

Overview of Kindergarten Curriculum

Extending our Christian philosophy of an integrated, balanced approach to learning from our preschool programs into our Kindergarten classes, the curriculum we have chosen allows students to experience learning in many different ways. Although students are introduced to a structured environment, much learning takes place by active involvement in the educational process. The students have opportunities to develop creative thinking and problem solving skills as they use manipulatives to understand math concepts, develop science experiments, or recreate a period of our country's history. A Christian worldview is integrated throughout all areas of the Kindergarten program, allowing the students to see the touch of His hand in all of creation.

Language Arts, including Phonics, Handwriting Spelling and Reading—Bob Jones University Press *Beginnings* supported by *The Writing and Spelling Road to Reading and Thinking*, Bob Jones University Press *Beginnings* and readers and *The Writing and Spelling Road to Reading And Thinking* developed and published by Myrna McCulloch of the Riggs Institute, introduces students to language through a totally integrated approach. Students learn the phonograms that make up the English language by listening to them, speaking them and writing them in manuscript print. Once students begin to master the initial phonograms, they are introduced to spelling and creative writing. This strong phonics foundation builds student confidence in their language skills and encourages them to be life-long readers. To compliment the Language Arts program, students use beginning readers from Bob Jones Publishers. Independent reading in classroom library books, daily exposure to literacy and writing centers and reading to students from classic children's literature are an essential part of the program.

Social Studies and Science—Abeka Publications— In science, Kindergarten students learn about God's plan for seeds, animals, the seashore, health, weather and seasons. Social Studies units include community helpers, our country, and children of the world. These subjects will come alive through hands on experiments and interactive projects.

Mathematics—Bob Jones University Press, *Mathematics for Kindergarten (adopted by CCA school year 2016/2017)*: Based on God's principles of the order of creation, Bob Jones University Press, Mathematics K is a comprehensive math curriculum that balances conceptual understandings of mathematics with appropriate drill and practice and allows students to practice the conceptual skills they have learned with meaningful, real life problems. The use of manipulatives is viewed as critical and necessary to the study of Mathematics. As students involve themselves in hands-on activities, they grasp the mathematical concept being presented. At the kindergarten level, students are introduced to classifying and sorting, exploring patterns, counting and matching, identifying, writing and understanding numerals at least through 30, beginning geometry, counting and understanding money, understanding the calendar and telling time, addition and subtraction, equal parts (beginning fractions) and measurement. Each lesson reviews previously learned concepts. These activities provide opportunities for the students to model and explain their work.

Bible-*God and Me*—The Association of Christian Schools International: Although our entire curriculum is taught from a Christian perspective, the systematic study of God's word is an essential element of the Christian school. Our choice of the ACSI Bible curriculum was made after previewing many different publications. This non-denominational material teaches how to study God's word and apply it in practical ways to our daily lives.

Also:

Music: In weekly music classes, students are taught the fundamentals of rhythm and music theory. Students will also be involved in one school musical program each year.

Physical Education: Our physical education teacher helps the students develop large motor skills and knowledge of games with rules.

Art: Students have an art class in addition to the art that is integrated into the daily program. Students learn about different techniques and about working with different media, as well as receiving an introduction to Art History. They are introduced to famous artists, and see how Bible stories and concepts have been illustrated through the ages with art.

Chapel: The entire elementary school joins together in the church chapel for a short service each Wednesday morning. This is a time of worship, prayer, and testimonies. Classes take turns presenting the weekly lessons. Christ Chapel Academy pastors are frequent visitors.

Library: All elementary students have the opportunity to visit the school library each week for a literacy lesson. They are also able to borrow books on a weekly basis.