

NOTRE DAME ACADEMY



Discovery Center  
for Early Learning

PREVIEW!

Inside:

- ✦ ABOUT US
- ✦ AGE JOURNEYS
- ✦ LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Serving  
children

24 mo.-5 years



# Welcome!

## Dear Prospective Families,

Welcome to Notre Dame Academy Catholic School'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 the 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 read on, you will discover more about how we support your child and family in our preschool program.

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 and begin an educational journey we hope will continue through eighth grade graduation!



Together for Children,  
**Bonnie Jungels**

Principal  
Notre Dame Academy Catholic School

## What makes us **UNIQUE**

- ◆ **STRONG CURRICULUM**
- ◆ **STUDENT ASSESSMENT PLAN**
- ◆ **CHRISTIAN FAITH INTEGRATION**
- ◆ **PARENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT**
- ◆ **FLEXIBLE, CUSTOMIZED SCHEDULES**

*Highly  
Qualified, Caring  
Teaching Team!*



# Growing in God's Love



## Our MISSION

We, as part of the early childhood community, seek to support parents and children through a creative environment that promotes and teaches Christian values, honors diversity and fosters fellowship within the greater community.



## Our PHILOSOPHY

LADC believes that children learn best when they are allowed to experience the world around them.

Children learn through “hands-on” exploration in our faith-based environment designed to meet their individual needs and learning styles.

We believe that the parent is the first and most important teacher and we serve as a resource for them on their parenting journey.

Children at LADC are immersed into the weekly “spiritual emphasis” through a variety of daily activities. The curriculum includes daily prayer, Bible lessons, monthly Worship, and the modeling of Christian values by the teachers.



# Age Journeys

We offer :

School-year and Summer programs.

Part and full-time schedules, with full and half-day options available.



## TODDLERS Explorer's Program

Explorers, 24-35 Months

- School-year and Summer programs
- Part and Full-time schedules, with full and half-day options available
- Licensed to diaper-change

Toddlers 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.



# PRESCHOOL Preschool Discovery Classes

33 Month - 4 Years Old

Young children 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
- Toilet Independent



# KINDERGARTEN-READINESS Kinderstart Program

4 & 5 YEAR OLDS

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
- Toilet Independent



# EXTENDED *Adventure Program*

## BEFORE AND AFTER-SCHOOL PLUS NON-SCHOOL DAYS

### The Extended Adventure Program

(EAP) is a before-and-after-school program that provides a warm and relaxed environment where children play with friends and continue to learn while having fun.

#### DAILY SNAPSHOT:

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



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

- ✦ SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING
- ✦ ACADEMIC GROWTH
- ✦ FEELING LOVED
- ✦ VALUED AS A CHILD OF GOD

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

Teaching to the Whole Child



# NINE 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 creative thinking.



## 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.

# 9 Environments

## COGNITIVE



## SPIRITUAL



## SOCIAL STUDIES



## STEM



Science, Technology,  
Engineering, and Math



# LITERACY/ LANGUAGE



# ART & MUSIC



# SOCIAL/ EMOTIONAL



# FINE MOTOR



# LARGE MOTOR



# Special Events

Circus, Outreach, Festival of Family & Friends, Christmas, Fieldtrips, Graduation



ANNUAL SPRING CIRCUS EVENT



COMMUNITY OUTREACH & SERVICE



SPRING GRADUATION



CHRISTMAS CONCERTS



FAMILY NIGHTS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS



OFF-SITE AND IN-HOUSE FIELDTRIPS



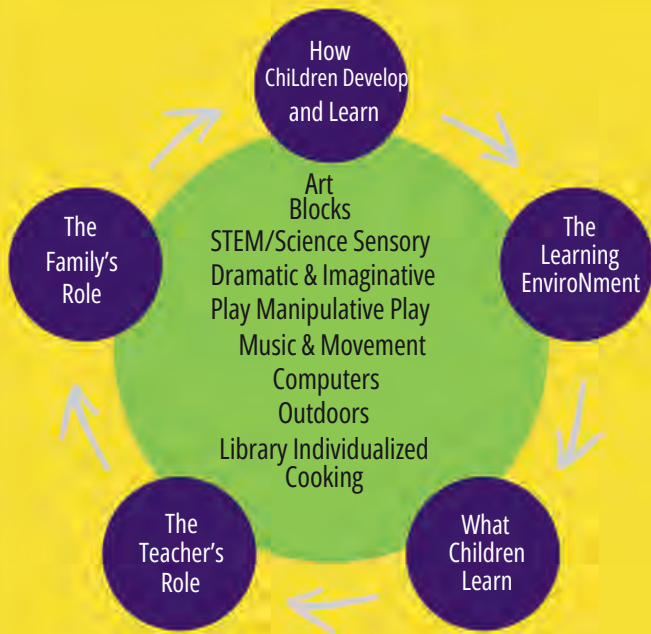
GRANDPARENTS, PARENTS & FRIENDS JOIN IN "THE FESTIVAL OF FAMILY & FRIENDS"

# Curriculum & Assessments

## STRONG CURRICULUM

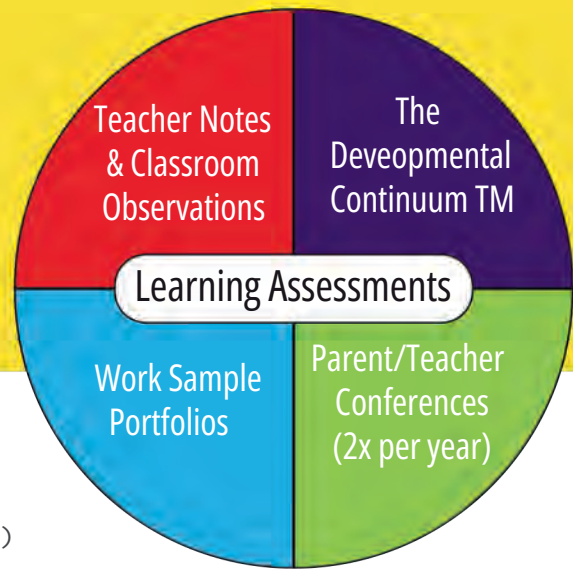
The Creative Curriculum® model is the basis of the Discovery Center lessons and classroom design, centered around nine environments and activity centers.

The Discovery Center Program Curriculum Directors oversee the Lead Teachers at monthly curriculum planning meetings, ensuring that all activities and learning experiences relate back to one of the 39 learning objectives within the Creative Curriculum.



## STUDENT ASSESSMENT PLAN

Incorporating learning assessments are continually tracked through teacher observation notes, the skills checklist, work-sample portfolios and the Developmental Continuum student packet.



## CURRICULUM ENRICHMENTS

- Zoo-Phonics
- Handwriting Without Tears™
- Spanish
- Library
- Phy-Ed
- Nutrition (MDH LANA™ Program)

## PROGRAM GOALS

- **To provide a safe and stimulating environment that nurtures the natural wonder in each child.**
- To create a setting that fosters the child's physical, social, emotional, cultural, spiritual and intellectual development.
- **To honor and respect the diversity within each child as well as in all of God's creation.**
- To facilitate enjoyment of school and model a positive attitude toward learning which will allow children to face future experiences with skill and confidence.
- **To acknowledge the parent(s) as the first and most important teacher and to support them on their parenting journey.**



# Notre Dame Academy Catholic School

13505 Excelsior Boulevard  
Minnetonka, MN

..... Powered by: .....



LAKE AREA  
Discovery  
Center

 *Educating Twin Cities Youth*

For more information visit:

[www.ladcfamilies.org](http://www.ladcfamilies.org)

or contact **Site Director, Heather Discher**  
at [nda.preschool@ladcfamilies.org](mailto:nda.preschool@ladcfamilies.org)

To schedule a site tour, **NDA Administrator Joann Meyer**  
at [jmeyer@nda-mn.org](mailto:jmeyer@nda-mn.org) or call **952.358.3500**.



## NAEYC ACCREDITATION

As an organization, LADC is proud to have earned NAEYC Accreditation since 2009. **NAEYC is the mark of quality and excellence** for early childhood education.

LADC is also **4 Star Parent Aware rated**; the highest quality rating possible in Minnesota.



Lake Area Discovery Center is a non-profit early childhood experience for children ages 6 weeks to five years old. LADC admits students of any race, religion, color, national and ethnic origins.