



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will my child's year be like?

We follow the Douglas County Traditional Calendar for most school closures and for our school breaks. The first few months of school are a time of adjustment and establishing routines. This may be the first school experience for many children so it is important to take time to establish routines (i.e. saying good bye to a parent, sitting in a circle, walking as a class down the hall, sitting down for meals with friends, etc.) There are also social adjustments that each child makes as they learn how a class works, how to be a friend, and how to share with friends. The adjustments are different for each child and for each class, but the fact remains that adjustments take time. Holidays, birthdays, and other special days are celebrated throughout the year - some with and some without parent attendance. From January through May we see the most growth in the children because the beginning of the year adjustments have been worked through and the holidays are over. During this time the children are like sponges – excited and eager to learn.

What will my child's day be like?

Preschool/Pre-K morning hours and Kindergarten hours are 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Preschool/Pre-K afternoon hours are 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM. Our Preschool/Pre-K classes focus on a theme (weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly). Students are presented with a variety of developmentally appropriate activities which include arrival activities, learning centers, Circle time, indoor/outdoor play, language activities, and math activities. To provide a secure environment, your child's class has a schedule that is routinely followed. Elementary classes have structured classes and activities with the intention to engage students in learning throughout a fully-scheduled day.

How do you integrate faith into your curriculum?

Bible stories, verses, and virtues are woven into Preschool/Pre-K everyday activities through teaching and conversation with an emphasis on the practical application of God's truth in the daily events of your child's life. Music time is provided each day to reinforce Bible stories and positive character traits shared in class. To give children the opportunity to share and care for others, we participate in various mission/service projects throughout the year. We also come together as a school for chapel services. Our format is the Principle Approach method with the goal of helping students to have an understanding of God's world; to become higher level thinkers; and to see God's involvement in other people's lives. We lead children in the understanding that God loves them personally, He created them uniquely, and He has as a plan and purpose for them.

WHAT IS THE PRINCIPLE APPROACH?

The Principle Approach is a method of incorporating God's Word into our academic subjects and daily conduct with the following components:

- The 4 R's of teaching and learning—research, reason, relate, record—Biblical and subject principles
- The Notebook Method—notebook binders for recording work
- Integration of God's Word---finding principles that apply to life, to subject matter, and to God's nature
- Interdisciplinary use of subjects—teaching more than one subject at a time (EX: teach history through literature or integrating science with writing and art projects)
- Language arts emphasis—involves more reading, writing, spelling in other subjects
- Classroom Constitution—each class develops its own set of class rules everyone agrees to uphold
- Daily Declaration—recitation of who students are in God and by His Word
- Timelines—historical and possibly personal, usually mounted on the wall
- Fine and Performing Arts—various hands-on projects to stimulate God-given creativity, gifting, and talent
- Classics—historical heroes and heroines, classical stories, books, authors, artists, works of art, historians, etc.

These various components will look differently according to the age level and class being taught, but all classes reflect degrees of the Principle Approach methods.

Why do you provide learning centers?

All classes utilize hands-on learning centers since children are at different developmental levels: learn and develop at different rates and develop different learning styles. This time allows the teacher and the children to interact one on one or in a small group. Your child is given opportunities to ask questions, to experiment with materials to see "what if," to work in familiar areas with familiar materials and then move on to new levels of discovery, to work independently and dependently when needed.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do you handle behavior issues?

The Rock Academy method of discipline as adopted from The Young Peace Maker. It has 5 components or the 5 A's. 1. Admit – we must admit what did wrong and why it was wrong. 2. Apologize – we need to apologize to the person or people we have wronged. 3. Accept – we must accept the consequence to our behavior, sometimes those include be taken away from the situation, a call or note home, and natural consequences. 4. Ask – when we do something wrong we need to ask for forgiveness. 5. Alter – when we make mistakes we need to alter or change our behavior for next time. If a child willfully harms another child or adult by hitting, scratching, kicking, biting, pinching, etc., they will be immediately removed from the situation, may be seen by the Director, and will have an incident report filled out. The child's parents and teacher will work together to help the child through the misbehavior. If the misbehavior continues over a period of time, disenrollment may result. Our goal is that children understand, according to their age-development, the freedom that comes from admitting when one is wrong; apologizing for the misbehavior; accepting natural or logical consequences; asking for forgiveness; and altering one's choice in the future. We lead our students into the Biblical higher call of becoming who God wants us to be knowing they are loved.

What is The Rock Academy's philosophy on teaching reading, writing, and math skills?

Our desire is to lay the foundation for these skills, as there are many stages of development a child must pass through. We provide opportunities for your child that will build the foundation for these emerging skills through activities that:

- Utilize eye hand coordination; reading readiness, learn to write all letters
- Strengthen finger and wrist muscles using manipulative toys/activities; writing skills
- Are rich in print; classrooms that are labeled with names of learning centers, toys and activities
- Require visual discrimination through patterns and shapes; math readiness
- Explore counting and sorting using a variety of materials; counting with one to one correspondence, writing numbers and recognizing numbers

We present developmentally appropriate activities that will expose your child to the basic concepts of letters and numbers so your child can explore them at their own pace without frustration or pressure.

Our elementary grades use challenging curriculum that implements phonics-based reading, penmanship and writing skills, a solid foundation in mathematics, fine and performing arts, hands-on projects in various subjects, American and global appreciation of history and civics, enjoyment of God's world in science, and the use of interdisciplinary subjects.

Will my child be ready for Kindergarten?

We believe our role in the education of your child is to partner with you. The decision on your child's readiness for Kindergarten will be based on many factors. Some of them might include: child's age, emotional and physical readiness, parent/teacher conferences, enthusiastic curiosity about their world, willingness to try new situations, etc. We will lovingly encourage, support, and challenge you child while they are with us, and we will celebrate the developmental growth your child achieves during the year. Our goal is to equip you with all the information necessary so you are able to make the best decision possible regarding your child's kindergarten readiness.

How does lunch work?

Lunch time is scheduled for the classes that meet during the AM session only. At 11:55 the teacher will begin to get the children lined up and ready to walk to the lunch area. Once all children have arrived (usually by 12:05 PM) the children will sit down and eat together. Elementary students eat with the Preschool/Pre-K morning classes. Lunch should be nutritious brought in a lunch box that is labeled with child's name, and easy for the teacher or lunch aide to set out. Your child will be encouraged to eat the food that is provided. Please know that as the children are adjusting to this new situation they may eat less food than normal so smaller portions of several different types of food may be desirable. Also we are a nut free facility.