



# KINDER

A Guide for Parents

# READY



**FREDERICKSBURG**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

*Educating Christian Leaders for Life*

# It's hard to believe you're looking for a kindergarten already.



One day you're proudly bringing them home from the hospital, and now you're preparing to send them out the door for their first day of school – backpack, pencils, crayons and all.

## *You wonder if they're ready.*

Then you wonder if you're ready. You may be concerned about how your child will perform academically, how they will thrive socially, and what type of school will best meet their needs, now and in the future.

We didn't write this e-book to convince you of all the reasons why you should choose our kindergarten. Rather, we created it as a resource for parents who have questions about the different types of kindergarten programs and the ways they can prepare their child for a successful transition to the classroom.

**On the pages that follow, you'll get a comprehensive list of suggestions to test your child's readiness for kindergarten.** We've included some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and an overview of a day in the life of a kindergartener.

On the last page, you'll find an invitation to schedule a tour. Tours are invaluable for parents of soon-to-be kindergarteners. Spending time on campus lets you experience the learning environment firsthand and determine if a school feels right for your family.



**We hope to see you soon!**



# ACADEMIC READINESS

**Every child is unique and learns in their own way, at their own pace.**



# ACADEMIC READINESS

**A high-quality kindergarten program will be equipped to meet each student where they are and put them on a path to success**

**The following benchmarks generally indicate if a child is academically ready for kindergarten.**



- Recognizes uppercase letters
- Matches three or more letters with the sounds they make
- Recognizes numbers and counts to 10
- Listens to a story without interrupting
- Traces or writes letters, numbers, and name
- Identifies simple shapes
- Speaks in complete sentences most of the time
- Makes simple predictions and comments about a story being read



*It's helpful to measure your child's readiness in these areas during everyday life, not by quizzing them.*

**Have your child help with counting items at the grocery store, play "I spy" to recognize shapes and colors, and tell stories together while riding in the car. Children learn the best through play, so make learning fun!**



# SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL READINESS

Just like adults, kids respond differently in new social situations.



# SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL READINESS

Some children are outgoing while others are naturally more shy. You may notice that your child is very independent, or that they prefer to have a buddy by their side when navigating a new environment. Observe your child's social and emotional skills to help foster growth in these areas.

## Common indicators of kindergarten readiness include:



- Can make a decision without getting stressed
- Shares toys with other kids
- Cares about the feelings of others
- Puts toys away when asked
- Spends time away from parents and siblings without getting upset
- Knows and follows safety rules
- Understands and follows directions with at least two steps
- Knows name, birthday, and address
- Makes needs known with words





# PHYSICAL

# READINESS



**Mastering basic motor skills translates into a smooth and positive early school experience.**

# PHYSICAL READINESS

**Developing muscles for running, jumping, and climbing provides the stamina needed for a day in kindergarten. Equally important are fine motor skills, which include motions like holding a pencil properly, cutting on a line, and buttoning a button.**

**A child who is ready for kindergarten typically: A child who is ready for kindergarten typically:**

- Is very active – runs, jumps, and plays often
- Uses scissors with control and intention
- Grips a pencil/crayon correctly
- Bounces and catches a ball
- Rides a tricycle/bicycle
- Demonstrates independence in personal care  
*(washing hands, blowing nose, using bathroom, getting dressed, etc.)*





# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## *When should I start the process of looking for a school?*

**A**

It's never too early to start! Most parents start thinking about kindergarten when their child is three or four years old and has entered a preschool setting. We offer both PK3 and PK4 programs so you can get to know our school. We recommend submitting your child's application during open enrollment in January, the year before you'd like to enroll.

## *How old does my child have to be to enter kindergarten?*

**A**

Students should be five years old by September 30.

## *When are registration/enrollment deadlines?*

**A**

There are no specific deadlines. We close enrollment when seats are filled, so the sooner your application is submitted, the better your chance of enrollment.

## *Is kindergarten a half or full-day program?*

**A**

Kindergarten is a half-day program, beginning at 8:20 a.m. and wrapping up at 12:30 p.m. Students have the option to enroll in our afternoon care program, which includes lunch, a rest time, and more hands-on learning activities. Afternoon care ends at 3:15 p.m., and we offer after-school care which runs until 6:00 p.m.

## *Is child care available before or after school?*

**A**

Yes, before care is 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. and afternoon care is 12:30-3:20 p.m. After-school care runs from 3:20-6:00 p.m.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## *Will my child nap in kindergarten?*

**A**

Students who spend a full day with us in extended care do have a nap time.

## *Will my child need to bring lunch or a snack in kindergarten?*

**A**

Yes, a snack is required for all students. A lunch is only needed if your student will be staying for extended care.

## *Is transportation available for kindergarteners?*

**A**

Yes, we do offer bus transportation. Routes are limited, so be sure to ask about availability in your specific neighborhood.

## *What curriculum areas are covered in kindergarten?*

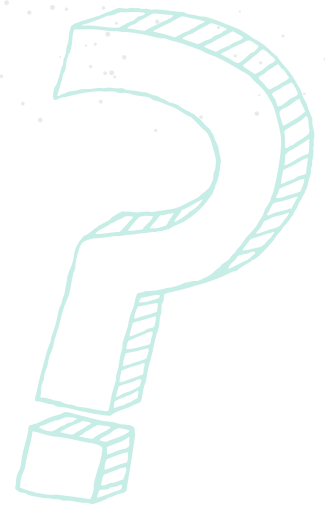
**A**

- Math
- Bible
- Phonics/Reading
- Science
- Social Studies
- Writing
- Specials  
(Music, Art, P.E.,  
Library, Computer)

## *What will my child's class size be like at FCS?*

**A**

Our kindergarten classes have about 20 students each, with one lead teacher and one assistant teacher, making our student-to-teacher ratio 10:1.



# A Day in the Life of a

# KINDERGARTENER



**While every day looks different, the following classes and activities will help you get a feel for what your child will learn during kindergarten at FCS.**

## ***Morning Routine***

Students gather together to start their day with pledges to the American flag, the Christian flag and the Bible, prayer time, and Bible reading.

## ***Math***

Math lessons are highly interactive and teach students how to count, add and subtract, measure objects, identify geometric shapes, and more.

## ***Phonics/Reading***

Students master letter sounds and tackle the reading process through a proven approach.

## ***Snack Time***

Every child enjoys a healthy snack brought from home each day.

## ***Science or Social Studies***

Students learn about God's world, conduct experiments, and explore history, cultures, and community roles.

## ***Handwriting***

Throughout the school year, students move from writing their names to forming full sentences with punctuation.

## ***Recess***

A favorite part of the kindergarten day, students roam freely on our playground or play games in the gymnasium when weather does not permit outdoor time.

## ***Specials***

Kindergarteners have one special class per day. These include music, art, P.E., library, and computer.

## ***Dismissal***

The academic portion of the day concludes at 12:30 p.m. and students are dismissed. Those who are enrolled in our afternoon care and/or after-school care programs continue their day with lunch, a rest time, and a variety of activities such as manipulatives, iPads, arts and crafts, and outdoor play.



# WELCOME!

## We look forward to welcoming you!

**There's nothing like coming to campus and experiencing our learning community for yourself. On your tour, you'll have the opportunity to see our classrooms, meet our teachers, chat with our admissions team, and get a feel for if our school culture is a good fit for your child.**



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***Call or email to schedule a tour!***

**(540) 373-5355**

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