

## 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

**Maximum of 13 students per 1/2-day class**

**Maximum of 14 students per full-day class**

### THE BEGINNING OF THE JOURNEY

by Mrs. 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 experience the benefits of self-discipline and self-control as they adhere to school and classroom rules; they learn to work hard and persevere in their efforts; they learn to listen, follow directions, and work to the best of their abilities with joy as unto the Lord. Small class sizes ensure that each student receives the individual attention needed at this young age.

There are three subject areas of focus in MHA 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 stages. The following will give you a glimpse of how we study Bible, math, and language in MHA kindergarten.

## BIBLE

In Bible we encourage the children to sing with joy unto 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. Books of the Bible are also learned through song.

## 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 in that it introduces math concepts incrementally. Concepts are broken down into easily grasped pieces (or increments). When a new increment is presented, students work only a few problems involving the new material. The remaining class work consists of problems involving concepts previously introduced. Thus, with this curriculum, cumulative in-class reviews are frequent and significantly contribute to the students' learning.

In MHA kindergarten math, students learn to:

- Form written numbers properly.
- Count to 100 by 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's correctly.
- Identify basic geometric shapes correctly, e.g., triangle, square, etc.
- Identify correctly and give the value of a penny, nickel, dime, quarter, and dollar.
- Recite correctly the names and order of the days of the week and the months of the year.
- Identify even and odd numbers.
- Describe fractions of  $\frac{1}{4}$  and  $\frac{1}{2}$ .
- Tell time to the hour correctly.
- Identify and extend patterns.
- Sort objects and identify a sorting rule.
- Count using ordinal numbers / identify ordinal position to at least the 4th position (1st, 2nd, 3rd).
- Name the four seasons (spring, summer, fall, and winter).
- Act out or draw story problems.
- Measure the length of objects.
- Identify numbers on a hundred number chart.
- Identify next number in a sequence.
- Graph and identify most and fewest on a graph.
- Cover tangram designs.
- Copy and identify shapes on a geoboard.
- Do simple addition and subtraction problems.

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.