

**Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Curriculum**

**Kindergarten Curriculum**

 All material in the Grace Lutheran Kindergarten program meets and exceeds the Common Core State Standards for Kindergarten. Below is a short summary of our Kindergarten curriculum, including the resources we use to teach the material.

 **Reading**

Reading is taught through Whole Language and Phonics. Resources used in teaching reading include the *McGraw Hill Wonders reading program*. We follow the Common Core path to using *Phonics, Phonemic Awareness and reading.*

The Wonders program includes a variety of reading components, including big books, practice books, leveled readers, decodable readers, Strategic intervention readers, picture cards, and phonics songs and rhymes. The curriculum is also divided into four different areas: Oral Language, Shared Reading, Word Work, and Language Arts.

**Language Arts**

Kindergarten students will develop an understanding of phonetics, vocabulary and comprehension by:

1. Recognition of upper and lower case letters
2. Phonics of letters
3. Recalling the beginning, middle and end of stories
4. Dictating words/sentences to be written
5. Understanding the difference between statements and questions
6. Writing simple sentences
7. Retelling stories in own words
8. Nouns, verbs, and adjectives are introduced
9. Use of complete sentences

Kindergarten students will use language and express their opinions throughout the day both verbally and within their play.

**Handwriting**

The students will learn proper handwriting techniques by using Traditional manuscript. Students will how to:

1. Communicate through words and pictures
2. Capitalize the first word in an sentence
3. Punctuation at the end of a sentence
4. Write left to right
5. Space between words

**Mathematics**

Math is taught through a program called *enVisionMATH Common Core*, which is based on critical foundational research and proven classroom results. *enVisionMATH Common Core* was built from the ground up to meet the Common Core State standards, Mathematical Practices are deeply rooted in the curriculum. These practices promote student success in mathematics.

Unlike many state curriculum frameworks, the Common Core State Standards do not present a spiral curriculum in which students revisit numerous topics from one year to the next with progressively more complex study. Rather, the CCSS identify a limited number of topics at each grade level, allowing enough time for students to achieve mastery of these concepts. The subsequent year of study builds on the concepts of the previous year.

*enVisionMATH Common Core* organizes content by domain, and all topics for each domain are grouped together:

1. Counting and Cardinality

2. Operations and Algebraic Thinking

3. Number and Operations in Base Ten

4. Measurement and Data

5. Geometry

**Science**

*Students experience science through hands on interactions in both physical and life science modules that include:*

Physical Science

* Properties
* Solids and Liquids
* Temperature

Life Science

* Exploration of the world of animals
* Life Cycles
* The Five Senses

**Social Studies**

Geographic thinking is introduced, using maps and a globe of the earth, as well as introducing children to directions (north, south, east, and west). Each week, the children also receive Let’s Find Out children’s newspaper, which often covers social topics. The children are also introduced to leaders of the world, community helpers and are taught to recognize and appreciate similarities and differences in people.

**Technology**

The students will have many opportunities to use the in-class computer during their day. They will be able to:

* Locate general I Pad components
* Gain keyboarding skills (simple typing, location of keys)
* Reinforce phonics and phonemic awareness skills through the Lexia reading program

**Library**

Grace Lutheran has a library where students are able to check books out for a one week time period. This will give the students the chance to read books of interest, gain responsibility, and supplement the reading and language arts they are taught on a daily basis. Students may check out and return books during their designated time.

**Gross & Fine Motor Skills**

Our gross motor program includes hopping, skipping, jumping, galloping, catching, throwing, balancing, and walking backwards. Children are able to incorporate these motor skills into simple games with rules, outdoor play, and by use of indoor gross motor equipment. Fine motor skills taught are shoe tying, string or rope tying, buttons, snaps, zippers, knowing right & left, puzzles, and manipulatives.

**Arts and Crafts**

Our goal is to offer children many opportunities to create in their own ways. When children create, our role is to support and observe, always allowing children to direct both the process and the product of their art. Some of the concepts our students learn are:

* Proper use of art materials such as paint brushes
* Coloring in the lines
* Cutting along the lines with scissors
* Doing Holiday and themed project

**Fine Arts**

 Students learn to express themselves using a variety of venues including;

* Puppetry (listening, retelling and remembering details from puppet plays)
* Music (weekly music classes, classroom sing-a-longs and performances that provide experience in dance and drama).

**Spiritual**

Students learn of God’s Love for his people through Bible stories, weekly chapel, participation in songs and prayers and daily interactions that build understanding of God’s love and plan for each of us.

**Social/Emotional**

Students are provided opportunities daily to learn social skills through;

* Self-Control (taking turns, sharing and practicing respect for others and self)
* Relationships (showing empathy and caring, making friends, developing social problem-solving skills and developing positive self-esteem).