

A TYPICAL KINDERGARTEN DAY

BIBLE (30 minutes of one or more of the following)

- Hymns
- Scripture memory
- Bible facts
- Bible story

WRITING, SPELLING AND READING (total of 50 minutes)

- Phonograms (every day)
- Sounds
- Letter formation
- Literature (one or more of the following)
- Memorization of poetry
- Exposure to various genres of literature through reading stories and books

MATH (total of 50 minutes of one or more of the following)

- Counting
- Addition/subtraction
- Story problems
- Shapes
- Time telling
- Patterns
- Money
- Graphing
- Calendar/weather
- Math manipulatives

SNACK AND RECESS (15 minutes)

ART, MUSIC, SPECIAL PROJECTS (varies weekly)

MARS HILL ACADEMY KINDERGARTEN

THE BEGINNING OF THE JOURNEY

Full or half-day classes/Maximum of 12 students per class

By Kim Knight, Mars Hill Academy kindergarten teacher

Kindergarten is the first formal educational setting for most children. In a nurturing, loving environment, Mars Hill Academy kindergartners are taught many of the basic skills that will set them on the course to be life-long learners. We also work to instill positive attitudes about school and learning during this formative year. Students will experience the benefits of self-discipline and self-control as they adhere to school and classroom rules; they will learn to work hard and persevere in their efforts; they will learn to listen, follow directions, and work to the best of their abilities with joy “as unto the Lord.” We have no more than twelve children in a class to ensure each receives the individual attention needed at this young age.

There are three main subject areas we focus on in kindergarten – Bible, math and language. The children begin learning the “grammar” of each of these subjects by learning facts and rules through the use of songs, chants, recitation, rhymes, games, and much repetition. Teaching methods involving multiple senses and much repetition are characteristic of the grammar stage of the classical model, which teaches with the “grain of the child,” or according to a child’s developmental stage. The following will give you a glimpse of how we study Bible, math, and language. The entire MHA kindergarten curriculum can be found on our web site.

BIBLE

In Bible we encourage the children to sing with joy to the Lord, commit Bible verses to memory (hopefully for life) and learn about God - who He is, and what He requires of us.

We begin each day by singing a hymn. Examples of hymns we sing include, *O, Worship the King*, *This Is My Father's World*, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*, *For the Beauty of the Earth*, *Christ the Lord Is Risen Today*, and *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*. The children learn one hymn each month.

We memorize Scripture passages using hand motions to help the children remember. We memorize the Ten Commandments, Psalm 23, Psalm 100, Luke 2 (for Christmas), and a variety of other verses.

Each day a Bible story is read from *The Child's Story Bible*. We begin in the book of Genesis and continue through David's life in the Old Testament. We then focus on Christ's life as it is written in the New Testament Gospels.

Kindergartners also learn a variety of Bible facts. In an interactive question and answer format, the children will learn all 66 books of the Bible and important people of the Bible.

GOD'S GIFT OF LANGUAGE

Other than spiritual training, there is no more important component of a child's education than the teaching of reading, writing, and spelling.

We use an orthography program which reinforces the use of explicit phonics by teaching the seventy-one phonograms representing the forty-five sounds spoken in the English language. We also teach the diacritical markings and the rules that govern our English words. This approach integrates the teaching of reading, writing, and spelling in a multi-sensory manner. In kindergarten, children learn to say and write the first fifty-five phonograms and begin spelling in the fourth quarter.

Writing letters properly and listening carefully to pronunciations are emphasized and practiced throughout the year. We also aim to foster a love for language through literature. The students are exposed to various types of literature as stories are read to them each day. They learn to listen carefully, sequence story events, retell the story, name the main characters, etc. Poetry is also memorized which helps students hear the rhythm and rhyme of language.

In addition to Bible, math and language, kindergartners have music once a week, art twice a week, and a variety of special projects. They participate in the school's Christmas program and a number of other events. Field trips are planned throughout the year. Our parents often assist in the classroom and are welcome to join us at any time.

MATH

In kindergarten through sixth grade, Mars Hill Academy uses Saxon Math curriculum.

Saxon Math is unique because the entire program is based on introducing a topic to students and then allowing them to build upon that concept as they learn new ones. Concepts are never dropped but are increased in complexity and practiced every day, allowing the time required for them to become totally familiar.

In this curriculum, math concepts are divided in easily grasped pieces or increments. A new increment is presented each day and students work only a few problems involving the new material. The remaining class work consists of problems involving concepts previously introduced. Thus, every assignment is a cumulative review of all material covered up to that point.

At MHA, we teach one grade level ahead in the Saxon program. That is, kindergartners use the first grade curriculum; first graders use the second grade curriculum, and so on. In kindergarten, students learn to:

- Count by 1's, 2's, 5's and 10's
- add and subtract 2-digit numbers without regrouping
- order events by time
- compare and order numbers
- use comparison symbols
- count pennies, nickels, and dimes
- identify place value to 100
- picture and name fractions
- identify and draw polygons
- identify ordinal position to tenth
- identify a fractional part of a set
- identify geometric solids
- identify and extend patterns
- measure using inches and feet
- tally
- solve routine and non-routine problems
- compare volume, mass and area
- create and read observations from real graphs, pictographs, and bar graphs
- master all basic addition facts and most of the basic subtraction facts
- tell time to the hour and half hour

We use many manipulatives in math so that the children learn by doing as well as by seeing and hearing. We desire that children see math everywhere around them in the orderly world God has created.