

First Assembly Christian School Kindergarten Curriculum

Language Arts

The kindergarten language arts program integrates children's literature with the thinking and grammatical skills necessary for success in the first grade. Skills are taught as literature is studied, providing ample opportunity to understand the "who, what, and where" aspects of language. Skills taught include: distinguishing naming words from action words, words for people, places and things, color words, number words and an introduction to punctuation.

Text: Trade Books

Literature

Literature is often used with a "thematic" approach that relates other areas of curriculum, such as science, with the subject matter of the book. For example, Mouse Paint by Leo Leonni is used to supplement the teaching of color words and the scientific aspect of primary and secondary colors. The Three Bears supplements the teaching of event sequencing during a science unit about bears. Using literature for language, science, mathematics, and other daily subject matter makes the skills which are taught easier to remember, and therefore more applicable to everyday use.

Phonics

The kindergarten phonics curriculum provides the basic tools needed for reading. Teachers spend 2-3 days teaching each letters' sound, and providing numerous ways to remember the sounds. We introduce the "short" vowel sounds before consonants, and then the "long" vowel sounds. In the winter months, consonants begin to be "blended" together with the "short" vowels and simple words are produced. Teachers acquaint students with rhyming word families, (i.e., "at" – cat, bat, fat, etc...) and use this as a basis for all "short" vowel words. The students are also exposed to "sight" words (the, and, I, you, etc.). Long vowel words are introduced later in the year along with some basic phonetic rules.

Reading

Using a base of phonic teaching, the students learn to read in kindergarten. Supplements include A Beka blend ladders, predictable mini-readers, and A Beka phonetic readers. Teachers model reading for the students through daily story time.

Handwriting

During the first few weeks of kindergarten, the students focus on exercising fine motor skills that will help to develop controlled penmanship. A variety of gross motor and fine motor activities are used for this: writing in sand, forming letters with playdough, painting letters with water on the chalkboard, etc. The students then begin to use different writing mediums, (markers, colored pencils, etc) to trace and write on paper. Our handwriting curriculum emphasizes the placement and correct formation of numbers, letters, words, and simple sentences, which students write on lined paper.

Text: Computer generated writing papers.

Mathematics

Our math program gives the students opportunity to explore and discover mathematical concepts through a variety of manipulatives. Units taught include numeration, classification, patterns, simple geometry, money, time, calendar, ordinal positions, and simple addition and subtraction. The students learn skills such as recognizing and forming geometric patterns, counting and writing numbers up to 100, skip counting by 5's and 10's, and telling time. They are also introduced to symmetry, measurement, graphing, estimating and problem solving.

Science

Our science curriculum uses a “hands-on” approach. Students are taught to observe, predict, test, and sometimes even record results of many scientific experiences. Teachers teach science based on the knowledge that God has made all things to work for a purpose that is helpful to mankind. Units such as primary/secondary colors, sink/float, forms of water, magnetism, good health and the human body, animals, and seasons are only a few examples of the science themes in which kindergarten students are involved.

Health and Safety

Units of health include nutrition, dental health, the five senses, feelings, family living, and good hygiene. We also incorporate these units into the science curriculum. Students are taught how to be safe at home and at school, as well as how to be aware of strangers. Fire safety is discussed during the month of September and is accompanied by a classroom visit from a local fire station.

Social Studies

The focus of social studies is to teach students an understanding of themselves in relation to their immediate environment. Units of study include learning about the family and its members as well as learning about the surrounding community. These and other major concepts are taught through stories, discussions, games, field trips and classroom visitors. Topics of study include patriotism, (encouraged daily through the recitation of the pledge and through prayer for our nation), famous leaders, and community helpers.

Bible

Kindergarten students participate in daily prayer time and Bible story time and are encouraged to memorize a weekly Scripture verse. Bible stories begin with Genesis and “The Fall of Man” and move into the “The Birth of Jesus” by Christmas time. Jesus’ life is studied in depth, including miracles and parables. The “Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus” is studied during the Easter season. The students are exposed to the Gospel of Jesus in terms that they are able to understand and are given the opportunity to have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ throughout the school year. Twice a week “chapel” meetings with other grade levels provide more lessons by which the students can learn about God, Jesus and the power of Scripture in their everyday lives.

Text: ACSI Bible Curriculum

Music

Students learn good singing posture as they sing songs about themselves, the world around them, and God who created both. They learn how to read very simple rhythmic notation after starting out with “picture notation” charts. They listen to vocal and instrumental music to hear differences in tempo and dynamics. They play various pitched and un-pitched percussion instruments, and also move and use their own bodies (clapping, stomping, etc.) to learn how to keep a steady beat or group pulse. They have fun creating their own music and movement.

Computer Lab

Kindergarten students have computer lab once a week. They learn basic keyboarding and operational skills. Students use computer software and activities to reinforce educational skills taught in the classroom.

Physical Education

Students work with the Physical Education teacher on a regular basis throughout the week. Sportsmanship as well as developmentally appropriate skills are practiced.