



LEGACY
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

EARLY EDUCATION
CURRICULUM
OVERVIEW
2018-2019

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Early Education Philosophy of Learning

At Legacy Christian Academy, we believe that the readiness skills so crucial for confident, well-rounded learners are best fostered through sensory, experiential, and active learning. The Early Education program strives for each child to get a strong foundation for learning and growth by responding to their individual needs and interests. Our goal is for each child to develop a love of learning and prepare them for lifelong success.

Therefore we concentrate on the following areas in Early Education:

- Creating confident learners by recognizing each child's strengths. Teachers teach the whole child and to recognize strengths such as spatial awareness, construction abilities, strong gross motor/physical abilities, musical abilities, etc.
- Encouraging children to express themselves in verbal and nonverbal ways, as well as through writing and art.
- Teaching our students age appropriate social, emotional, and behavioral skills as they learn by exploring, creating, discovering, and developing skills and a love for learning.
- 4 & 5-year-olds: Developing readiness skills necessary to become fluent readers in Kindergarten and 1st grade. We do not expect our students to leave Early Education knowing how to read (although many may do so), but we do build skills necessary to learn to read through phonological and phonemic awareness and alphabet knowledge.

Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4, and JK Curriculum

The Early Education program at LCA offers a rigorous, Christ-centered academic curriculum taught from a Biblical worldview. The Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 classes learn by participating in hands on experiences from a research-based curriculum that covers early literacy, handwriting, math, science, social studies, and Bible.

The Junior Kindergarten (JK) is uniquely tailored to meet the needs of children who are already five, but not quite ready for traditional Kindergarten. It serves as a bridge for children who, in essence, need the gift of time. This time is necessary to absorb and express ideas, learn about friendships, assert independence, and examine the world around them. This extra year of enrichment is truly a blessing. Our JK learning program consists of Guided Reading and Daily 5 literacy programs, handwriting, math, science, social studies, and Bible.

Pre-K Language Arts: Skills are taught to lay the foundation for reading readiness by integrating: Oral Language, Print Awareness, Phonemic Awareness, Phonological Awareness, and Alphabetic Knowledge

Pre-K 3 *Fruit of the Spirit* and *Pinnacle* curriculums

Pre-K4 *Open Court Reading*

Pre-K 3, Pre-K 4, and JK Handwriting: *Handwriting Without Tears* – a hands-on, multi-sensory approach to handwriting.

JK Language Arts: *Daily Five*, *Guided Reading* and *Heidi Songs*

Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 Math: The Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 math program is taught using interactive, hands-on curriculum that expands upon the basics of math as well as a wide range of concepts, such as spatial sense, geometry, and critical problem solving. This program is age-appropriate, yet also challenging for children and supports national standards and standards while using creative manipulatives.

JK Math: *Go Math Texas* focus areas include numbers and operations, geometry and positions, and measurement and data.

Bible: Old and New Testament stories, Weekly Chapel, Bible verse memorization

Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 Science: Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 students learn about God's world by exploring different habitats. The units include: creation, backyard, woodlands, polar, rainforest, ocean, desert, savannah, and zoo. In addition to habitats, lessons will include weather, sink & float, senses, life cycles, changes, seasons, our bodies, health/nutrition, plants, and animals. Pre-K4 Student Scientists work in the Science Lab every other week.

JK Science: Students will learn about God's plan for health, seeds, animals, the seashore, weather, and seasons.

Specials: Students will participate in Spanish, Music, and PE (Pre-K 4 and JK only) and Library

Kindergarten Curriculum

Bible: Old and New Testament stories, weekly chapel, ABC Bible verse & Psalm 100 memorization.

Reading/Language Arts: A phonetic approach is used to teach reading. Using *Daily 5*, *Guided Reading (Abeka Readers)*, and sight words provides a strong foundation to develop independent readers. There is a deliberate focus on fine motor skills, *Writing Through the Year* is a program which teaches students learn to write complete sentences.

Handwriting: *Handwriting Without Tears*

Math: Math is taught hands-on using *Kindergarten Abeka* math curriculum as well as *Guided Math* to develop number sense, counting, addition, subtraction, time, and money using hands-on manipulatives and activities.

Social Studies: Students focus on holidays, famous Americans and weekly State Journal.

Science/Unit: The classroom teachers and the Science Lab teacher collaborate to create hands-on, practical explorations; All about Me, Our Bodies, Amphibians, Insects, Mammals, the Rain Forest, and Ocean.

Specials:

Music, Technology, Science Lab, Library, Chapel: Art, Spanish, PE

Recess Daily