

Early Learning 3/4: A Time of Transition



The preschool years are a time when many children are transitioning from home or daycare to a full-day classroom environment. What can help make this transition easier is a loving, caring Christian teacher who understands and desires to meet the needs of each child as well as help them thrive in the classroom setting. Our goal is to see every child meet their potential in the classroom as well as to see each child grow in the knowledge that Jesus loves them. We pray that each day provides ample opportunity for God to be glorified in all we do and say.

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 EL3/4 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 EL3/4 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 children toward our Heavenly Father, so that we may all learn to know and love Him more.

CURRICULUM - The EL3/4 program uses a thematic approach to its 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, social studies, and fine motor skills in the themes each week. Much of our curriculum is created using resources from reputable, widely established preschool educators. 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 - Part of our mission statement at BCS is to "lead students to love God". In order for students to love God, they must first know Him and his Word. EL3/4 students explore God's word in Bible class by hearing and studying the Bible stories of both the Old and New Testaments and participating in discussions and activities where they can apply the lessons learned through those stories in order to lead lives of Christian service and leadership. Our Bible curriculum is based on BCS school-wide curriculum which incorporates Social-Emotional skills.

CHAPEL - Held weekly with EL3/4 through 5th grade in attendance; about once every four to six weeks an all-community chapel assembly is held, and secondary students pair up with elementary students for the service. Lessons focus on character traits growing out of scriptural studies, singing, and prayer. Most chapel services conclude with the principal's announcements and recognitions.

ART - Taught in the classroom by the teacher. A variety of media is used including crayons, tempera/finger paints, watercolors, etc. Skills such as cutting, coloring, drawing, and pasting are developed which also encourages the child's imagination.

LIBRARY - Includes stories read aloud and activities that coordinate with what the students are studying in the classroom. EL3/4 students participate in library two days per week.

COMPUTER LAB - Taught one day a week during a twenty-five-minute class in the classroom or 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 - EL3/4 music meets twice a week for a twenty-five-minute class. The objective of the EL3/4 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 – EL3/4 students participate in one offsite field trip each semester taken in connection with and to enhance unit studies, along with an onsite visit from the Fire Department with their fire truck.

PE - Taught by physical education teachers four times per week during a thirty-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 twice daily on the outside playgrounds, weather permitting. EL3/4 classes enjoy this time to play and work on social skills.

SOCIALIZATION - Under the guidance and encouragement of, the teacher. Social skills are taught through book characters and modeled as well as practiced at daily centers, recess, and during various activities throughout the day.