

Christ Episcopal School

Kindergarten Overview

Kindergarten is a transition from preschool to the structure of first grade. Students have free center time while adjusting to more structure in their routines and more academic work. Although children have fun learning, it is a time to become more personally responsible for their behavior while sitting and listening for longer periods of time. The class environment and learning is related to Christian faith as the child grows more successfully independent.

Concepts and activities include but are not limited to the following:

Reading/Language Arts

Recognizing that learning to read is a very individual and developmental process, Christ Episcopal's Kindergarten program offers children a multidimensional and all-inclusive approach toward reading/learning to read that addresses your child's level of development.

- Phonic Awareness – hearing/recognizing discrete sounds in words
 - Phonics – understanding of the letter/sound relationship
 - Visual cues – learning high frequency words and about short word families (ex: “at” family – bat, cat, hat, etc.)
 - Decoding and coding words
 - Left to right orientation
- Recognizing high-frequency sight words
- Meaning Cues – making prediction, using illustrations to gain meaning and help with unfamiliar words, and using questioning techniques to insure that comprehension of what is being read is taking place.
- Syntax – using word structure and grammar to support reading and comprehension
- Practical application through printing, labeling pictures, and journal writing.



Working with Words

- Manipulate letters to form words.
- Recognize familiar words, colors, number family, and friends' names.
- Spell words phonetically.
- Inventive spelling.

Listening/Speaking

Listening is an important skill for academic success. Learning to converse with others and speak well are also important skills for future leaders. Students learn to:

- use voice and self control
- take turns speaking
- contribute to conversation without interruption
- repeat songs and fingerplays
- use correct grammar when speaking.

Writing

- Hold pencil correctly.
- Form letters correctly.
- Use inventive spelling of words.
- Form sentences.

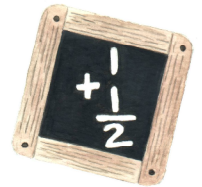


Library Skills—A goal of the library program is to not only learn about a library but to also develop a life-long love of reading. Students visit the library once a week. They:

- listen to and discuss a story
- learn about various authors and illustrators
- learn library rules
- learn how to care for books.

Math – Taught primarily using hands-on manipulatives:

- money (penny, nickel, dime, quarter)
- sorting
- measurement (includes length, weight, use of scale)
- graphing
- telling time (hour)
- recognizing and writing numerals
- one-to-one correspondence
- counting by tens
- calendar skills emphasizing day, date, and year
- surveys & graphs
- patterns (duplicate and continue, create, and identify)
- ordinal position
- estimation
- addition & subtraction
- problem solving & logical thinking
- attributes to describe likeness/differences.



Science – The science program integrates all aspects of the core curriculum. It is a hands-on method of using science stories and investigations.

Integrated into various parts of the curriculum are the following topics:

- review and expansion of the five senses
- weather, seasons, and animals in different seasons
- nutrition, dental health, and exercise
- dinosaurs and fossils
- types of plants and animals – parts, growth, and classification
- sea life
- life cycles of butterflies and moths
- living and non-living organisms
- magnets.

Kindergarten Overview continued

Social Studies - These skills are integrated through the program:

- reading a map
- concept of where we live
- directions
- water
- land forms
- differing cultures of people from other countries, their holidays, and customs
- community and daily living skills
- making friends
- safety skills (fire, gun, storms, poison, playground, summer, & 911)
- good manners, rules, citizenship
- basic human needs
- community helpers, careers, and caring for others
- famous people and major holidays.



Physical Education—Physical education is important to children's health, growth, and development. Students attend physical education class daily to:

- acquire knowledge and skills of movement that provides the foundation for continued social development through physical activity and access to a physically active life
- gain strength, endurance, and flexibility
- learn how the muscles, bones, heart, and lungs function
- study movement, physical activity, and health.

Spanish—Students meet twice weekly for a 40 minute class with the Spanish teacher. They are taught orally and aurally through songs, interactive speech, games, activities, and occasional videos.

- Basic greetings, farewell, and classroom expressions
- Colors and numbers 1-20
- Holiday words
 - Parts of the face
 - Members of the family
 - Polite words
 - Animal names
- Sing Happy Birthday song, Christmas songs, and prayer
- Introduce the Spanish culture



Music—In the classroom, students sing simple songs by rote and learn finger-plays set to music. They also attend music class twice a week for one semester. In music class students:

- discuss the spoken voice as opposed to the singing voice
- practice matching pitches
- learn simple songs by rote
- recognize musical contrasts (loud/soft, fast/slow, smooth/jerky)
- recognize instruments by sight and sound

Music continued:

- practice keeping a steady beat
- play rhythm instruments
- listen to a variety of musical genres

Art—Art is experienced daily as children go about their learning activities in different centers. They also go to Art Class once a week. The art program is designed to teach students to:

- develop and organize ideas from the environment
- recognize and identify lines in works of art
- recognize and identify shapes in works of art
- identify primary and secondary colors in art works
- identify objects in art works that appear near and far
- describe forms in art works using basic terms (rounded, angular, large, small, etc.)
- recognize patterns in works of art
- recognize textures in works of art
- understand basic printmaking concept
- identify main subject of an artwork.



Drama—Students attend drama class once a week for a semester. The focus is creative drama, a form of theater in which the instructor guides learners through processes of imagination, enactment, and reflection. In Kindergarten, students begin with what they know from their environment and personal experiences, and, through imitation and re-creation, progress from dramatic play to creative drama.



Christian Education—Christianity and its moral precepts are incorporated into the daily life of students and teachers at Christ Episcopal School.

- Daily, teachers read a Bible story.
- Daily, teachers lead children in prayers before snacks and meals.
- Once a week, students participate in a Chapel service led by the rector or assistant rector of Christ Episcopal Church.
- Weekly, students receive Christian Education by an instructor.
- Students learn and recite the Lord's Prayer, study a Bible story, and the five parts of a prayer.
- Each weekly session closes with a prayer that incorporates the student's praises, thanksgivings, and prayer requests.

Computer Technology—Kindergarten students go to the computer lab twice a week for 40 minutes. This time is spent learning the vocabulary of technology through hands-on computer activities.

The computer teacher uses a projector in the lab to highlight Internet discussions, how-to projects, and other curriculum areas being taught with technology. Kindergarten classes also have a computer center in their classroom for review and enrichment activities.

