



Transition to Early Childhood Education

Transitioning to 3K

Eric and Kristin Karakis were both a little nervous when their twins started 3K at St. Mary Parish School. Coming from in-home daycare, it was a big transition to go to a traditional school environment with other children. The twins were also on the younger end of the 3K class so they knew that some of the concepts presented might be harder for them to grasp, based on their younger age. However, Eric and Kristin were delighted with their transition. “To the never-ending credit of Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Ryan (3K teachers) we were amazed at the children’s progress within the first month of school,” says Kristin. “They quickly picked up on the routine of small things such as where their coats went, finding their name cards and where to put their snacks, and responded really well to the consistency and structure of these day to day activities.”



Focus on the Fundamentals

The 3K program at St. Mary focuses on teaching developmentally appropriate educational basics and developing social skills through play and interaction with others. “The kids have learned some really important basics – simple things like holding a crayon or pencil properly and developing fine motor skills through the use of various child-friendly tools like pipe cleaners or beads to make necklaces or bracelets,” says Kristin. “They adapted well to playing with other kids in class and making friends, and both quickly found buddies that they loved spending time with. The focus on learning and identifying the letters in their names and learning the alphabet are invaluable because we know it’s setting them up for success in 4K and beyond, at a very young age.”

Dedicated Teachers

“The dedication of the teachers to ensure that the children understand the concepts being presented and the unique ways they tailor activities to meet the different learning needs of each child are incredible,” says Eric. “We are beyond blessed to be part of such an amazing community that offers both educational and spiritual growth to our children at such a young age.”

Faith in Action

“At three years of age, our twins are asking to pray before each meal and at bedtime and attempt the sign of the cross each time. This is remarkable to see, as parents who are working hard to instill faith in our family,” says Kristin. “The St. Mary 3K program, along with Mrs. Rice and Mrs. Ryan has been an incredible blessing to our children and our family, and we cannot offer enough praise for what a truly wonderful experience it has been. There’s no doubt this program and the teachers set children up for success in their future.”

The Karakis family also has a daughter in first grade at St. Mary.