**Who is eligible for Junior Kindergarten (JK)?**

The target age for enrollment in the JK program is five. JK is designed for children who are kindergarten eligible and would benefit from another year in a nurturing play based environment. JK expands upon the foundation laid by earlier preschool experiences with age appropriate academic components.

**If my child is not kindergarten eligible can I apply for the JK Program?**

If space is available, a child who turns 5 by December 31st may be enrolled if the parents and teachers all agree the child is ready for the class.

**How is JK different than Pre-K at St. Aidan’s?**

* Longer school day
* Spanish integrated daily into the curriculum
* Weekly dramatic arts program which includes skits, rhythm, and music
* Students may check out a book from the library as part of our weekly library trip
* Monthly cultural celebrations
* Monthly subscription to the Scholastic Magazine “Let’s Find Out”
* More field trips during the school year
* Curriculum follows the basic framework of Fairfax County’s Kindergarten Plan of Study, Core Knowledge, and the Learning Without Tears Kick Start to Kindergarten Program
* Larger classroom (and class size up to 16 students)

**What is the daily schedule?**

* Monday - Friday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM, students bring a bag lunch

**Are there opportunities to extend the day?**

Yes, Tuesday – Friday you may enroll your child for an hour of stay and play or one of the many enrichment classes offered throughout the year. These options allow you to extend the day until 2:00 PM.

**How will this program support my child’s social and emotional development?**

Your child is exposed to a variety of activities that support social and emotional development. Our dramatic arts program helps students develop self-confidence and creativity. Field trips throughout the year promote greater independence and self-awareness. Children are taught and encouraged to practice and demonstrate self-help skills (zipping coats, tying shoes, cleaning up, problem solving, etc.) that boost their self-esteem. Additionally, as the senior-most class, the JK students serve as ambassadors to the younger children at school.

**What else does the JK Program offer?**

* Inclusion of 21st Century Learning Skills: Creativity, Collaborating, Communicating, and Critical Thinking into daily lesson plans
* Participation in the following weekly specials: Music, Library, Chapel, and Movement
* Emphasis on self-control and body awareness through daily yoga and Brain Gym exercises
* Use of the STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) approach in teaching
* Exposure to technology and appropriate usage with classroom computers