



EUGENE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Preschool Program Overview

3's Preschool Program (3 by Sept 1)

Tuesday & Thursday
8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

4's Preschool Program (4 by Sept 1)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday
8:30 – 11:30 a.m. or 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

***Transitional Pre-Kindergarten Program**

(4's option only)
Tuesday & Thursdays
12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

The Preschool Program is our 3-year-old program and offers an introductory look into our handwriting, phonics, math and literacy curriculums while focusing on social-emotional development and self-help skills. It will give children a hands-on approach to learning in a fun and inviting environment with various age-appropriate early learning opportunities. Children will take part in small and large group time, art, Bible, Chapel, cooking, science investigations, music, P.E., enriching field trips and dramatic play activities.

We are looking to create a positive school experience and encourage a life-long love of learning while showing the love and character of Christ. We introduce children to routines and expectations with a well-rounded approach to learning while directing children toward school readiness.

Our PreSchool program for our 4-year-olds offers hands on engagement, structured with optimal and age-appropriate early learning opportunities. It will take a more in depth look at phonemic awareness, phonics, handwriting, and oral and written language. It is a comprehensive program designed to prepare children for kindergarten readiness. Learning opportunities will include language and literacy, math, science, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual and character

development. Children will also take part in small and large group time, art, Bible, Chapel, cooking, science investigations, music, P.E., enriching field trips and dramatic play activities.

The Transitional Pre-Kindergarten Program is an enhancement option that offers a smaller class size, more 1-on-1 opportunities and additional academic preparation for Kindergarten. This class will focus on strengthening writing, literacy and math skills. It is an opportunity for children that need a bit more help mastering skills before entering Kindergarten, to have an extra 2 days of structured lessons and activities a week. It is equally beneficial to those students needing more of a challenge and a faster pace. This class is perfect for children waiting an extra year to start Kindergarten, or who have just missed the September 1st age requirement. The 5-day-a-week schedule makes the jump into our full-day kindergarten schedule a smooth and seamless transition.

(*A five-day a week Transitional PK option is available by enrolling in the pre-school program's A.M. or P.M. class and adding Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.)

Curriculum Overview

Here at ECS we seek to find a balance between a purely academic approach to learning, and a hands-on approach that utilizes creativity, imagination, and movement. Our preschool program strives to develop the students' knowledge and skills while preserving a child's natural tendency and desire to investigate, explore and make sense of the world around them.

Our desire is to present our preschool activities in a way that meets the needs of the individual, and lays a foundation for kindergarten by providing a large range of experiences in songs, language, math, art, science, and social interactions.

The following material delineates the core of our curriculum used throughout the 2-year curriculum plan for our preschool program:

The **Literacy Program** introduces 33 primary sounds of the alphabet using the Zoo-Phonics program. This phonics curriculum introduces animals and characters in a fun age appropriate way using flashcards, songs, stuffed animals/puppets and other materials. We also utilize the Zoo-Phonics Curriculum for common blends for those ready for the next step.

This program is used in conjunction with Heggerty Curriculum to develop strong phonemic awareness. This curriculum uses daily word games and manipulations as well as common nursery rhymes and other activities. We use various resources such as SnapWords, HeidiSongs and several different early reader books to introduce common digraphs, diphthongs, and common word families. We utilize these programs at a *very introductory* level to establish strong pre-reading skills and core foundational knowledge.

The program uses HeidiSongs including its Sounds Fun Phonics system as an added resource to facilitate student interest, letter recognition, phonics rules, phonemic awareness, spelling patterns and letter formation in a fun and engaging way; through active movement, catchy tunes and gross motor development!

Our **Handwriting** program uses Handwriting Without Tears Curriculum and other supplemental resources. We use multisensory teaching strategies that are fun, engaging and developmentally appropriate. The instructional methods are used to introduce letter formation and pre-writing

skills to young learners before even picking up a pencil. We focus on fine motor skills, correct grip, and correct letter formation to encourage good habits and gain important and solid foundational skills. Once children are ready to hold an implement, they will have already gone through the entire alphabet and correct formation using HWOT materials such as: Wet, Dry, Try method, Wood Piece Mat, Roll-A-Dough Letter building, Stamp and See, and numerous hands on letter building activities.

The **Math** curriculum includes small and large group lessons and uses various materials and manipulatives to assist students in learning basic components of mathematics and process skills. The program uses a cross-curricular approach to encourage a love and interest for math in every day life by having a mathematically rich classroom with a wide range of materials to explore these concepts autonomously.

The program also uses books, games, activities and real life instances to review, enhance and reinforce lessons during small and large groups. Students will work on: counting, subitizing, comparing, number recognition, adding, subtracting and overall number sense. They will learn about shapes, positions, and spatial sense, measurements, patterns, sorting, classifying, and other age appropriate skills.

Through our **Social Studies** topics and curriculum, students will begin to learn more about themselves while discussing holidays, community helpers, important events and the history of our country as we celebrate our heritage. They will also learn about other places, traditions and other cultures as they gain knowledge and experience about how people live, work, and get along with others to solve problems, and how we are shaped by our surroundings. These are the foundational skills we utilize in becoming researchers, critical thinkers, and active members of a classroom community!

The **Science** curriculum involves various study topics and investigations throughout the year. Investigations and topics include: All About Me, Pumpkins, Spiders & Insects, Snow & Ice, Sink or Float, Butterflies, Silk Worms, Winter Animals/Hibernation, Gardening, Forest Animals, Ocean/Sea Life, Space, Magnets, Weather, Light and Shadows, and Dinosaurs just to name a few.

Throughout the year children will learn about these topics in a cross-curricular approach with themes ranging from 1 week to 1 month long. Each theme will have a concurrent Science Study and smaller science experiments that will be reinforced using items in our multiple free choice centers such as: the Dramatic Play Area, Sensory Bin, Building Center, Math and Literacy stations.

The **Physical Education & Health** program uses a modified version of the C.A.T.C.H. curriculum. C.A.T.C.H. is based on the CDC Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model in which health education, school environment, and family/community involvement work together to support youth in a healthy lifestyle. It is designed to nurture a love of physical activity early on in children by including developmentally appropriate activities that motivate students to walk, run, jump, dance and move their whole bodies while playing and having fun. The curriculum will teach fundamental movement skills emphasizing hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness, crossing the midline and many skills and muscles used for handwriting.

Children will be able to utilize the gym space, which includes several sports courts, a rock climbing wall, and organized play opportunities during inclement weather. The preschool also has its own designated outdoor playground during recess.

During **Art**, students will explore different mediums, color, paint, glue, draw and experiment with shapes, patterns and color while simultaneously improving grip, fine motor and scissor skills in a fun, relaxed, enticing way! There are structured and unstructured art projects encouraging creativity and more process art. Art projects help to reinforce weekly themes or subjects, science, literacy, pre-writing skills and self-expression and other cross-curricular benefits.

Music & Movement includes organized music classes and added enrichment class opportunities such as martial arts, Hip Hop, Ballet and others offered after school. Included in this program, is a music class held once a week to introduce children to different instruments, music and movement opportunities. Music is also used everyday during regular class time to reinforce skills and learning. Preschoolers learn better when moving and doing! We try to incorporate movement and music into most everything we do: cleaning up, lining up, sitting down, and even when saying good morning!

The program will have **2 Field Trips** during the year. This is dependent on program and calendar availability as well as weather. Students will be visiting the Northern Lights Pumpkin Patch in the Fall and one other winter or spring opportunity. This may include: a visit to the Raptor Center, Public Works Day, KinderQuest Walk (Alton Baker), or a visit to Grass Roots Garden at St. Thomas! Field trips vary yearly depending on availability and scheduling.

We also welcome guest speakers and parents to come share with our classes! We may have guest visits from police officers, dentists, nurses, fire fighters, Queen Bee from Glory Bee, or a Kinder Critter visit (frog, spider or butterfly) – also dependent on availability and scheduling.

Technology – iPads are used as a supplemental resource to reinforce recognition of shapes, colors, letters, handwriting, sight words and to challenge children in other academic areas. The schedule allows 15 minutes per student per week of individual iPad usage.

We also use videos to reinforce letters, sounds and letter formation. During Science investigations we may use webcams – such as the Berry College Eagle webcams, and share other videos of an educational nature. Our Chapel curriculum also includes 4 minutes snip-it video lessons and stories. All videos are short and range from 3-15 minutes as a means to reinforce curriculum and are used on a limited basis.

We use The Gospel Project **Bible** Curriculum for Preschoolers. It is a Christ-centered chronological study of the Bible and is integrated into our everyday classroom activities and tasks. We utilize worship songs, memory verses, and short videos to assist children in understanding who God is and how He fits into our daily lives. Children learn about Biblical doctrine, solitude, prayer, and the Character of Christ. Christian principles are put into practice through day-to-day interactions between students as they learn to communicate, share and resolve conflicts through the guidance of the staff. Students will also attend Chapel once a week.