

St. Margaret's Day School- The value behind the education

At St. Margaret's Day School we already know that learning and developmental milestones are pinnacle to a child's success and self esteem growth as shown through our programs beginning at age 2. As an MSDE educationally approved facility, we maintain a stable staff, low teacher/student ratios as well as small class sizes. Our staff holds educational degrees and MSDE credentials. Most people understand the value of early education through Pre Kindergarten.

Kindergarten is one of the most crucial learning years. Research and studies have proven over and over again that small class sizes are critical for achievement and self esteem. The love of lifelong learning begins at the earliest stages.

The first question in everyone's mind-“Why should I pay for Kindergarten?”

A research study of STAR (the Student/Teacher Achievement Ratio, or STAR (1985–1989) found that students in the small classes significantly outperformed students in regular classes on standardized reading and mathematics tests. No difference was found between regular classes and classes with aides. STAR data indicated that small classes led to statistically significant improvements in reading and mathematics, and benefits were greatest for students who started in small classes early (full-day kindergarten or first grade). Small classes allow more individual attention and more interaction with teachers and students. Discipline issues tend to disappear. Children don't slip through the cracks the way they do in the larger class settings. Class size -- which was the impetus of Project Star -- evidently played some role. Classes with 13 to 17 students do better than classes with 22 to 25. Subsequent studies found that students from the smaller classes continued to outperform students from the regular-size classes on achievement tests through middle school, with some indication of improved performance and behavior through high school.

Other factors that contribute to the value of a school experience:

*Parent participation-As an open door school, parents are welcome to participate as much or as little as they wish in their child's class. We have a very active Parent/Teacher organization as well. No car pool line means seeing your child's friends and teachers daily.

*Enrichment-Art, Science, Social Studies, Chapel, P.E., Music and Spanish weekly. In house and outside field trips monthly allow for further exploration of themes and topics.

*Discovery-as a “hands on” learning environment, the children explore and investigate to learn every day. A mix of structured and unstructured activities leads to well rounded and well educated, curious children.

*Confidence/continuity-we have a stable staff that has been together for over 4 years. All of our programs include our own staff.

*Leadership/self esteem-graduating as a Kindergartener from St. Margaret's Day School allows a child to be the big fish in a small pond, allowing them to build a strong foundation to prepare them for the future. The experience of being a role model and mentor for younger children prepares our children with the confidence and self esteem that will help them to become lifelong leaders. Our Christmas pageant and graduation programs allow our K students to be public speakers and “stars”.

*Communication-At St. Margaret's Day School, you are always in communication with our team. Monthly and yearly calendars, weekly newsletters, weekly social progress reports, Tri-yearly academic report cards, emails and communication folders keep parents, teachers and administration closely connected.