

Kindergarten Curriculum

OVERVIEW

The Kindergarten program seeks to provide experiences along with lessons to develop the whole child. The goal is to assist children academically as well as socially with spiritual growth as the cornerstone. It is important that the curriculum prepare students for the next level of study and life.

Religion

The religion program is based on the CPH *Voyages* curriculum. *Voyages* centers around the joy of being forgiven children of God and loved by Jesus, our Savior. They are learning about His promises for all people in the past and including our students today. Each Wednesday students attend Chapel with the preschool students led by one of our association churches' pastors or our principal.



Language Arts

Our language arts portion of study is based on the Scott Foresman *Celebrate Reading!* curriculum. There are eight units of study, each developed around a theme of study used daily. The various themes are supported with our writing practice, science lessons and our field trips. Students participate in various tasks based upon the lessons. They practice reading clues, sight words and working together with the *Little Celebrations* readers. Stories are recreated in individual drawings, group drawings or written assignments. As a class, various stories are dramatized for further understanding.

Phonemic Awareness

Phonemic Awareness is the ability to notice that spoken words are comprised of smaller units of sound called phonemes. Awareness of phonemes enables students to segment, blend and manipulate the sounds in words. Students learn each letter sound, one a week on a daily basis, by giving it an identity such as "squeezer", "exploder", "special sound" or a vowel. Lack of phonemic awareness is a major obstacle for learning to read. Our faculty has been trained in the instruction of Phonemic Awareness. Our students enjoy the program and have been successful with pre-reading skills by using these tools.

Math

Our Math series is Scott Foresman *Exploring Mathematics*. Each of the ten chapters begins with a big book story based upon the mathematical lesson. Daily lessons range from number identification, counting skills, graphing, sorting, addition, subtraction along with ordinals. Students receive practice with hands-on activities and use of manipulatives to build understanding of concepts.

Science

Science curriculum is taught weekly throughout the year. Topics covered consist of life science, physical science, earth science and health along with the human body. Our science topics are also enriched by incorporating them into our written work and field trips. The program assists students with the development of science processes such as observation, classification, measuring, comparing and predicting.

Social Studies

Our curriculum is from Macmillan/McGraw-Hill *Friends and Neighbors*. The curriculum, taught weekly, is surrounded with literature, The Big Idea, words to know and skills to compliment each unit. Units of study include geography, government, citizenship economics and history.

Art

Our Art curriculum is from Harcourt Brace & Company named *Art Express*. Art is incorporated into other subjects each day. Our curriculum helps students see the world around them in new ways and find their artist within. Lessons are based upon the art of Leonardo da Vinci, Vincent van Gogh, and Pablo Picasso to name a few. Children are taught to use various tools to create art and are encouraged to experiment.

Special Events

Orientation Day: First day of school 10-11:30 a.m. only, allows students to become acquainted with their classroom setting and classmates.

Thanksgiving Feast: last day before Thanksgiving break. Prior to this day students prepare applesauce, cornbread and butter to accompany the feast we eat at lunch.

Christmas Program: Sunday afternoon in December. This is an all-school program where the kindergarten students sing for family and friends.

Grandparent's Breakfast: the Wednesday of National Lutheran School's Week in March. Students sing for their grandparents or special invited friends before eating a continental breakfast with them. Grandparents are invited to then attend Chapel with us.

Parties: Students have fun at a Harvest Party in October, a Birthday Party for Jesus in December, a Valentine's Day Party in February, along with an Easter Party.

Field Trips: Each quarter of the school year students ride a school bus to various field trip sites. We have visited the Missouri Botanical Gardens, the Transportation Museum, the Forest Park Art Museum, Bob Kramer Marionettes, and the Butterfly House at Queeny Park.

Camp Wyman: a Friday in May. Students travel to Eureka, Missouri to attend the Kiawanis Camp Wyman along with parents to spend the day exploring. After the day of hiking, collecting tadpoles, turtles and frogs we eat lunch together and share our experiences. We attend Chapel outside together and give thanks for our day.

Graduation: in May students graduate in a cap and gown ceremony with a cake and refreshments reception afterward.



Kindergarten Teacher, Mrs. Jill Moormann - I am so happy to be a part of the wonderful family at Word of Life Lutheran School. I teach Kindergarten but I also taught 1st grade for several years at Word of Life. I am married and have a 3 year old daughter. In my free time I enjoy spending time with friends and family, cooking and walking at the park.

OUR MISSION: Word of Life Lutheran School is committed to providing a high quality educational program in an environment where Christ prevails, where a child's human and spiritual needs are met, and where love, dignity and professional accountability are valued promoted and implemented.