

# Mrs. Cantrell's Classroom Information

Kindergarten Hours 12:45-3:45

## What will my child do each day?

Each day your child is presented with a varied and balanced curriculum of learning activities including quiet and active times, whole group, small group and individual learning, and small and large muscle development.

For example, a daily schedule might include:

- Opening activities: roll, calendar, pledge of allegiance
- Language Experiences: reading together from Big Books, reciting poems, teacher-modeled writing, individual writing in journals, acting out stories, sharing each other's writing, etc.
- Music and Movement: singing, creative movement and dance
- Recess: outside, usually 25 minutes
- Math: a teacher-directed lesson, group game, and/or independent work time to explore concepts
- Thematic Units: all the curriculum areas (literacy, math, science & social studies) are incorporated into a variety of experiences
- Choosing Time: centers for art, science, math, blocks, reading, writing, music, games, manipulatives, and dramatic play are open for children to explore.

## Literacy Block

### Reading

- Shared Reading
- Guided Reading Groups
- Independent Reading
- Phonics/Phonemic Awareness
- Listening Center
- Weekly Leveled Reading Books
- Interactive Reading

### Writing

- Handwriting practice
- Spelling/Punctuation
- Shared Writing
- Independent Writing
- Interactive Writing
- Descriptive/Non-fiction/Poetry Writing

## Parent Helpers

A big part of your child's success in school depends upon your involvement in his/her education. One of the best ways for you to be a helper is to read to or with your child daily! Spending time with your child in shared and guided reading experiences is perhaps the most important way to ensure future academic success. I encourage you to read, practice rhyming activities, and sing with your child daily to build a rich repertoire of oral language. I will suggest activities to practice at home in my weekly newsletters via email.

I welcome parents to volunteer in our classroom and I have projects that can be done at home if you are unable to come in to help. Classroom volunteers will start in a few weeks.

## Will my child be learning any Math?

Your child will be engaged in a mathematics program designed to expose him/her to a wide range of mathematical concepts, as well as ensuring knowledge of basic arithmetic skills. Your child will become actively involved with Hands-On materials and will make many discoveries using pattern blocks, unifix cubes, geoboards, mirrors, collections of buttons, seeds, etc., as well as using a variety of devices for comparing weight, length, and volume. Throughout the school year, we will work with the concept of pattern, sorting and classifying, graphing, measurement, addition, subtraction, probability, estimation, geometry, and problem-solving.

End of the year expectations...

- Identifies and writes numbers to 20
- Orders and compares numbers to 20
- Uses ordinal numbers, such as; first, second, third
- Uses Objects to demonstrate equal to, less than, and greater than
- Uses objects to demonstrate that the order in which things are added does not affect the sum  
 $3+2=5$  and  $2+3=5$
- Estimates numbers up to 20
- Divides Objects into two equal groups
- Uses up to 10 objects to demonstrate addition and subtraction
- Draws pictures/diagrams to represent addition and subtraction involving numbers 1-10

## Friday Folders (This is a very important folder!)

Friday folders will include any handouts from the school, student work, notes from myself, and homework. These folders need to be emptied out and sent back with your child on Monday.

Please sign the Signature Log on the inside of the folder each time you empty it so I know you received the information inside. If you would like to send a note to school, feel free to write the note next to your signature.

## Newsletter/Email

I would like to save trees and send the newsletters via email! The email newsletter will go out Monday each week and be a basic overview of our themes, concepts, and important dates. I will continue to communicate throughout the month as things come up and change (we like to be flexible in kindergarten :) and as always, please let me know if you have any questions!

## Weather

Christ Lutheran Preschool and Kindergarten will follow DCSD in school closures due to inclement weather. **We will not have late starts.** Should inclement weather occur which would result in the closing of school, notification will occur via radio/television and you will receive an email from me.

## Conferences

Two conferences have been scheduled during the school year. The first formal parent-teacher conferences is scheduled at the end of the first trimester on Thursday, November 10. The second conference will be a student lead conference near the end of the year on Thursday, April 12. Report cards will be issued twice throughout the school year and a final report card at the end of the year.

## Backpacks

Each child should bring a backpack and water bottle to school every day. The backpack should be large enough to hold their Friday Folder, papers, books, etc. Label the backpack and water bottle with your child's name.

## Book Orders

Each month, you will receive book order forms from Scholastic Books. The books are relatively inexpensive and offer you an easy way to build your child's home

library. If you are interested in ordering books, please send a check (No Cash) payable to Scholastic Books in a envelope, along with your order with your child's name printed on the order form. The due date for orders is always listed in my newsletters. You can also order online at [scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://scholastic.com/bookclubs). Our class activation code is GYRTB. Books usually arrive in about 10 days.

## Tucker the Turtle

Our lovable stuffed mascot Tucker, will have a chance to go home with your child over a weekend. His travel journal needs a picture and a few sentences telling about his adventure with your family. He needs to be returned on Monday and we'll share his journal in opening.

I'm looking forward to a wonderful year full of joy, fun, and learning!

Lesley Cantrell  
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