



WELCOME TO

MRS. MULCAHY'S

Kindergarten-Room 12

Hello! My name is Mrs. Kelly Mulcahy. This is my 4th year teaching at St. Cajetan School. This will be my 25th year in Catholic education. I am so excited to be your child's teacher this year! We are going to have a lot of **FUN**, and we will **learn** a lot! I hope you had a wonderful summer. I sure did, but now I am **SUPER** excited to get to know a new group of kindergarteners. Here are a few of my favorite things:

Color: blue

Food: steak with caesar salad and french fries

Books: Tomie DePaola is a favorite children's literature author

Drinks: Coke & Starbucks

Hobbies: hiking, biking, & spending time with family

I love: my 2 kids, my husband, and my dog... and teaching kindergarten, of course!

I'm looking forward to getting to know your child and getting this year started! It is important that we all work together as a team in order to help your child succeed. If you should ever have any questions or concerns I can be reached anytime at:

kmulcahy@cajetan.org

COMMUNICATION

Please check our classroom web page to see classroom updates, information, and photographs.

This year I will be using the user friendly app, Remind, to communicate brief alerts to parents. Remind allows allow me to send reminders about events in our classroom or individual messages about your child. Please sign up for my Remind alerts by texting 81010 with the message @mulcahy12

CLASS information and SPECIALS Schedule

Specials Schedule

Monday-Music (12:45-1:30)
Tuesday-Art (12:45-1:30)
Wednesday-Tech (12:45-1:30)
Thursday-Gym (12:45-1:30)
Friday-Social Emotional
Learning (12:45-1:30)

**Once a month we will
attend the All School
Mass**

We have a day packed with things to learn and do. We do not have bathrooms in the classroom. We will be taking multiple bathroom breaks throughout the day.



Snack & Lunch

We will have snack around 9:30. Please make sure your child knows what has been packed for snack. Please remember that snacks should be light and healthy (no candy or junk food). Students will not be using the drinking fountains this year, so please send a large refillable water bottle to school each day. Lunch is at 11:20 - 11:50 am.

Birthdays

We celebrate birthdays in kindergarten! Due to COVID restrictions, we will not be able to distribute any items to our classmates unless they are store bought and individually wrapped. Alternately, your child may bring a wrapped gift to open at school and share with the class. Please email me for gift ideas. Some previous gifts include Legos, smelly markers, etc. If your child has a summer birthday, we will celebrate at the end of the school year. We have 21 students in our class ~ 10 boys & 11 girls.

Fun Kindergarten Events

- *Multiple Field Trips
- *Thanksgiving Feast
- *Nativity Play
- *Gingerbread House Decorating
- *100th Day Celebration
- *Read Across America Week
- *End of Year Celebration

Kindergarten Curriculum and Skills

Reading

The Reading Workshop Model provides students with authentic reading experiences. Each week students will be introduced to a mentor text read aloud. Throughout the week the read aloud will be used to teach the standards for reading and phonics.

Math

GoMath's curriculum takes an interactive and engaging approach that aligns with Common Core Standards. Topics to be covered in kindergarten are: Counting, Writing Numbers, Addition & Subtraction, Measurement & Data, and Geometry.

Social Studies

In kindergarten Social Studies, students will learn about citizenship, "Then and Now", our community, our world, Native Americans and Pilgrims, and America.

Writing

Writer's Workshop is a teaching technique that invites students to write by making the process a meaningful part of the classroom curriculum. The main components of the **Writer's Workshop** include a Mini-lesson, **Writing & Conferencing**, and **Sharing**. Students will also learn about proper letter formation.

Science

Using our LabLearner curriculum and our amazing STEM lab, students will engage in activities that promote hands on inquiry, observation, and collaboration.

Social Skills

Kindergarten students will be encouraged to:

- Relate well with others
- Follow directions
- Cooperate
- Share responsibility

Religion

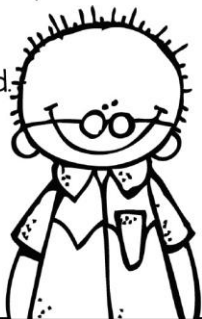
- God is the creator of all things
- We celebrate and enjoy God's creations
- We are members of God's family
- Gifts From God
- Every person deserves love, care and respect

Guided Reading

We will be using Fountas and Pinnell Leveled Reading Program in our classroom. This program is closely aligned with Common Core State Standards designed to help individual readers. Using a benchmark assessment a reading level will be determined for each child. For about a week, the students will read a short story with a variety of activities to enhance fluency, comprehension, and problem solving skills. The students will be assessed and texts will be changed as the student moves up in his/her reading level. This curriculum allows us to support each student in a small group, but the ultimate goal is independent reading.

HOW TO READ WITH A BEGINNING READER

- Complete a picture walk BEFORE reading.
- Predict what may happen in the book.
- Model and encourage your child to track print.
- Read a word or sentence and have your child repeat it.
- Take turns reading each page.
- Talk about the story as you read. What do you think will happen next? What does this story remind you of?
- Read the story again! Repeated readings build fluency and confidence!



Home ~ School Folder

On Friday (or the last day of a school week), a yellow Home~School Folder will be sent home in your student's backpack. One side of the folder is marked HOME. Completed lessons and projects, along with any parent letters will be placed in the pocket. Please empty the folder and return it to school on Monday (or the first day of the next week). If you have any information to return to school, just place it in the SCHOOL pocket of the folder.

i-Ready

In kindergarten we use a program called i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction. The focus of this online program is reading and math. i-Ready Diagnostic & Instruction helps teachers to effectively assess their students and then provide individualized instruction based on each student's unique needs.

i-Ready begins by giving students an adaptive assessment in reading or math. An adaptive assessment is a test that automatically adjusts the difficulty of the questions according to each student's performance in order to determine his or her abilities in math or reading.

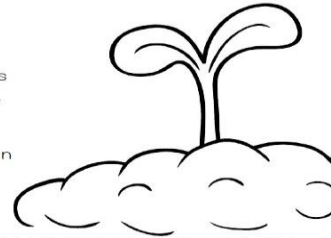
Once your child completes the test, he or she will be assigned online instruction to support his or her progress in mastering each skill. The online lessons are proven to help students grow academically.

More information about i-Ready testing and lessons will be sent out throughout the year.

Growth Mindset

growth mindset what is it?

We used to think that our intelligence was fixed – meaning we were either smart or we weren't. Scientists have proven again and again that simply is not true. Our brain acts like a muscle – the more we use it, the stronger (and smarter) our brain becomes.



At St. Cajetan we promote a growth mindset. We will give praise on the process versus the accomplishment, accept mistakes as learning opportunities, and understand the role of emotions in learning.

IS YOUR MINDSET FIXED?

A person with a fixed mindset may do these things:

- avoid challenges
- give up easily
- ignore feedback
- become threatened by other people's success
- try hard to appear as smart or capable as possible

WHAT DOES A GROWTH MINDSET LOOK LIKE?

A person with a growth mindset may do these things:

- embrace challenges
- give their best effort
- learn from feedback
- become inspired by other people's successes
- believe their intelligence can change if they work hard

