

Consensus Curriculum Standards for Early Childhood



**CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS**

DIOCESE *of* RICHMOND

Early Learners  
July 1, 2019

**Mission Statement**

The mission of the Office of Catholic Schools is to assist the Bishop in his mandate as Teacher of the Catholic Faith, by establishing a climate and framework for fostering excellence in catechetical and academic education in the schools of the diocese in adherence to the Magisterium of the Church.

The mission of the schools in the Catholic Diocese of Richmond is to develop and nurture the spiritual, intellectual, social, and emotional growth of each student in the spirit of the Gospels and the teachings of the Catholic Church.

**Purpose**

The purpose of the *Consensus Curriculum for Early Childhood* is to provide a consistent, developmentally appropriate foundation for learning across the Catholic Diocese of Richmond. These developmental standards are rooted in research and are intended to be taught via a multi-disciplinary approach while emphasizing the development and love of self and others as a part of a faith community.

**Framework**

This curriculum is informed by the *Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning* standards which articulates the skills and knowledge young children need to demonstrate to be successful in Kindergarten. The *Consensus Curriculum for Early Childhood* includes scaffolded standards that are developmentally appropriate for Early Learners (ages 3 and 4) and Junior Kindergarten (ages 4 and 5). Standards for Early Learners build foundational skills and allow for children to transition into a more structured educational setting. Standards for Junior Kindergarten continue to build upon those foundational skills and focus on essential readiness skills to successfully transition into Kindergarten.

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The Most Reverend Barry C. Knestout, D.D.  
Bishop of the Diocese of Richmond

Raymond Honeycutt  
Superintendent, Office of Catholic Schools

Angela Allen  
Associate Superintendent, Office of Catholic Schools

Kelly Lazzara  
Associate Superintendent, Office of Catholic Schools

Natasha Feher  
Administrative Assistant/Data Specialist, Office of Catholic Schools

**Committee Members**

Joyelle Bailey, Roanoke Catholic School  
Janet Beaulieu, Saint John the Apostle Catholic School  
Pam Fleming, Saint Gregory the Great Catholic School  
Patricia Gallagher, Saint Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School  
Taylor Horvath, Saint Benedict Catholic School  
Dana McNamara, Saint John the Apostle Catholic School  
Sarah Owens, Saint Joseph Catholic School  
Gina Signorello, Saint John the Apostle Catholic School  
Brittaney Steinberger, Roanoke Catholic School  
Isabel Valentini, Star of the Sea Catholic School  
Katherine Willoughby, Saint Bridget Catholic School

**Early Childhood Standards**

Communication  
Fine Motor  
Gross Motor  
Math  
Reading  
Religion  
Science  
Social Emotional  
Social Studies  
Work Habits  
Writing

**Standard EL.COM.1**

**The student will develop listening and speaking skills.**

- a. Listen with increasing attention
- b. Follow oral directions
- c. Respond to questions
- d. Communicate using age-appropriate and respectful language for a variety of purposes
- e. Express and share ideas

**Standard EL.FM.1**

**The student will develop pre-writing and coloring skills.**

- a. Hold a crayon using a pincer grip
- b. Color a large shape
- c. Write or draw a straight line using a crayon
- d. Trace shapes, letters, and numbers

**Standard EL.FM.2**

**The student will develop proper use of scissors.**

- a. Demonstrate scissor safety
- b. Begin to hold scissors correctly
- c. Snip paper

**Standard EL.GM.1**

**The student will develop basic locomotor and non-locomotor skills through a variety of movement experiences.**

- a. Demonstrate walking and running skills
- b. Develop jumping and hopping skills
- c. Participate in a variety of basic creative movements, such as action songs and dances
- d. Balance while walking in a straight line
- e. Balance on one foot
- f. Begin to alternate feet while climbing stairs

**Standard EL.GM.2**

**The student will develop basic motor skills.**

- a. Roll a ball
- b. Toss a ball or object
- c. Bounce a ball
- d. Kick a ball

**Standard EL.MTH.1**

**The student will develop an understanding of numbers and number sense.**

- a. Count forward to 10 orally
- b. Recognize written numbers 0 - 10 in random order
- c. Count a group of up to ten objects
- d. Compare two groups of objects
- e. Use words such as more and same

**Standard EL.MTH.2**

**The student will compare and describe objects.**

- a. Identify colors - red, orange, yellow, green, blue
- b. Sort and describe objects by size, shape, and other attributes
- c. Recognize difference in length by using the words longer and shorter
- d. Recognize different types of measurement tools

**Standard EL.MTH.3**

**The student will develop knowledge of shapes and spatial orientation in his or her environment.**

- a. Recognize shapes: triangle, square, circle
- b. Introduce positional words: over, under, up, down, front, back, above, below
- c. Recognize that a whole object can be separated into parts

**Standard EL.MTH.4**

**The student will recognize simple patterns.**

- a. Create simple graphs with assistance
- b. Identify patterns

**Standard EL.RDG.1**

**The student will develop letter knowledge and phonological awareness.**

- a. Begin to identify uppercase letters
- b. Develop an awareness of letter sounds
- c. Repeat rhyming words
- d. Introduce syllables in names and spoken words

**Standard EL.RDG.2**

**The student will develop knowledge of print concepts and connections between the spoken and written word.**

- a. Demonstrate use of environmental print to identify name and classroom labels
- b. Introduce print and book awareness
- c. Identify features of a book
- d. Retell stories



**Standard EL.REL1**

**The student will develop a relationship with our loving God by recognizing His gifts.**

- a. Recognize self and others as gifts from God
- b. Recognize that we use personal gifts and talents to help others
- c. Recognize that all God's creation is good
- d. Acknowledge that everything/ everyone is created by God
- e. Recognize God's love for his creation through stories
- f. Recognize ways to care for God's creation
- g. Adopt Jesus as a role model
- h. Identify the three persons of the Holy Trinity

**Standard EL.REL.2**

**The student will identify the church as the family of God.**

- a. Identify self as a member of a human family and God's family
- b. Identify self as a member of the Catholic community
- c. Recognize that Jesus is present at the celebration of Mass in a special way
- d. Identify the priest and identify his special role in the local church
- e. Recognize signs and symbols of the church
- f. Identify the patron saint of the school
- g. Recognize Mary as the mother of Jesus, and Joseph as his foster father

**Standard EL.REL.3**

**The student will demonstrate the importance of prayer and God's Word in one's life.**

- a. Recognize that prayer is talking and listening to God
- b. Recite traditional prayers
- c. Recognize the Bible as a special book about God and His word
- d. Develop age appropriate behavior during prayer

**Standard EL.REL.4**

**The student will recognize holidays and seasons of the liturgical year.**

- a. Develop an understanding of Advent
- b. Develop an understanding of Christmas
- c. Develop an understanding of Lent
- d. Develop an understanding of Easter
- e. Develop an understanding of Ordinary Time

**Standard EL.REL.5**

**The student will develop an understanding of safe environment.**

- a. Identify personal space and boundaries

**Standard EL.SCI.1**

**The student will make observations and conduct simple scientific investigations.**

- a. Explore objects, materials, and events using the five senses
- b. Pose questions about the physical and natural environment
- c. Use simple tools and technology to safely observe and explore different objects and environments

**Standard EL.SCI.2**

**The student will investigate the physical properties of objects.**

- a. Describe and sort objects by their physical properties (color, shape, texture, feel, size, weight, position, speed, etc.)
- b. Recognize water in its solid and liquid forms
- c. Identify objects that sink or float in water

**Standard EL.SCI.3**

**The student will investigate the characteristics and needs of living things.**

- a. Describe what living things need to live and grow
- b. Identify basic structures for plants
- c. Identify basic structures for animals
- d. Describe how animals/humans are similar to, but not identical to their parents
- e. List parts of the body that are used for the five senses - sight, smell, hearing, taste, touch
- f. Demonstrate ways to stay healthy - nutrition, rest, exercise, and hygiene

**Standard EL.SCI.4**

**The student will investigate the Earth's patterns and changes.**

- a. Describe daily weather conditions
- b. Identify and describe day and night - sun and moon
- c. Identify and describe the four seasons of the year
- d. Compare a variety of living things and how they change over time

**Standard EL.SE.1**

**The student will care for personal needs.**

- a. Develop ability to independently put on a coat
- b. Communicate need to use the restroom
- c. Use restroom etiquette - washing and drying hands, flushing toilet, timely manner
- d. Develop age appropriate table etiquette

**Standard EL.SE.2**

**The student will follow school and classroom rules.**

- a. Develop understanding of rules
- b. Develop understanding of God's rules
- c. Develop understanding of consequences

**Standard EL.SS.1**

**The student will investigate ways in which people are alike and different.**

- a. Describe the unique characteristics of self and others
- b. Identify self as a member of a family and a community
- c. Describe how people, families, and cultures are the same and different

**Standard EL.SS.2**

**The student will investigate change over time through events.**

- a. Develop an awareness of his/her personal history
- b. Describe the difference between past and present
- c. How are you different now than when you were born?

**Standard EL.SS.3**

**The student will investigate geography and location.**

- a. Describe the difference between a map and globe
- b. Identify and describe places and objects in a familiar area - direction, comparison, and attribute words

**Standard EL.SS.4**

**The student will investigate the cause and effect of personal choices.**

- a. Identify basic needs
- b. Identify wants
- c. Identify choices

**Standard EL.SS.5**

**The student will demonstrate knowledge of major symbols and figures.**

- a. Identify the American flag
- b. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance
- c. Identify the President of the United States
- d. Identify the Pope
- e. Identify the Bishop
- f. Identify the Priest

**Standard EL.WH.1**

**The student will develop the ability to follow one-step directions.**

- a. Follow one-step directions with support
- b. Follow one-step directions without support

**Standard EL.WH.2**

**The student will participate in daily classroom routines.**

- a. Identify a simple classroom schedule of tasks/ activities to complete
- b. Transition between simple tasks/activities with auditory and visual cues

**Standard EL.WH.3**

**The student will demonstrate purposeful and respectful use of materials and tools.**

- a. Develop the proper use of a material or tool for the intended purpose with modeling and support
- b. Show and understand where materials or tools go after using them with modeling and support

**Standard EL.WTG.1**

**The student will write using a variety of materials and technology to convey thoughts, ideas, and experiences.**

- a. Introduce a variety of writing tools
- b. Draw and trace circles, curves and lines independently
- c. Trace name independently using a variety of materials
- d. Trace uppercase letters and numbers
- e. Share ideas through drawing pictures