



## History

Good Shepherd School is an independent Catholic preschool for children aged 2.9 to 5 years old. GSS was formed through the leadership of the pastor, Father James J. Ronan Ph.D., and a Board of parents, citizens, and friends who saw a great need for a Catholic preschool in the neighborhood. GSS officially opened its doors in October of 2009.

## Mission

Our mission at GSS is to provide a Catholic education and nurturing environment for the diverse range of families that comprise our community. GSS's goal is to cultivate the intellectual, physical, spiritual, and emotional well being of each child through comprehensive and developmentally appropriate programs. Through these programs, we are able to strengthen the school-family partnership and enrich the lives and learning experiences of the children.



## Philosophy

We believe that a supportive community is essential to help all children realize their potential. We offer a safe and stimulating atmosphere for preschool-aged children to thrive. Our faith-based program is designed to provide a variety of experiences and activities that will increase curiosity and encourage exploration. Through this, both teachers and peers can develop healthy and rewarding relationships grounded in our Catholic values. Although our curriculum, activities, and programs reflect the Catholic tradition, Good Shepherd School is open to families of all faiths.



## Curriculum

Our curriculum, which is in alignment with the Massachusetts Preschool standards, is designed to nurture each child's growth through intentional learning opportunities across all domains. Students of the GSS are given the opportunity to work collaboratively and explore friendships. We nurture our students' individual interests with an environment that is both structural and multisensory. The curriculum also supports the social and emotional development of our students by fostering self-confidence and social maturity.



## Handwriting Without Tears

*Handwriting Without Tears* is a fine motor skill curriculum developed by Occupational Therapist Jan Z. Olsen. This program breaks down the steps to proper fine motor grips and precision that is developmentally appropriate for each age group. By teaching fine motor skills in a step-by-step process, *HWT* gives your child better fine motor success.

## Technical Education Resource Collaborative (TERC)

*TERC* is a math program that teaches children the background of mathematical theories, instead of memorizing facts. This program allows teachers to integrate skills across academic areas, which helps engage the children in higher-level thinking. Boston Public Schools (BPS) uses *TERC*; therefore, if you choose to send your child to BPS after GSS, he/she will already be familiar with the methods from this program.



## Opening the World of Learning (OWL)

The *OWL* program is implemented daily in the Dolphin, Whale, and Turtle classrooms. *OWL* is a curriculum designed specifically for Pre-K, meaning that all of the materials are developmentally appropriate for your child. Lessons in this program focus on language and literacy, while incorporating other subjects (math, science, and social studies).



## Afternoon Enrichment

Our extended day program follows lunch and goes until 3pm; it offers a quiet rest time, snack time, and enrichment lessons in Spanish, Science, and Social Studies. With teachers joining us from ABC Spanish in Motion on Tuesdays and Thursdays and Mad Science on Wednesdays, your child will get the afternoon care they need, while continuing to engage their minds.

## Contact:

To schedule a tour or for more information about the school, please contact: Jessica Maxwell at 617-242-8800 or [j.maxwell@gsscharlestown.org](mailto:j.maxwell@gsscharlestown.org)

