



Kindergarten
CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

mount pisgah
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

P

Language Arts

Reading

Mount Pisgah Christian School uses the Houghton-Mifflin reading series, ***A Legacy of Literacy***. This series uses award-winning literature based on themes to teach kindergarten students to read. We recognize that a balanced reading program, one that incorporates phonics with whole language, is most effective in providing long term reading success. Our reading program exposes children to quality, award-winning literature while implementing a structured phonics program, which is important in helping students acquire necessary decoding skills.

Writing

Our language arts program encourages kindergarten students to put thoughts into words. Students are encouraged to use their invented spelling to “author” individual books as well as class books through a creative writing process.

Kindergarten students also begin formal handwriting skills using the Zaner-Bloser method of handwriting. Students are taught correct pencil grip, letter and number formation.

Math

Our kindergarten students learn numbers and math concepts through hands-on, everyday experiences. We use ***Everyday Mathematics***, which utilizes a variety of materials that encourage hand-on exploration and discovery. Children become excited through activities, including counting, numbering, measurement, geometry, patterns, data collecting, and calculator use.

Social Studies

We use the Houghton-Mifflin series entitled, ***The World I See***. This series focuses on school family, community, and going places with connections to long ago. Activities are introduced thematically and field trips make unit concepts meaningful. Students begin to see social studies as the story of real people, past and present. Map skills are taught using Rand McNally maps and globes.

Science

Science is taught thematically by gathering information, making predictions, conducting simple experiments and going on field trips. The series used is Scott-Foreman’s, ***Discover Science***, which utilizes themes,

poems, posters and hands-on exploration to discover God's world and its many wonders. Science is taught as a balance between science concepts and hands-on activities. Students learn about health and safety, weather, temperature, sound, time frames, motion, five senses, living and non-living things, characteristics of objects, growth and change, and the earth.

Art

Kindergarten through fifth grade students have Art class each week with the Art Education Specialist. The curriculum is based on the SRA series, *Art Connections*. The program integrates the four dimensions of Art into every age-appropriate lesson: art history and culture, aesthetic perception, art production and art criticism. Students encounter a broad range of art media for both two-dimensional and three-dimensional self-expression.

Computer

Students go to the computer lab each week for instruction with the Technology Specialist. Each classroom has a multi-media computer for use during learning center activities. The curriculum includes learning the proper names and functions of the computer system's hardware, properly caring for hardware and software, learning basic computer skills, i.e. using a mouse and keyboard to manipulate paint and storybook programs. Additionally, the students use a variety of multi-media programs to supplement topics and units that support the classroom curriculum.

Music

Kindergarten students have music each week with the Music Education Specialist. The Macmillan music series, Music and You, is used to introduce students to beginning music concepts. Kindergartners listen and respond to simple musical concepts, recognize and play musical instruments, sing and respond rhythmically to music. They participate in several musical performances throughout the year.

Christian Education

Christian Education is taught each week by the Christian Education Specialist. Kindergarten students focus on the many gifts of love provided for us by God. Emphasis is placed on aspects of creation, families, and Jesus Christ. A study of David and children of the Bible help them discover how they can follow and please God. Concepts introduced are: kindness, manners, truthfulness and acceptance.

Kindergarten students attend chapel every Monday afternoon with the

Lower School. This service is conducted by the Christian Education Specialist and members of the Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church ministerial staff. Songs, prayers and a children's sermon make this an important start to our spiritual as well as our academic week at Mount Pisgah Christian School. All Lower School students participate in Christmas and Easter services.

Foreign Language

Spanish is taught weekly by the Spanish Education Specialist. Greetings, colors, numbers, days of the week, and the months of the year are introduced to students through songs and finger plays. Stories are read to give the children an opportunity to hear the spoken dialect. Spanish culture and customs are explored. Students are taught to understand and answer simple greetings in Spanish and to act out simple commands, to sing songs in Spanish, to count to 50 in Spanish and to recognize vocabulary from various thematic units.

Library Science

Students visit the media center each week for book check-out and for formal library science instruction. The library teacher teaches students to use the media center as a source of information and pleasure.

Physical Education

Kindergarten students participate in Physical Education twice a week. Students acquire basic locomotor skills and spatial awareness through various creative and innovative lessons and games. Children have an awareness of body parts and subsequently the range of uses of those parts. We introduce a fitness program to increase strength and flexibility. Children also enjoy outdoor recess time on Mount Pisgah Christian School's gross motor development playground.

Character Education

Character Education is an integral part of the curriculum at Mount Pisgah Christian School. We introduce the Six pillars of character: respect, responsibility, citizenship, caring, trustworthiness and fairness with scripture and skit each month during our chapel/rally. Classroom teachers follow through with activities, discussions and devotions relating to these traits.

We encourage an incentive program with our Specials teachers to reinforce good behavior. Tickets are awarded to students and placed in a bucket for a weekly drawing at rally. If their ticket is picked, they have their picture put

on our Character board and they are eligible for the bi-monthly drawing for a lunch and a trip to the game room with the Principal and other special guests. If children are observed exemplifying outstanding character by any of the Mount Pisgah staff, they are given a “character rock.” Their example of character is shared with the students in chapel and they get to take our Special Character Award to their homeroom until the next character rock winner is selected.

Learning Environment

Mount Pisgah Christian School recognizes the importance of the kindergarten experience in setting the tone for a child’s outlook on learning for his entire life. Our focus is the development of the whole child in a nurturing, Christian environment. We provide developmentally appropriate kindergarten classrooms that encourage the growth of children’s self-esteem, their cultural identities, their independence and their individual strengths.

Our kindergarten students develop control of their own behavior through the guidance and support of warm, caring adults. At this stage of development, children are eager to learn and they possess an innate curiosity. Our teachers have a strong background in early childhood education and child development and provide for children what they need to grow physically, emotionally, socially, intellectually, and spiritually.

At Mount Pisgah Christian School, children work and play with materials while interacting with peers. Because of a carefully structured learning environment, children are purposeful in their work and enjoy school. Students learn numbers and the alphabet in the context of their everyday experiences. Exploring the natural world of plants and animals, taking attendance and serving snacks are all meaningful activities to children. Our kindergartners work on projects in learning centers and have long periods of time to play and explore. Filling out worksheets is not their primary activity. Students have an opportunity to play outside every day that weather permits. This play is never sacrificed for more instructional time. Teachers read books to children throughout the day, not just at group story time. Kindergarten “curriculum” actually includes such events as snack time, recess, and individual and group activities in addition to those activities we think of as traditionally educational. Mount Pisgah Christian School incorporates differentiated instructional practices to meet the needs of individual learners.

Enrichment Activities

After School Enrichment Classes

After School enrichment activities, such as additional art, science and computer classes are designed for both learning and fun. Classes begin immediately after school is dismissed.

Cultural Arts Experiences

Field trips and special performances serve as an important extension of the Cultural Arts Program. Each year students enjoy live performances by various professional groups.

Service Projects

Each year we provide opportunities for students to experience the joy of Christian service. Each class chooses a service project as their focus for the year. Students also participate in school-wide service projects such as Habitat for Humanity, the North Fulton Charities food drive, and Operation Christmas Child. At Mount Pisgah Christian School, our students realize that they are important members of the body of Christ.

MISSION STATEMENT

To provide an outstanding college-preparatory education
grounded in Christian faith and values



mount pisgah
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

9820 Nesbit Ferry Road Alpharetta GA 30022
678 336 3300