



Pre-Kindergarten Overview

Covenant Christian School

Pre-Kindergarten is a preschool program designed for children who will turn four before August 1st. Classes meet M-W-F mornings from 8:15-11:30 am, with the option of enrolling in Covenant's enrichment program, Above and Beyond, for those who desire a full-day experience.

Bible

In Pre-Kindergarten, a biblical worldview is woven into the way we live, work, and play together. Students understand the Bible, through formal Bible instruction, which takes place twice a week. Using the curriculum from Christian School International's *God's World* and supplemented with other sources, students study stories from the Old and New Testaments and pray together as a class.

Literacy

Covenant seeks to support young learners in their emerging literacy by providing a rich variety of literature experiences. Daily story time features books with unique illustrations, word choices, and thought-provoking ideas. The Pre-Kindergarten class enjoys reading through the complete Mr. Putter and Tabby series of books by Cynthia Rylant during the school year, allowing even young readers to experience the continuity of a recurring character in literature. To develop these students as future writers, Pre-Kindergarteners participate in lessons from the *6+1 Traits of Writing* and are encouraged to engage in book projects that stretch them as beginning authors and illustrators.

Letters and Handwriting

Each week in Pre-Kindergarten students focus on the sound and formation of a different capital letter. Handwriting instruction takes place using the *Handwriting Without Tears Kindergarten* curriculum, a developmentally appropriate program that encourages writing on paper as well as the use of various manipulatives to build awareness of the vertical and horizontal lines, and large and small curves, characteristic of capital letters. Children practice name recognition and name writing using capital letters.

Math Concepts

Formal math instruction in Pre-Kindergarten takes place during calendar time and through structured activities taken from *Preschool Math* by Williams, Cunningham, and Lubawy. Numeric literacy is promoted throughout the day as teachable moments requiring the application of numbers occur. A large emphasis in Pre-Kindergarten is placed on number recognition. Students also focus on rote and rational counting, sorting, sequencing, and making predictions.

Science

Pre-Kindergarten students engage in science activities throughout the year using the Missouri Department of Conservation's curriculum for early childhood, *Nature Revealed*. Rather than the memorization of scientific facts, Pre-Kindergarten science instruction is designed to grow each child as an observer of nature and a student of the natural world God has created. Additionally,

Pre-Kindergarten students regularly spend time in Covenant's own outdoor classroom space and partner with fifth grade students for a six-week nature journaling project each spring, integrating their skills as scientists and writers.

Center Time

Center Time, or free play time, is a critical component of the Pre-Kindergarten program and occurs daily. During Center Time children are allowed to make independent choices for play at a variety of centers, which rotate according to current curriculum in the classroom. Teachers provide guidance in negotiating social situations and helping each child establish cooperative play relationships with peers, while also engaging children in play that supports classroom learning.

Field Trips ("JOE's")

Three or four field trips (Journeys of Enrichment) take place during each school year in Pre-Kindergarten. Locations are selected based on educational value for the children and relevance to class curriculum.

Enrichment

Pre-Kindergarten students receive instruction in Music for half an hour each week. In addition, students visit our school library weekly, where they engage in story time with the librarian and get to check out books.