bright vests to direct you. After school please follow the same driving path and you may pick your child up in front of the sports field. You may stay in the car and we will walk your child to your car. We would like all children to enter the car from the right side, closest to the field, for safety reasons. If you have other small children please put their car seats on the left side so that we can simply open the door on the right for your child to enter. (If you have multiple children in car seats we will just take extra care when walking them around to the other side of the vehicle). Thank you!

**Parent/Teacher Communication:** Please always feel free to email me at my school email [rkolbeck@schoolblessedsacrament.org](mailto:rkolbeck@schoolblessedsacrament.org). If you would ever like to set up a meeting please let me know. I will only be able to talk very briefly before school and after school at pick up because my attention will be focused on the students and keeping them safe and engaged ☺ I will respond to your emails within 24 hours, Monday-Friday. I would also like to utilize a wonderful app this year called "Remind." It will assist in communication being easy and frequent.

**Homework Policy:** Homework typically consists of a reading worksheet, a math worksheet, and filling out the reading log. The worksheets should not take more than 15 minutes each night. Please read for an additional 15 minutes every single night and fill out the reading log that is in your child's homework folder.

**Red Folder:** The red folder will be used as the student's homework folder. Each night they will bring homework home to be completed. The red folder will also be used to send home any other important information. You will see that soon there will be a label on one side of the folder says "keep at home" and the other says "return to school". Whatever is on the "keep at home" side can be taken out every night and left at home. The papers on the "return to school" side will need to be completed and left in the folder for me to take out the next day.

**Gradelink:** Gradelink will be used to post the students' report cards. If you need assistance logging into Gradelink the school office has all the information you will need.

**Behavior Policy:** Student will fill in the behavior chart in their red homework folder every night. Please sign the behavior chart every night so I can be sure that you have seen it.

**Exciting changes this year!** This year the Kindergarteners will have math interventions taught by Mrs. Boyett and will be taught science by Ms. Velte.

**Math Intervention Teacher:** Mrs. Boyett  
[kboyett@schoolblessedsacrament.org](mailto:kboyett@schoolblessedsacrament.org)

**Science Teacher:** Ms. Velte  
[vtoldeo@schoolblessedsacrament.org](mailto:vtoldeo@schoolblessedsacrament.org)

**Blended Learning:** Another exciting change this year! Blessed Sacrament has been approved to a Blended Learning school. The teachers have all been attending trainings throughout the summer. Blended learning is an approach to teaching that incorporates technology, cooperative learning, and individualized lessons into the day. Blended Learning focuses on giving each student exactly what they need to grow and learn.

**Websites:** Take a look at our school website for important information <http://www.schoolblessedsacrament.org/>

And take a look at our classroom website to see what we are up to in Kindergarten!  
[www.schoolblessedsacrament.org/classrooms/kindergarten](http://www.schoolblessedsacrament.org/classrooms/kindergarten)

Thank you!  
Ms. Kolbeck