



**ST. RITA
SCHOOL**

3801 Russell Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22308
Phone: 703-548-1888

PRESCHOOL AND CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

FACT SHEET



Lambs(3s) and Shepherds(4s)

Our classrooms are play-based learning environments that are designed to develop the whole child as we encourage our students to reason and problem-solve as they are exposed to tactile and engaging materials. We provide age-appropriate challenges through class discussions, activities, and art projects that develop fine and gross motor skills, science and math skills, as well as verbal and language proficiency.

LITTLE LAMBS

The Little Lambs are Saint Rita Preschool’s youngest class for children who have turned three by September 30th. Students can be enrolled in either a Monday, Wednesday, Friday class or a Tuesday, Thursday class. Both classes run from 8:15am-11:45am.

Fine and Gross Motor Skills	Math, Patterns, Vocabulary	Cognitive Development
Self-responsibility	Socialization	Listening Skills
Music and Motion	Literacy	Self-confidence

SHEPHERDS

The Shepherds class is for children who have turned four by September 30th. Students are enrolled Monday through Thursday with an optional Friday class. All classes run from 8:15am-11:45am.

Sense of Self	Responsibility for Self and Others	Prosocial Behavior
Fine and Gross Motor Skills	Learning and Problem Solving	Logical Thinking
Representation and Symbolic Thinking	Listening and Speaking Skills (effective communication and expression)	Pre-Reading and Writing Skills (Letter-Sound Recognition, Letter Formation)



3801 Russell Road
 Alexandria, Virginia 22308
 Phone: 703-548-1888

ATRIUM

The Atrium is a specially prepared environment to aid the child’s spiritual development. Based on the Montessori method, the Atrium offers a hands-on approach with unique materials concerning the most essential and age-appropriate aspects of the Catholic faith: introduction to the Liturgy and the Church, the Kingdom Parables, the sacraments of Baptism and Eucharist, and the life of Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd.

Practical Life Skills	Cultivation of Prayer Life	Awareness of and respect for Environment
Social Graces and Courtesy	Accessibility to the Liturgy and Life in the Church	Independence
Gained confidence through Self-Corrective Materials	Meeting Spiritual and Intellectual Needs	Uninterrupted Work Cycle

Saint Rita School’s Philosophy of Learning states in part...
 “St. Rita School provides an environment that allows our families and the entire community to become closer to God. ... Our School Community recognizes the sacred in every child and celebrates their cultural and economic diversity. ... Our Philosophy of Learning calls us to be models of our Catholic Faith. ... We endeavor to instill a strong Catholic Faith in partnership with our students’ parents.” This philosophy of close cooperation in the spiritual development of children with their parents is the cornerstone of our preschool program. In addition, elements of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd are incorporated into the curriculum for all children.

