



A DAY IN THE  
**LIFE**  
OF A KINDERGARTENER



**EASTERN CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL**

# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A KINDERGARTENER

Parents of kindergarteners at Eastern Christian School say their little ones leap out of bed each morning, excited for the new day that is on the horizon. Soon, they'll join friends for lots of learning and fun guided by *passionate teachers* who love the Lord and their students.

Families appreciate the flexibility of our kindergarten program. Depending on the individual needs of the child and parents, we offer various schedules including *full and half days* on campus. Regardless of the chosen schedule, all students benefit from a strong curriculum, exciting enrichment classes, and authentic learning experiences where faith in God is woven into every activity.

This packet was developed to help you visualize what your child's day might look like in kindergarten. While each day brings different *engaging opportunities*, the goals are similar: to foster each child's *individual strengths* and to help them grow and mature academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

Our developmental approach to learning allows us to *differentiate instruction* to match each child's readiness level. For example, students who are more advanced in reading are offered instruction and opportunities for *continued growth*. Students who are not yet ready to read are provided with *appropriate tools* and instruction to build on their skill level and prepare them for reading when they are developmentally ready to do so.

We hope the following daily schedule helps you understand the *full range of opportunities* available to your child at Eastern Christian School!

Morning

## Morning Meeting

Each day begins with a Morning Meeting that includes devotions, sharing, a group activity, and a morning message from the teacher. Students also review the calendar, and count up to the 100th day of school.

*The average class size at Eastern Christian is 18. Our kindergarten classes are staffed with a state-certified teacher and an instructional aide, making the student-to-adult ratio 9-1. In addition to state certification, all teachers have experience and training in our developmental approach to learning.*

Lesson

## Language Arts

A daily lesson in language arts allows students to expand on their knowledge of letters and letter sounds by putting sounds together to make words and then sentences. As children learn to read letters, words, and sentences, they practice writing them to enhance their reading and writing skills. Language arts instruction includes whole class learning, as well as small group and individual learning, where instruction is differentiated to meet each child's needs.

*While kindergarten students spend most of their day interacting with teachers and peers, we recognize the value of technology as an educational tool. Students occasionally use educational apps on iPads to read differentiated stories aligned with their reading level.*



## Snack Time

Snack time is an important part of the morning, as young minds and bodies must refuel often to remain focused and engaged. Snacks are brought from home and eaten in the classroom. All kindergarten classrooms are peanut free.



Morning

## Recess

Recess gets students outside and helps them build gross motor skills through activities such as running, climbing, or swinging. Our expansive playground is a favorite spot for kindergarten students.

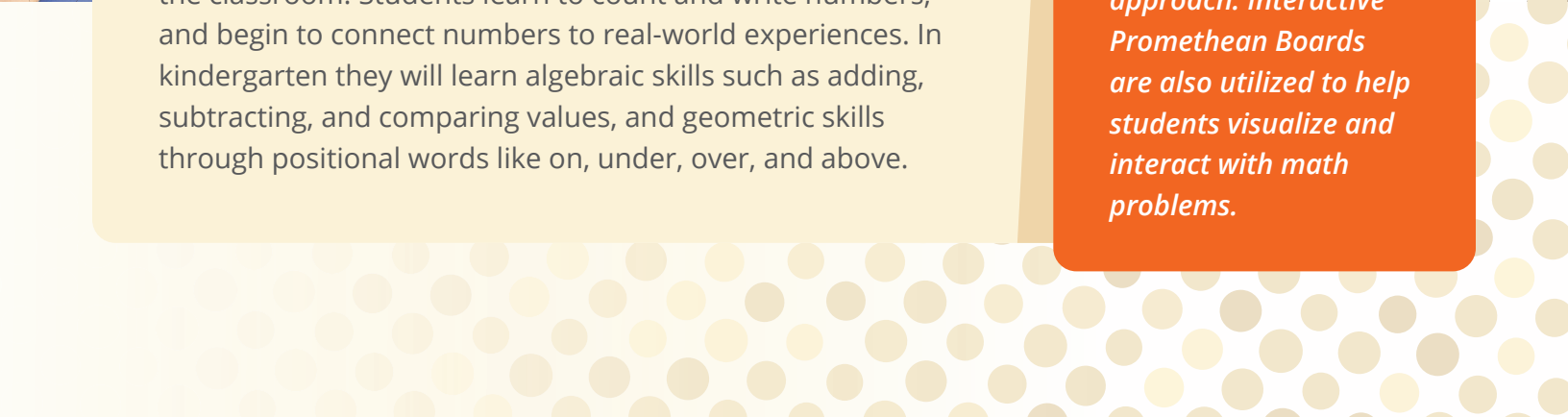


Lesson

## Math

After students have burned off some steam on the playground, it's time to buckle down and build foundational math skills in the classroom. Students learn to count and write numbers, and begin to connect numbers to real-world experiences. In kindergarten they will learn algebraic skills such as adding, subtracting, and comparing values, and geometric skills through positional words like on, under, over, and above.

*Teachers use physical items called math manipulatives to help students grasp concepts through a hands-on approach. Interactive Promethean Boards are also utilized to help students visualize and interact with math problems.*



## Bible

While God's truth is woven into every subject area, kindergarten students benefit especially from a designated Bible lesson each day. Teachers read stories from both the Old and New Testaments and help students understand how these stories apply to their lives. This is a prime opportunity for students to develop their identity in Christ and learn how to treat others.

*Our faith in God is not limited to daily Bible lessons at Eastern Christian. Kindergarten students share prayer requests and pray aloud with their peers throughout the day. They participate in weekly chapel services where the entire student body comes together to worship God. Most importantly, they recognize that we are all sinners in need of Christ's forgiveness. This helps them learn to confess sin, apologize to those who they've hurt, and offer forgiveness because God has forgiven us.*

## Enrichment Class

Enrichment classes allow students to expand their horizons and discover their unique talents and passions early in life. Our kindergarteners participate in weekly lessons in music and physical education/health twice a week and have weekly lessons in art and STEAM. One day a week, they visit the ECS library for storytime and the opportunity to explore new titles and authors.

## Lunch

Kindergarten students love breaking bread alongside their friends. Lunch takes place inside the home room with teachers nearby to supervise and assist. All kindergarten classrooms are nut free.



Afternoon

## Recess

It's time to hit the playground again. On rainy days, students visit the gymnasium for indoor play. While they may think they're simply having fun, we know they're building social skills through imaginative play and conflict resolution.



## Science and Social Studies

Hands-on lessons in science open up a whole new world for kindergarten students. As they explore the beauty and diversity in God's creation, they learn to make their own observations and develop analytical skills. In social studies, they learn about communities, community helpers who serve and protect us, and their responsibilities as good citizens.





Afternoon

## Center Time

There are no limits to what students can learn through afternoon centers. During this time, students work in small groups and gain exposure to all subject areas. They might write a story, work a puzzle, perform a skit, or build an amazing creation with blocks.



## Dismissal

At the end of the day, students are eager to tell their parents about all they've learned. Students can be picked up or continue the fun a while longer in our After School Program.

*In our After School Program, we offer individual violin, piano, and guitar lessons, as well as a variety of clubs centered around sports and the arts.*

# Preparing Your Child for SUCCESS IN KINDERGARTEN

*The following tips can help you work with your child and foster kindergarten readiness skills through everyday activities.*



## READ TO THEM.

Make reading an everyday activity and explore a wide variety of titles and authors. As you read together, talk to your child about different letters and sounds.



## INTRODUCE NEW VOCABULARY WORDS.

Emphasize new words, offer synonyms in daily conversation, use descriptive words, and read aloud as often as possible.



## PRACTICE COUNTING AND COMPARING.

Count stairs at home, apples at the grocery store, birds in the sky — the options are endless. Discuss similarities and differences in the objects at hand.



## PROVIDE SOCIAL OPPORTUNITIES.

Set up playdates or visit sites where children can socialize and engage in imaginative play with their peers. This helps children learn how to share, communicate their own feelings, and consider the feelings of others.



## EXPLORE GOD'S WORD.

Set aside a window of time each day to read Scripture with your child. Allow them to participate in activities such as Sunday School, VBS, and other church events where they can be exposed to God's word.



## PLAY OFTEN.

Whenever possible, opt for physical play over screen time. Play helps build stamina and fosters both fine and gross motor skills required for kindergarten success.



# WHY EASTERN CHRISTIAN?

*New Jersey's oldest and largest Christian day school*



## K-12 Continuity

At Eastern Christian, students have the benefit of remaining in the same school from kindergarten to graduation. Studies indicate this seamless experience contributes to their success in academics and beyond. While we have three different campuses, our students remain part of a close-knit community and benefit from reinforced values throughout their education.



## Authentic Faith Integration

Christian faith is fully integrated into every lesson and activity at Eastern Christian. Our amazing teachers deliver a worldview-shaping curriculum that promotes the spiritual, emotional, and intellectual development of your child.



## Affordable Tuition

Our innovative Variable Tuition program reflects our mission to make high-quality private education accessible to as many Christian families as possible. Every student gets a minimum of 20% off of the full cost of education, and our range of tuition spans from 40-80% of the total cost of education.



## Resources, Programs, and Expertise

Spanning 38 acres across Northern New Jersey, Eastern Christian is equipped with exceptional facilities and learning resources. Students use the latest technology and benefit from differentiated instruction, which ultimately boosts outcomes and test scores. With award-winning arts programs, a full scope of athletic offerings, and leadership programs, a rich student life is built into the EC experience.

READY TO TAKE  
THE NEXT STEP?

**Schedule a tour to learn more about our  
kindergarten program and experience our  
learning community firsthand.**



**EASTERN CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL**

*Contact the Eastern Christian Admissions Office at 973.427.4013*

*or email [admissions@easternchristian.org](mailto:admissions@easternchristian.org).*