

Hello! I am a student at St. Anne Catholic School and I would like to tell you about my exciting day at school! From the moment the teacher opens my car door in the morning to the moment they put me in the car in the afternoon, I know that I am loved and in a safe place. As soon as I enter my classroom, my teacher greets me and tells me good morning. I get unpacked and then the entire school starts the day by saying the pledge, the special prayer for the day and announcing our friends' birthdays. Then, we start our morning learning adventure.

My teachers use differentiated instruction to make sure that my assignments are just what I need. Most mornings our learning adventures include studying language, reading exciting books that can take us anywhere we want to go, working in spelling groups, and learning to work together as a class family. Since we are a Christian school, we are able to learn about God. We read Bible stories, say and learn special prayers, and help others who are in need. Some things we have to do to help others include: making "birthday boxes" (which include all the items needed for a fantastic birthday celebration) and then delivering them to Bristol Faith in Action, going to visit our homebound friends, making cards and beautiful care packages for people in the hospital. This year, with the help of a special friend, we were able to help others who live all the way around the world in Uganda! To help our friends in Uganda, we brought our old uniforms, packed them and then he delivered them to Uganda. When he returned to the United States he shared his adventures with us and showed us the difference we made in their lives. Seeing our new friends' beautiful smiling faces said it all! I am so lucky that I go to school where I can show my love for others just as Christ has loved us!

After our morning adventures we go to lunch. We can buy yummy, healthy lunches such as chicken and broccoli with pasta. After lunch, we take advantage of our big adventurous playground area where we climb, slide, jump, run, or play games and sports with our friends. After returning to the classroom, we get ready to continue our learning adventure.



In the afternoon, we study the world around us using hands-on learning opportunities. When it is time for science there is never a dull moment. In science we are always learning by doing! We often visit our very own Science & Discovery Center where we can complete experiments, use kid friendly microscopes to look at slides, build models, look at x-rays on our x-ray table, and a lot of other great stuff! Our field trips have included trips to the Gray Fossil Site to dig for fossils, the Gatlinburg Aquarium, the Knoxville Zoo, and Bays Mountain just to name a few. Each grade picks trips to go along with things they are studying, so I have lots of other exciting field trips to look forward to in my other grades.

When it comes time for Social Studies, you will need to buckle your seatbelt! While learning about our community and the world, we have the opportunity to use our SmartBoards to take virtual, interactive fieldtrips to anywhere we want to go! We have traveled back in time to be part of the first Thanksgiving, we have been a part of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech, toured the White House and past president's houses, visited other countries, and even flown in a helicopter around the Statue of Liberty! We also learn about life in other countries by skyping people who live there and listen to them share their own experiences with us.

In Math class, we not only look at models, diagrams, and math problems in the book, but we also use manipulatives to solve and understand the problems better. We are introduced to geometry in kindergarten and continue to build on it each year by learning about symmetry, plane and space shapes, and congruent figures. (Can you believe we know those words when we are just kids!) We have participated in webinars to learn math skills with children around the world. We also take part in an

engineering curriculum where we work together to solve problems through building solutions and inventions.

At St. Anne's, we use technology each and everyday. By the time we have finished 2nd grade, we have learned how to use several programs including Word, Publisher, different search engines, and we know how to type using the correct finger placement.

When it's time to go home and my teachers put me in the car, I am reminded how much they truly care about me when they simply say, "See you tomorrow, have a nice evening!" When I get in the car, I can't wait to see if I can stump my parents with a quiz question about something new that I learned that day. I am so happy that I go to school at St. Anne Catholic School where I know that my teachers love me, that I am safe, and that I have teachers and friends to whom I can talk about anything. Every day I am reminded of how special I am and that I am a child of God. I learn how to make good choices, I am challenged to learn more, and I do things that I never thought I could.