

PRE-KINDERGARTEN 4: Curriculum Summary

We know that young children learn best through movement, participation, and exploration. They need direct instruction as well as playful learning experiences to be able to explore the world around them. Our K4 program is designated with that in mind. Throughout the day your child will have many opportunities that will encourage his/her growth in all areas: social, emotional, academic, physical, and most importantly-spiritual.

A day in K4 will provide many experiences for your child to engage in playful, intentionally planned learning activities. We have large and small group instruction along with center times that develop cooperation and social skills during play. Students regularly participate in hands-on STEM activities. We will spend time daily outdoors on the playground developing social skills as well as free play. Music, movement, and art will be incorporated into many activities we do throughout the day. In all things, our hope and prayer is that we point your child toward our Heavenly Father, so that we may all learn to know and love Him more.

CURRICULUM – The PreK4 program uses a thematic approach to their curriculum planning. As the year progresses, the themes broaden and children begin to understand more about the world around them. Our aim in this program is to help our students have success in learning, through developmentally appropriate practices and activities, utilizing language arts, math, science, and social studies in the themes each week. Important foundational literacy and numeracy concepts are interwoven throughout the curriculum. The teachers create a lot of their own curriculum, along with the use of various educational programs as resources, including the Scholastic Big Day curriculum and the Handwriting Without Tears program. The Beginners Bible and the Jesus Storybook Bible are also used. Our goal is to provide experiences that engage the children in playful, intentional, Christ-centered learning that promotes social-emotional, academic, physical, and spiritual development.

BIBLE – Includes stories from the Old and New Testament and how we can apply these to our lives. The content of the Bible curriculum is integrated into all other curriculum areas.

CHAPEL – This is held weekly with K4 through 5th grade in attendance. Lessons focus on character traits growing out of scriptural lessons, singing, and prayer. Most chapel services conclude with the principal's announcements and recognitions.

ART – Taught one day per week in a thirty-minute class and also integrated into the other core curriculum on a regular basis in the classroom. A variety of media is used including crayons, tempera paints, finger paints, watercolors, etc. Skills such as cutting, coloring, drawing, and pasting are developed which also encourage the child's imagination.

LIBRARY – Includes stories read aloud and activities that coordinate with what the students are studying in the classroom. K4 students participate in library four days per week.

COMPUTER LAB – Taught two days a week during a 25-minute class in the Elementary Computer Lab. Computer Time introduces students to Microsoft Office, including programs such as Excel, Word, and Publisher in a thematic way to complement regular classroom instruction. Early skills include identifying computer hardware/software, using a mouse, inserting/deleting text, modifying graphics, and learning to save/print.

MUSIC – Pre-K Music meets once a week for a thirty-minute class. The objective of the Pre-K music program is to introduce children to the basic elements of music: beat, rhythm, pitch, dynamics, tempo, tone color, form, style, and texture. The objectives are accomplished through songs, games, and movement activities. The Pre-K students will also be introduced to some classroom instruments and the concept of accompaniment. Each week's instruction begins with a devotional song followed by the day's objectives which include how to follow the music teacher's instructions, how to sing together, and, when introduced, how to play and care for instruments.

FIELD TRIPS – Taken in connection with and to enhance unit studies, field trips are to the Blue Baker for the community helper unit, along with an onsite visit from the Fire Department with their fire truck, and a trip to the Austin Nature and Science Center.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Taught by physical education teachers two times per week during a twenty-five minute class taking place in the gym and on outdoor fields. P.E. includes an introduction to physical games and activities, and athletic skills, as well as conditioning and coordination activities.

RECESS – Conducted two times per day on the outside playground, weather permitting. Pre-kindergarten classes enjoy this time to play and socialize together.

SOCIALIZATION – This is under the guidance, and with the encouragement of, the teacher. Social skills are practiced at daily centers, recess, and during various activities throughout our day.