

Bethlehem Christian Academy

Kindergarten Conspectus

Bethlehem Christian Academy is committed to providing a quality education that is thoroughly Christian. All subjects are taught from a Christian perspective, and Biblical truth is integrated throughout by teachers who are committed to Jesus Christ and dedicated to preparing young people to serve our Savior (Luke 6:40).

Being in kindergarten is exciting for everyone involved. What the children learn here sets the foundation for all experiences they will have throughout their education. We take the first steps toward learning to read, write, add, and have friendships that can last a lifetime. It is a big challenge that is lots of fun.

In **Bible** we learn about characters in the Bible who dealt with real-life situations. By watching their examples, we learn how to make decisions that are pleasing to God. Some of the people we discuss are Abraham, Isaac, and Joseph. Most importantly, we study the life of Jesus Christ. Children will understand that the first step in the spiritual life is to receive, in a personal way, the Lord Jesus Christ and Savior. By applying the verses they memorize each week to their daily lives, the kindergartners learn to be kind to each other, to choose right over wrong, and to be a witness by telling others about Jesus. Chapel, which is held weekly, teaches the child that worship is important in his spiritual life. We participate in chapel with songs, skits, and other types of presentations.

In **Math** we learn many important things that are essential for first grade. We count, write, and recognize numbers up to 100. We can add and subtract for the number families 1-10. We also learn to count by 10's, 5's and 2's. We learn math in a hands-on way through the use of a variety of classroom manipulatives including: unifix cubes, pattern blocks, counting beads, bear counters, and just about anything you can get your hands on!

Our **Science** is alive and growing! Children learn to appreciate the gift of nature that God has given us, and that He created each creature with a purpose. We will learn about our senses, plants and seeds, weather, seasons, animals, sea life, and many other exciting things that God has created for us to enjoy.

In **Social Studies** we learn how to be a good citizen, our country and stories of the past. This study helps each child recognize and appreciate all the work and care that is needed to keep a city, state, and country operating. Not only do we learn about our beautiful United States of America, we also learn about other countries such as Mexico, Peru, the Netherlands, Australia, China, Japan, and England. It is important for the children to realize that there are other little ones around the world with the same likes and dislikes. Children begin to understand that, although other children may live in faraway places, they share many similar experiences.

Our school uses phonics as the basis for developing language skills and instructing **Reading**. We learn it is the way to make reading easy, accomplishable, and fun. The children learn how to break down each word so that they can master each sound that the letters make. This method is helpful when learning to read simple words, but more importantly, it helps when attacking those larger words that will come along in higher grades. As we master the sounds of the consonants and vowels, we begin to practice reading out loud. The children are taught that in every area of life it is crucial to know how to read. It is thrilling to hear them read their first words.

Art, physical education, music, library, and computer classes are offered weekly. Through these activities, students are encouraged to use their special gifts and talents for the Lord.

We use the A Beka curriculum in math, phonics, social studies, science, and Bible. We support our curriculum through the use of various learning centers in the classroom. The learning centers involve the children with books, art, numbers, letters, and more. These hands-on opportunities engage the children in creative learning.

We take several field trips each year with a goal and purpose of enhancing what we are learning at the time. We also find other places to go as we learn new things, sometimes finding “new lands” right in our own schoolyard. These adventures are exciting opportunities to experience what God has created for us to explore and to be examples of Him to the world around us.

The training a child receives in kindergarten is the basis on which he will build all the learning of the rest of his education. These important precepts must be taught while the child is young. We want the children to be eager to learn each subject so that God can use them to the best of their ability now and in the future. Kindergarten is the fun foundation every child needs as he grows in wisdom and stature before the Lord.

* Kindergarten students must be five years of age by September 15th of the year they begin classes.