

# Welcome

to

## KINDERGARTEN



**A C S**

**AlLENDALE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

Academically Prepared Called to Service Spiritually Equipped

## Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in Allendale Christian School's Kindergarten. Our intent for this handbook is to answer any questions you may have regarding these programs. If you would like any more information, please feel free to contact us personally.

## Open House

In August there will be opportunities for you to bring your child to school to visit their classroom. It is highly recommended that you take this opportunity. Your child will receive an invitation by mail in early August with dates and specifics regarding this exciting day. The children are able to meet their teacher, find their seats and hooks and mailboxes and begin getting comfortable.

## Our Schedule

Kindergarten classes meet all day, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 AM until 3:30 PM. Morning recess is from 10:25-10:45 AM during which time the children are able, and eager, to eat a snack, which you should provide. Lunch begins at 12:45 AM with recess from 1:05-1:30 PM. The children are expected to play outside during these times since it is very important that they get fresh air and exercise. After recess we have a short rest time during which the children listen to a story. This is a valuable time for the teacher to assess students individually also.

Hot lunch is served every day. Prior to the beginning of the school year, you will receive information regarding the hot lunch program.

Our weekly specials include Spanish, computers, art, library, and gym. We also take a number of field trips throughout the year. These usually coincide with our curriculum or are meant to model service opportunities.

We ask for \$20 at the beginning of the year to cover the cost of all the trips.

## Gessell Testing

The Gessell Developmental Readiness test is available for those parents who are unsure whether their child is ready for kindergarten. We highly encourage testing for those who would be new to ACS. The test is approximately 20-30 minutes and there is nothing you need to do to prepare your child for this test. It is developmental. Please, talk to us if this is something you may wish to consider.

## Transportation

ACS provides busing for those students living outside of the district.

If you live within the Allendale Public School's bus route, your child will be shuttled to and from the public school. The bus routes are published by Allendale Public School, usually just before school begins in August. Keep an eye out for their calendar or call them if you have any questions. Please, take note that bus numbers may change each year. Our teachers are always available to help students but we encourage you to find an older child to be their "bus buddy". If you need help finding someone, we would be glad to help. They should decide on a place to meet each day. We will also provide bus tags to help us get your child on the right bus. Please leave these tags on their backpack all year!

## Communication

- A classroom newsletter comes home every Friday and is also posted on our weebly site. Please take time to read it carefully. It contains important information regarding upcoming events and activities.
- A school newsletter called *The News and Notes* is sent via email each Wednesday. This letter keeps you informed of school related activities and announcements. This letter is also posted on our web site.
- Parent-teacher conferences are held twice a year, in October and February. But we are available to discuss your child at any time!

## Illness

If your child is ill, please inform the school office before 9 AM. If your child has a fever, please keep them at home for 24 after they have been fever-free. (Please refer to the blue sheet regarding situations when your child should remain at home.)

If at any time during the day your child leaves the school, please remember to stop in the office to sign them both in and out.

## Participation

Parental involvement is not required but highly encouraged. We offer various levels of commitment, ranging from one day a week every week, to only on a field trip or special celebration. The newsletter usually will inform you of when we need help. We truly appreciate the help we receive and would not be able to provide the awesome activities for your child without it.

## Supplies

In order to keep tuition cost down, we ask parents to supply the following items:

- a backpack
- a blanket or towel for rest time (labeled, please)
- 4-6 plain pencils (no plastic coated ones, please)
- a box of facial tissues
- a box of quart size zip-lock bags
- Crayola markers, any color
- Crayola crayons, (16-24 count)
- 4-6 glue sticks (we think the children eat these, they disappear so quickly)
- 2 folders, one to go back and forth from home to school every day, and one to remain at school. We hope to make the children become responsible for these folders each day.
- gym shoes
- Colored pencils
- plain white t-shirt
- bag of extra clothes in a labeled zip-lock bag (undies, socks, pants, shirt)

## Birthdays

Since birthdays are very special occasions, your child is welcome to bring a special treat to share with the class. If your child has a summer birthday we could celebrate their half birthday. If you are going to have a party with their classmates, please invite all of the children in their class of the same gender.

## Recess Buddies

During at least the first semester, we pair the children up with a new recess partner each day so that they make lots of friends and always have someone to play with.

## Dress

ACS's handbook has specific requirements concerning dress code. At the Young Fives and kindergarten level, our priorities include a separate pair of shoes to remain at school, for gym, and a pair of shoes once boots are needed for the snow. We love velcro, especially if your child is unable to tie his or her own shoes. We also recommend labels on outdoor clothes and shoes, especially those black snowpants!

We all know how Michigan weather can change rapidly. Please make sure your child has adequate clothing for outdoor recesses.

## Preparation

To help your child prepare for kindergarten you can...

- Help your child recognize and print his/her name; one capital only!
- Practice putting on and tying shoes (or velcro!)
- Teach them to zip or button coats and jackets
- Read together!

