

# *Early Childhood Center*

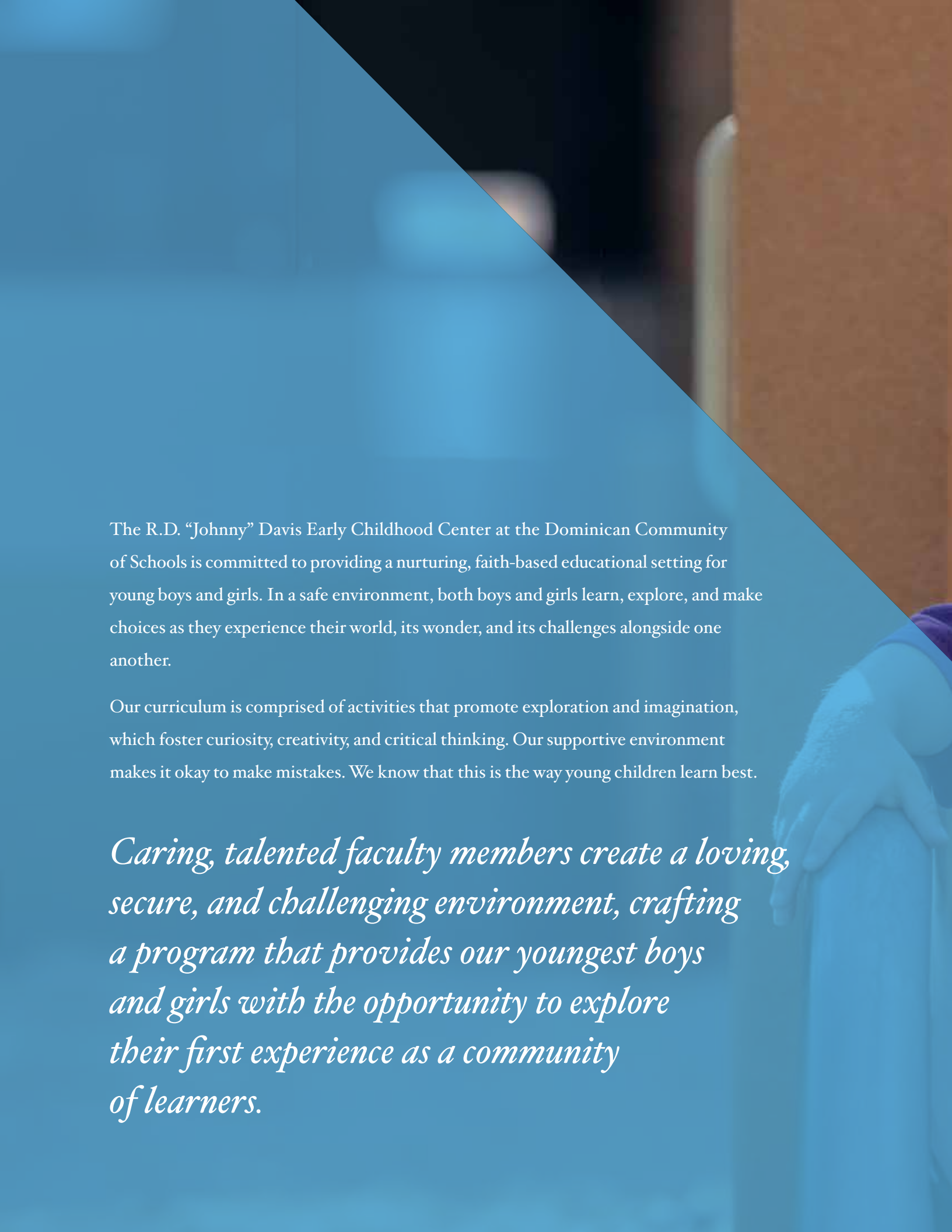
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*The Dominican*  
COMMUNITY of SCHOOLS



The Brightest  
Minds Come From  
Bright Beginnings!



The R.D. “Johnny” Davis Early Childhood Center at the Dominican Community of Schools is committed to providing a nurturing, faith-based educational setting for young boys and girls. In a safe environment, both boys and girls learn, explore, and make choices as they experience their world, its wonder, and its challenges alongside one another.

Our curriculum is comprised of activities that promote exploration and imagination, which foster curiosity, creativity, and critical thinking. Our supportive environment makes it okay to make mistakes. We know that this is the way young children learn best.

*Caring, talented faculty members create a loving, secure, and challenging environment, crafting a program that provides our youngest boys and girls with the opportunity to explore their first experience as a community of learners.*





# *We Believe*

Our Early Childhood program allows children to be active and engaged learners. We have the materials and tools to explore, think creatively, solve problems and make connections to the real world.

## **WE BELIEVE:**

Children learn best in an environment based on respect that fosters self-esteem and builds confidence.

Children learn best when curriculum is designed with children's development in mind.

Children learn best when the needs of the whole child are met.

Children learn best when they use play to translate experience into understanding.

Children learn best when activities are designed to allow them to make choices and to solve problems.

Children learn best when we create a partnership with the family.



# *PK2 Program*

Our earliest learners walk into a new world of wonder. New environment, new teachers, new routines, and maybe even a new uneasiness about being away from home. So in our program for two-year-olds, we emphasize building the foundational comfort and confidence for future success. Our teachers focus on key skills and benchmarks to ensure happy and successful development.

## **SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING**

Learning independence, self-care, responsibilities in a group, and selflessness

## **MATH AND SCIENCE READINESS**

Elementary counting, shapes and colors

## **COGNITIVE DEVELOPMENT AND CREATIVITY**

Progresses through stages of creative play

## **COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

Increased comprehension and vocalization

## **MOTOR SKILLS**

Preparing grips for writing, cutting, and drawing

## **READING READINESS**

Building and expanding alphabet recognition

# *PK Program*

Our Pre-Kindergarten learners are busy, active, and energetic. They are growing curious about their surrounding environment and ready to absorb new vocabulary words, develop motor skills, and begin to understand the concept of cooperative play. While we are focusing on the social and emotional aspects of learning, we continue to introduce important learning in a methodical and logical way.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS**

Letters, sounds, story elements

## **MATH AND SCIENCE READINESS**

Counting objects, shapes and patterns, sorting

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Days, months, seasons, Pledge of Allegiance

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Independent work, sharing, self-control





# *JK Program*

Armed with new confidence and foundational skills, our Junior-Kindergarten learners are ready to explore and advance. It's a big year for reading and math skills, but our JK teachers are also aware that this is still an important window for social and emotional development as we prepare our learners for Kindergarten and beyond.

## **READING, WRITING, AND GRAMMAR**

Sight words, vowels and consonants, rhymes, beginning journaling

## **MATH**

Counting and skip counting, numerals, simple graphs, patterns, ordering

## **WORK HABITS**

Following directions, personal responsibility, independent work

## **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Cooperation, listening, self-control, courtesy





*The opportunity to seamlessly transition to elementary school helps our littlest Stars and Suns in this crucial next step to becoming successful and faithful young boys and girls.*

## Faith is our guide.

The foundations of the Catholic faith and Dominican tradition are woven into the fabric of our daily life. With Jesus at the center, our goal is to instill Catholic moral values, to encourage the practice of ethical behavior, and to support the spiritual growth of all students.

Part of the Dominican spirit means accepting and welcoming students and faculty of other denominations. Everyone is felt to be a part of the whole. Every child brings something from the experience of faith in his or her life, and every child has a gift to give.

No one is too young to learn about the love of Jesus and his commands for our daily lives, and we weave these stories and practices into our daily lives at the Early Childhood Center.

In PK2 students learn simple prayers and what it means to participate in chapel.

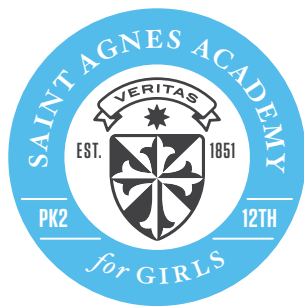
In Pre-Kindergarten students learn to say a blessing at snack time, make the sign of the cross, and become participants in chapel.

In Junior Kindergarten students learn to recite prayers at meals, participate in chapel, and listen and respond to scripture stories.

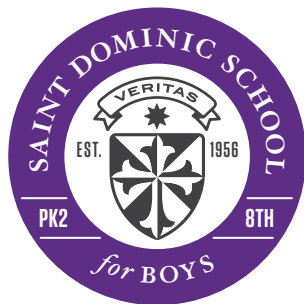


# A place to keep growing.

Once families experience this learning environment centered on faith, academic achievement, community, and outreach, they know this is where they want their child to continue to grow and learn and develop. Opportunities abound in the Lower School at St. Agnes Academy for girls and at St. Dominic School for boys.



The Lower School at St. Agnes Academy for girls opens the eyes and minds and hearts of girls and prepares them like no other school for their journey to success. They grow their faith, build friendships, learn from attentive teachers committed to their success, and emerge as confident girls who are ready for what's next.



Since 1956, St. Dominic School has prepared boys to become young men of integrity, young men of faith and young men prepared for their next step in life. The bonds of brotherhood begin here - a place where boys can learn, grow and boldly pursue their best selves.

**LINDSEY HOLTON**

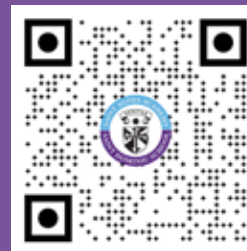
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