

PRE-KINDERGARTEN

In Pre-Kindergarten, the children's days are filled with joy and wonder as they learn through a wide variety of hands-on experiences. The curriculum follows a thematic approach that allows the students to develop foundational academic skills while delving deeply into topics related to their interests and real-life experiences. The teachers carefully plan the daily schedule and activities to include a balance of whole group, teacher-led activities and child-centered independent activities. The children's social development is fostered through activities that help the children learn to interact with each other and the environment in positive ways.



Class Size and Communication with Parents

The 7:1 student-teacher ratio in our Pre-Kindergarten program allows the teachers to get to know the interests, learning style, and cognitive strengths of each child so that they can structure activities and experiences to foster each student's growth. Teachers monitor student progress through ongoing informal assess-

ment. Several times during the year, the teachers also assess children on their knowledge in the following areas: recognizing upper and lower case letters, recognizing numbers, identifying shapes and colors, and 1:1 correspondence. The teachers partner with parents to foster strong, positive home-school connections and have frequent communication about the curriculum and student

progress through weekly emails, parent-teacher conferences twice a year, written reports, and informal conversations at drop-off or pick-up.

Program Hours

The Pre-Kindergarten program runs Monday-Thursday from 8am -12pm and Friday from 8am-12:15pm. The children have the option of staying for Lunch Bunch Monday-Thursday until 3pm and then After Care until 4pm for an additional fee. During Lunch Bunch, the children eat lunch and then participate in the following activities: **Art** on Monday, **Dance** on Tuesday, **Yoga** on Wednesday, and **Soccer** on Thursday.

Schedule and Curriculum

The Pre-Kindergarten children benefit from the predictable schedule and classroom routines that are introduced on the first day of school and followed throughout the year.

HERE IS A TYPICAL SCHEDULE:

8:00-9:30AM..... Arrival, Morning Work Activity, and Special Projects

- Each morning, the children complete a skill page from a book entitled *Little Lessons* that was developed by East Woods teachers to meet the specific developmental needs of Pre-Kindergarten students. The book leads children through successive lessons that offer increasingly challenging activities that develop fine motor skills as well as teaching proper formation of letters and numbers and phonics skills.

9:30-9:50AM..... Snack
9:50-10:00AM..... Book Browsing
10:00-10:15AM..... Storyboard



- During Storyboard, two children work together to create a story for the group by using Storyboard cards they have drawn. The children take turns telling the story and answering questions from the class about their story. This activity fosters the children's sense of story, sequencing abilities, creativity, and oral language skills.

10:15-10:50AM..... Morning Meeting and Classroom Projects

- During this whole group meeting time, a wide variety of cognitive skills and concepts are taught through modeling, activities, and games. Children also learn social skills such as cooperation, turn-taking, listening, and sharing.

11:00-11:30AM..... Special Class (Physical Education, Music, Library, Spanish)

11:30-12:00PM..... Outside Play
12:00PM..... Dismissal

Special Classes: Physical Education

The Pre-Kindergarten students attend Physical Education class two times per week for a half hour each visit. While continuing to learn to move safely and efficiently in the gymnasium, in Pre-Kindergarten there is an increased focus on locomotor skills such as skipping, hopping, jumping, and running, and manipulative skills such as throwing and catching. The activities and games presented in Physical Education teach the children to take turns and the basics of good sportsmanship.

Music

The Pre-Kindergarten students attend Music class two times per week. Using the *First Steps in Music* curriculum, students build on and advance the skills developed in Nursery Music class. The students focus on Pitch Exploration, Fragment Songs, Simple Songs, Arioso, Movement Explorations, Movement for Form and Expression, Beat Motion Activities, and SongTales. Students also use songs, chants, and stories to explore a variety of percussion instruments. The Pre-Kindergarten students participate in a musical performance with the Nursery students in the winter and spring.

Library

The Pre-Kindergarten students attend Library once a week for a half-hour class. Students develop their appreciation for a variety of different genres and styles of writing. They are introduced to the concepts of authors and illustrators and learn to distinguish between fiction and non-fiction. During book borrowing time, they choose from an age-appropriate collection of fiction and non-fiction titles that relate to their personal interests in order to develop a life-long love of reading.

Spanish

The Pre-Kindergarten students attend Spanish once a week for half an hour. The Pre-Kindergarten Spanish program incorporates music, movement, stories, games and interactive activities to promote the children's achievement in learning a foreign language. In a supportive and engaging environment, the students feel empowered to learn and speak Spanish.

Science Lab

Twice a month, Pre-Kindergarten students participate in in-depth laboratory experiences linked to the Pre-Kindergarten science curriculum that are led by Jane Powel of OmniLearn Corporation and her team of scientists. Some lab topics include exploring Pumpkin Stages, Rainbow and Color Mixing, Making Frog Eggs, Hydroponics, and experimenting with Solids, Liquids, and Gases.

