

LEGACY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
EARLY EDUCATION



2019-2020
**CURRICULUM
OVERVIEW**

Legacy Christian Academy Early Education Guidelines and Policies

LEGACY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY MISSION STATEMENT

Legacy Christian Academy develops strong leaders with biblical convictions who are equipped to succeed in college and beyond. We accomplish this mission through a balanced approach that honors and upholds

- challenging academics
- robust fine arts
- competitive athletics
- positive mentoring relationships
- covenant partnerships with Christian families

LEGACY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY EARLY EDUCATION MISSION STATEMENT

The Legacy Christian Academy Early Education community is called by God to develop the whole child, equipping them to discover their unique gifts and empowering them to become disciples of Jesus in a nurturing environment.

CURRICULUM AND PHILOSOPHY OF LEARNING

At Legacy Christian Academy, we believe that the readiness skills so crucial for confident, well-rounded learners are best fostered through sensory, experiential, and active learning. The Early Education program strives for each child to get a strong foundation for learning and growth by responding to their individual needs and interests. Our goal is for each child to develop a love of learning and prepare them for lifelong success. Therefore, we concentrate on the following areas in:

- Creating confident learners by recognizing each child's strengths. We look to teach the whole child and to recognize strengths such as spatial awareness, construction abilities, strong gross motor/physical abilities, musical abilities, etc.
- Encouraging children to express themselves in verbal and nonverbal ways, as well as through writing and art.
- Teaching our students age appropriate social, emotional, and behavioral skills as they learn by exploring, creating, discovering, and developing skills and a love for learning.
- 4 & 5 year olds - Developing readiness skills necessary to become fluent readers in Kindergarten and 1st grade. We do not expect our students to leave Early Education knowing how to read (although many may do so), but we do give them skills necessary to learn to read through phonological and phonemic awareness and alphabet knowledge.

Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 Curriculum

The preschool program follows the Texas Early Childhood Guidelines when planning for content instruction. Preschool teachers use a variety of resources when developing specific hands-on lessons based on the specificity of student needs.

Literacy

Skills are taught to lay the foundation for reading readiness by integrating:

- Oral Language
- Print Awareness
- Alphabetic Knowledge
- Phonemic Awareness
- Phonological Awareness

Resources: Pre-K 3: *Frog Street*, Pre-K 4: *Open Court Reading*

Handwriting

The curriculum involves simple, multi-sensory lessons designed to support all learning styles. The program's unique materials and appealing workbooks are designed to eliminate problems with letter formation, reversals, legibility and sentence spacing.

Resources: *Handwriting Without Tears*

Math

Math is taught using interactive, hands-on curriculum that expands upon the basics of math as well as a wide range of concepts, such as spatial sense, geometry, and critical problem solving. This program is age-appropriate, yet challenging for children and supports standards while using manipulatives.

Resources: *Guided Math*

Bible

Old and New Testament stories, weekly chapel, Bible verse memorization.

Science

Students learn about God's world by exploring different habitats. Units include: creation, backyard, woodlands, polar, rainforest, ocean, desert, savannah, and zoo. In addition to habitats, lessons will include weather, sink & float, senses, life cycles, changes, seasons, our bodies, health/nutrition, plants, and animals. Students will also attend Science lab weekly.

Specials

Students will participate in Spanish, Music, Art, PE, and visit the library weekly outside of our homeroom classroom. Students will also enjoy a daily recess.

Junior Kindergarten Curriculum

Junior Kindergarten follows the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills standards for kindergarten. The approach of Jr. Kindergarten is to meet students where they are socially, emotionally and academically to create a solid foundation leading into kindergarten.

Literacy

Literacy is structured through Daily Five (read to self, read to someone, listen to reading, word work and writing). Phonemic awareness is taught through an interactive, hands-on approach using Tapping with Tiles. Students also receive targeted small group instruction in guided reading at the student's instructional level.

Resources: *Tapping with Tiles, Daily Five*

Handwriting

The curriculum involves simple, multi-sensory lessons designed to support all learning styles. The program's unique materials and appealing workbooks are designed to eliminate problems with letter formation, reversals, legibility and sentence spacing.

Resources: *Handwriting Without Tears*

Math

Math focus areas include; numbers and operations, geometry and positions, and measurement and data. Concepts are taught with a hands-on approach using manipulatives and activities.

Resources: *Go Math Texas*

Bible

Old and New Testament stories, weekly chapel, Bible verse memorization.

Science

Students will learn about God's plan for health, seeds, animals, the seashore, weather, and seasons. Students also attend Science lab weekly.

Specials

Students will participate in Spanish, Music, Art, and PE and visit the library weekly outside of our homeroom classroom. Students will also enjoy a daily recess.

Kindergarten Curriculum (English and Spanish Immersion)

Literacy

Literacy is structured through Daily Five (read to self, read to someone, listen to reading, word work and writing). Phonemic awareness is taught through an interactive, hands-on approach using Tapping with Tiles. Students also receive targeted small group instruction in guided reading at the student's instructional level.

Resources: *Daily Five, Tapping with Tiles, Guided Reading Library*

Handwriting

The curriculum involves simple, multi-sensory lessons designed to support all learning styles. The program's unique materials and appealing workbooks are designed to eliminate problems with letter formation, reversals, legibility and sentence spacing.

Resources: *Handwriting Without Tears*

Math

Math is structured using a workshop model (warm up, whole group instruction, small group instruction)-using Guided Math to develop number sense, counting, addition, subtraction, time, and money using hands-on manipulatives and activities.

Resources: *Guided Math*

Bible

Old and New Testament stories, weekly chapel, ABC Bible verse & Psalm 100 memorization.

Science

Students study many areas in unit time - All about Me, our body, apple's, Texas, fall, pumpkins, nocturnal animals, winter, arctic animals, bears, amphibians, spiders, plants, rainforest, and ocean. Students also visit the Science lab each week.

Social Studies

Students learn about holidays, famous Americans and states

Kindergarten Homework

Homework consists of practicing sight words (Ball Words) and daily reading practice at home as well as math facts in the second semester.

Additional Early Education Information

Chapel

Students will attend a chapel service once a week. Children will enjoy a time of worship and praise, a Bible lesson, and Bible verses in a fun, interactive setting.

Nap Time

All children rest each day. Students are not required to sleep but are expected to rest quietly so that others may sleep if desired. Rest mats are provided, which are labeled for each child and sterilize daily. Please leave your own rest mat at home. Pre-K 3 and Pre-K 4 students may bring a small blanket from home. Jr. K participates in rest and read does not require a blanket.

Outdoor Play

Classes will spend time daily in exercise and physical activities. The EE playground promotes each child's gross motor skills. Temperature and ozone levels are monitored daily by the nurse and communicated to classroom teachers if children need to remain indoors. In this situation, physical activities will take place indoors.

Toilet Training

Early Education is a structured, academic program that requires **all students to be completely toilet trained** before they begin school. Being completely toilet trained includes staying dry during the day as well as naps. It is extremely important for parents to reinforce **independent** restroom skills at home on the days that your children are not in school. Our goal is to maintain learning in a loving environment that is comfortable, enriching, and positive for each child. When children continue to have toilet accidents, our goal is compromised and we are not able to focus on other children in the class. For safety and sanitary reasons, children must be able to clean themselves without assistance.

Accreditation

While Legacy Christian Academy is exempt from Texas State Licensing, the Early Education Program voluntarily complies with all state licensing requirements. This program is committed to ongoing monitoring to maintain compliance with the state licensing standards. All Early Education staff is trained annually and as needed throughout the year on any new standards. The Early Education Program is accredited through SAIS (Serving and Accrediting Independent Schools).