

St. Ambrose Rocket Readers

Launching Students into the Reading Stratosphere

Contains the best practices from Catholic Education (reading, writing, spelling, grammar) and... essential elements established by "The National Reading Panel Report" 2000.

Our PreK-Second Grade reading program is a systematic approach to learning that enables students to become fluent, automatic readers by the end of second grade.

What Readers will learn in Pre-Kindergarten:

- Introduction to phonemic awareness
- Introduction to letter sounds through songs and extension activities
- Identify beginning sound of a spoken word
- List words with same initial sound
- Introduction to phonics and decoding
- Introduction to vocabulary and spelling
- Introduction to writing: letters (upper and lowercase), words, simple sentences
- Recognize and match rhyming pictures and words
- Begin to sound out 3- and 4-letter words
- Sight words that include, but are not limited to: color words, days of the week, months, and number words one through ten
- Ask and answer questions related to a story
- Re-tell main ideas
- Use of weekly magazine, "Let's Find Out," and Big Books (for in-class stories)
- Use drawings, dictation, and/or writing to express ideas or an opinion about a book or a topic

What Readers will learn in Kindergarten:

Continuation and extension of skills taught and practiced in Pre-K.

- **PHONEMIC AWARENESS** mastered. Rhyming words, syllabication and order of sounds; phonics, short vowel sounds, (represented by graphemes), spelling; beginning, medial, and final sounds; decoding and encoding skills continued
- **VOCABULARY DEVELOPMENT**- understand the meaning of words, identify and sort words into basic categories (e.g., colors, shapes, food); use language correctly to express spatial and temporal relationships (e.g., up/down, before/after); spelling, sight words, vocabulary and orthography extended
- **COMPREHENSION** - introduce context clues, story elements, classify and re-categorize, fantasy and reality, predictions, compare and contrast, main idea and details, story structure, summarize, cause and effect, make inferences
- **FLUENCY**- read alphabet letters in random order with automaticity. Use appropriate intonation and expression during unison oral reading with teacher
- **WRITING SKILLS** - introduction to punctuation; produce, illustrate, and share a finished piece of writing. Write uppercase and lowercase letters independently - attending to the form of proper spacing of letters. Use capital letters to begin "important words." Connect thoughts and oral language to generate ideas. Participate in writing letters, sentences, and simple stories. Create a group draft, scripted by the teacher. Print their names. Write by moving from left to right and top to bottom.

What Readers will learn in First Grade:

Continuation and extension of skills taught and practiced in previous grades.

- Increase in sight word lexicon and enhanced decoding/encoding/orthographic skills
- **VOCABULARY** - unfamiliar words, spelling patterns, contractions, number words, color words, compound words
- **GRAMMAR** - proper and common nouns, past tense verbs, subject-predicate agreement, comparative and describing adjectives, inflectional endings, possessives, synonyms and antonyms, types of sentences, commas, end punctuation
- **COMPREHENSION** - sequence of events, using illustrations, story elements (plot, setting), analyzing character, analyzing motive, drawing conclusions, introduction to poetry (rhyme, rhythm, structure)
- **STUDY SKILLS** - parts of a book, text organizers, graphic aids (maps, diagrams, charts), alphabetizing, standardized test preparation
- **PHONICS** - long vowel sounds, blends, initial consonants, digraphs
- **FLUENCY** - reading aloud with proper inflection and intonation, boldface emphasis
- **WRITING** - creating original stories, "publishing" via oral sharing, editing own work

What Readers will learn in Second Grade:

Continuation and extension of skills taught and practiced in previous grades.

- **VOCABULARY**- inflectional endings, prefixes, suffixes, synonyms, antonyms, multiple meaning words, figurative language
- **GRAMMAR** - collective nouns, irregular plural nouns, reflexive pronouns, adverbs, adjectives
- **COMPREHENSION** - form generalizations, describe key ideas from a text, ask questions to clarify comprehension, recount an experience with appropriate facts and details
- **PHONICS** - consonant digraphs, silent letters, read grade appropriate irregularly spelled words
- **STUDY SKILLS** - using contents, index, glossary; extension of graphic aids; creating and using bar graphs; reference sources: dictionary, encyclopedia; interpret signs; analyze advertisements
- **FLUENCY** - read with fluency and accuracy for adequate comprehension
- **WRITING** - brainstorming and collaborating, creating drafts, editing, and publishing - descriptive writing: stories, poems, daily journals, letters, and analyses of fiction and nonfiction

Rocket Reading includes a management system that offers periodic assessment of student performance. These instruments ensure that the children are progressing as expected and identify areas where provisions can be made for individual differences.