**Kindergarten Curriculum & Homework Policy**

There is so much to learn in Kindergarten! Here’s an overall glimpse of what we’ll be working on this year:

**Math** – IHM utilizes the McGraw Hill “My Math” series/curriculum. Children will develop and apply knowledge of numbers with an emphasis on counting order and number recognition to 20. We will also introduce geometry, measurement, patterning and addition and subtraction concepts.

**Reading** – Kindergarten reading instruction is based on the ‘Super Kids’ reading program. This phonics-based program has proven to be very successful in developing reading skills in young learners! Focus is placed on letter identification, letter-sound fluency and blending sounds. Language arts instruction also includes an attention to letter formation, sentence writing and independent spelling using phonics skills.

**Religion** - Early childhood religious education is a process of developing awareness of growth and of nurturing the child’s spirit. Our kindergarten religion program lays the foundation of faith and provides a means of worship that has value to our young students. We will recite daily prayers and participate in religious activities with the school community. As part of the Archdiocese of Baltimore Family Life curriculum, IHM uses the Benzinger series.

**Science/Social Studies** – As part of the ‘Super Kids’ reading program, students explore various science and social studies concepts through non-fiction texts. Science units serve to develop basic thinking and exploration skills, allowing students the opportunity to collect data, understand information and apply concepts. Social Studies units work to develop a community in our own classroom while exposing children to their larger world. This includes discussion of everyday experiences, current events, holidays and some historical study. Science and Social Studies curriculums are measured by Archdiocesan goals and standards for the kindergarten grade level.

**Physical Development** – Large and small muscle growth is developed through weekly physical education class, as well as in-class activities such as controlling pencils, crayons, scissors, gluing, printing, creative play, puzzles, stringing beads, blocks and Play-Doh.

**Art** – Various mediums are used in primary art to motivate the children to express themselves creatively through color, form and design.

**Music** – The kindergarten music program includes vocal and rhythmic development, creative movement, beginning music theory and hands-on experiences with instruments. Kindergarten children will participate in the Christmas program at the school.

**Computers/Technology** – Kindergarten children will receive weekly instruction in the computer lab. They will use a variety of educational software that will enhance and reinforce early reading and math skills. They will also develop digital/technological skills using the classroom Smartboard during lessons/activities.

**Foreign Language** - Kindergarten students engage in weekly Spanish instruction. They will learn a variety of commonly used phrases and words including colors, animals and body parts.

**Homework** – Kindergarten homework is designed to keep parents informed about what their child is learning in school while providing additional practice for the students. Nightly homework will be assigned Monday through Thursday. Homework assignments should take no more than 15 minutes to complete and should not present as a challenge to the students. Homework assignments will be posted on the “Homework” tab/page of our classroom Weebly website.