



## Little Pelicans

Little Pelicans is Covenant's early childhood class for children turning 3 by August 1. The preschool years are a time of rapid growth in children as they are developing new skills and are gaining more independence. In order to aid in their development, the Little Pelicans Program provides students with a caring, nurturing environment while exploring God's creation. Teachers seek to acclimate the early childhood learner to school routines and to be excited about new discoveries. During the year children will be given the opportunity to increase their social, physical (gross and fine motor), emotional, spiritual, and cognitive skills. Each Little Pelican is treated as an individual, and small class sizes insure that it is possible to meet the needs of all learners. Parent partnership with school personnel is important at Covenant Christian School and is an integral part of the Little Pelicans Program.

### Literacy

Children's literature is a main focus of Little Pelicans. Broken up into themes, books are used throughout all curricular activities. As a focal point of thematic units of study, children are introduced to a topic through literature, and then presented with centers, projects, discussion points, and student created work revolving around that particular theme. Our daily story time utilizes books in order to teach concepts such as author studies, illustrations, opposites, shapes, and community helpers.

### Letters and Handwriting

Each week in Little Pelicans we will focus on the sound and formation of different capital letters. Handwriting instruction takes place using the *Handwriting Without Tears* curriculum, a developmentally-appropriate program that encourages writing on paper and a number of mediums, such as sand, shaving cream, and whiteboards. This provides an opportunity for students 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

Math instruction in Little Pelicans takes place during calendar time and through teacher directed and authentic experiences in the classroom. A large emphasis is placed on recognizing and counting numbers one through ten. Additionally, students work to develop an understanding of one to one correspondence. Focus is also placed on counting, patterning, sorting, shapes, and categorizing.

### Science

Science is woven throughout all curricular areas to introduce students to the world around them. In a developmentally appropriate way, emphasis is placed on nature, planting and growing, and the study of animals.

### Bible

In Little Pelicans, a biblical worldview is encouraged in all we learn, do, and say. The Old and New Testaments are taught through the reading of the Bible, use of interactive felt pieces, role-playing, and a variety of other activities to make stories applicable to students. Each day we pray together as a class with the children learning to lead in prayer themselves.

### Center Time

Center Time, is a daily part of the Little Pelicans Program. Children are allowed to make independent choices for play at a variety of centers, which are focused on the theme and/or skills emphasized that week. While children engage in play that supports classroom learning, teachers give guidance and feedback on appropriate peer-relationship interactions.