

KINDERGARTEN: Curriculum Summary

The program of instruction in kindergarten classes at Brentwood Christian School includes a wide variety of developmentally appropriate activities and studies. Teachers write curriculum for each area of study based upon the school's philosophy and goals. In areas where texts are used, the teachers review publications from both Christian and secular publishers, select the best material, and write curriculum which employs that material. Studies and activities vary from class to class, but are based upon the following guidelines:

BIBLE – Includes the teaching of Old and New Testament stories, as well as applying these lessons to the children's lives. The content of the Bible curriculum is interwoven and integrated with all other curriculum areas.

CHAPEL – This is held weekly with K4 through 5th grade in attendance. About once every six weeks an all-school chapel assembly is held and secondary students pair up with elementary students for the service. Chapel services have lessons that focus on character traits growing out of scriptural lessons and including singing, and prayer. Most chapel services conclude with the principal's announcements or recognitions.

LANGUAGE ARTS – Includes alphabet recognition and order, phonetic sounds of letters, blends, and letter combinations, decoding, writing, listening, speaking, vocabulary, and literature. Students will move into reading during the course of the year; students already reading will advance their skills.

Texts currently in use: *ABeka Phonics and Reading Program*. Students progress through leveled books that correspond with phonics lessons taught in the classroom.

MATHEMATICS – Includes sorting, classifying, shapes, patterns, comparing, ordering, graphing, numbers, measuring, time, money, and beginning addition and subtraction. A wide variety of manipulatives are used to enhance understanding of concepts.

Texts currently in use: *Math*, Harcourt.

SCIENCE AND HEALTH – Kindergarten has adopted the *Full Option Science System (FOSS)* by Delta Education, which was created specifically to provide students and teachers with meaningful experiences through active participation in scientific practices.

This program starts the lesson with a small-group investigation where students collaborate to make observations and record results in data notebooks. The investigation is followed by readings from science materials and group discussions. Each lesson makes real-world and cross-curricular connections to make the learning relevant. It is aligned to TEKS and integrated into BCS grade-level standards. It cycles through life science, earth science, and physical science through the school year, providing a balanced science curriculum each year.

SOCIAL STUDIES – Based on unit studies including manners, family, the four seasons, Pilgrims, Thanksgiving, continents, country, and Texas. Mini-studies of holidays including Columbus Day, Christmas, Valentine’s Day, George Washington’s Birthday, Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday, and Easter are covered. Aspects of the child’s familiar world, as well as unfamiliar subjects within a framework of faith and trust in God are presented.

ART – Taught one day per week in a thirty-minute class. Students will paint with various types of paint, practice work with mixed media, explore the color wheel, learn about art history, and study various artists. The classroom teacher may also use art in correlation with Bible class and unit studies. A variety of media is used including crayons, tempera paints, finger paints, watercolors, and clay or play-doh. Skills such as drawing, coloring, cutting, and pasting are developed which also encourages the child’s use of imagination.

MUSIC – Taught by a trained music teacher three days per week in a thirty-minute class that emphasizes singing and movement two days a week and basic ukulele instruction one day per week. This study introduces music concepts such as rhythm and beat, pitch, volume, and tempo and combines musical training/appreciation with performance opportunities in the annual Christmas and Grandparents’ Day programs. In the kindergarten classes, the teachers incorporate music in connection with other studies in the class and with daily devotional activities.

Text currently in use: *Spotlight on Music*, Macmillan/McGraw-Hill. Students are introduced to music selections and music terminology.

DRAMATICS – Included with various studies such as Bible (re-enactments of biblical stories) and language arts (play-acting scenes from children’s literature). Dramatics is used in role-playing when working on social skills. Movement and finger play activities are used widely in the kindergarten day. This study includes exposure to dramatic presentations such as Windy City Players and other traveling dramatic troupes.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Taught by physical education teachers four days a week during a thirty-minute class taking place in the gym and on outdoor fields. P.E. includes conditioning exercises, physical games and activities, and athletic skills.

COMPUTER LAB – Students will work with a trained computer teacher using curriculum that reinforces language arts and math studies in this weekly class. Students will gain familiarity with basic computer input methods, including mouse basics and keyboarding. Critical concepts of online safety and digital will be introduced. Students will learn to gather information, determine which facts are both reliable and significant, and decide how to organize them. They will begin to use various applications and graphics to organize their ideas and information in order to create a simple multimedia project.

Text currently in use: *Easy Tech*, Learning.com. Students will learn to communicate, construct, evaluate, collaborate, and create using technology.

SPANISH – Taught by a Spanish teacher once a week. Spanish class incorporates singing, movement, and games to provide an opportunity to learn basic vocabulary and develop a positive attitude toward language learning. This class is based on the premise that acquaintance with another language and culture is important in broadening students' horizons and reminding them of the value of all people in God's sight. Students will learn numbers, colors, clothing items, days of the week, and months of the year in Spanish.

LIBRARY – Students have a daily opportunity to visit the library to check out books for independent reading. They have a thirty-minute storytime each week with the Librarian.

FIELD TRIPS – Taken in connection with and to enhance unit studies, field trips are to the Crowe's Nest Farm and the Fire Station by way of the school bus. We try to give parents at least a two-week notice before each field trip to allow ample time to make arrangements or secure childcare for siblings if they plan to attend. Please remember that siblings are not allowed to attend field trips or class parties as stated in the Handbook.

LEARNING CENTERS – Used to reinforce skills that have been taught in direct instruction by the teacher. Learning centers include language arts, math, science, social studies, and Bible activities. They are used to develop creative thinking, as well as academic skills.

RECESS – Conducted as a twenty-five minute daily playtime on the outside playground. All kindergarten classes enjoy this time to play and socialize together.

SOCIALIZATION – Under the watchful guidance and with the encouragement of the teacher, social skills are practiced at centers, recess, and during various activities throughout the day.

HOMEWORK – Assigned on Tuesdays and Thursdays for reinforcement of concepts introduced and practiced in the classroom. Parental reading aloud to children on a regular basis is recommended throughout the year. Children will receive required reading homework around the middle of the school year.