

We at Heritage Christian School wish to welcome you to our kindergarten program. We hope you and your child feel at home in our school. We look forward to working together with you to make this year a delightful beginning to your child's school years.

It is our hope that this book will help you understand our program better. It should answer many questions you may have during the coming year. Please take some time to go over the booklet with your family. You can be a big help to us and your child by helping to prepare him/her for the first big step into a formal Christian education.

Welcome to Heritage Christian School



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page 3	IN-SCHOOL VISITS
Page 4	SCHOOL READINESS
Page 5	SPECIAL DIETS AND MEDICATIONS AT HOME
Page 5	APPROPRIATE CLOTHING
Page 5	NEWSLETTER
Page 5	HEALTH AND SAFETY
Page 6	ATTENDANCE
Page 6	ARRIVAL TIME
Page 6	DISMISSAL PROCEDURES
Page 6	SNACKS AND DRINKS
Page 5	SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT
Page 7-9	CURRICULUM
Page 10	REPORTING AND CONFERENCING
Page 10	VOLUNTEERING

In-School Visits

During the first week of school, the Kindergarten teacher will set up an appointment to meet with you and your child. This will be a time for everyone to get acquainted and for your child to become familiar with the classroom. Your child will be asked to demonstrate a few simple readiness skills and there will be some forms for you to fill out. Having this time to share information will help us make a smooth transition into Kindergarten.



SCHOOL READINESS- HOW CAN A PARENT HELP?

Emergent Reading and Writing

This is the dynamic process through which your young child is developing in his/her understanding and involvement with print. Kindergarteners will be encouraged to think of themselves as readers and writers as they increasingly look for meaning in books and print, and as they experiment with letters and writing. You can help your child by reviewing/looking over everything they bring home and by reading lots together. Be sure to ask many questions of your child when you are reading together. It's an exciting year of discovery and change. You'll want to be watching closely!

If your child is already a reader, he/she will be involved in a variety of meaningful reading and writing experiences that encourage development of initiative by using what they already know: to further develop reading and writing skills; to represent ideas; to help and bless others with their skills; and to explore and learn more about God's world.

We've included a copy of letter and number formations for you to keep on hand. Here are some ways to help your child prepare for Kindergarten in the area of printing: Encourage your child to (1) practice printing his/her name with a capital for the first letter and the rest in **lower case letters** (2) hold a pencil correctly (a soft pencil grip can be purchased from an educational store) (3) when forming a letter, start at the "top" of the letter and work down.

The First Day of School

The first day of school is a big event! Arrive on time, but not too early. Having to wait outside the classroom for a long time may add strain and tension. Once your child has indicated that you can leave, try to do so cheerfully and quietly without lingering too long. This will help your child to make the necessary adjustment without being distracted by your presence. Letting go that first day can be hard, but it's also the beginning of a wonderful new adventure.

Before you come that first day, take some time to discuss with your child how he/she is feeling about school and address any concerns. Together, we'll do all that we can to help your child to feel comfortable, confident and positive about starting Kindergarten.

Special Diets or Medications

It is very helpful and necessary for the kindergarten teacher to know about any food allergies or special diets, medications, etc. that may pertain to your child. A very important one that comes to mind is an allergy to nuts. Our staff have been trained to be aware of the symptoms associated with allergies and/or anaphylactic shock.

Appropriate Clothing

Inside shoes: Each child is required to have a pair of indoor shoes (preferably velcro-fastened) to be worn (and kept) at school. Light-coloured soles help us keep unsightly marks off the hall and gym floor. **Please mark all shoes and clothing** with your child's name as many items become lost or misplaced. "Cubbyholes" are assigned to students to store their shoes, snack and other items.

It is important that your child is dressed appropriately for outdoor play, especially during the colder months. Have your child choose "play appropriate" clothes for kindergarten. As well, please make sure that shoes and boots are easy for the child to put on and take off.

Each day your child will need to bring a backpack or bag that is large enough to carry home papers, art work, and library books, etc. Please check their bags daily so you don't miss anything.

Newsletter

Each month we'll send home a classroom newsletter and calendar that will keep you updated on things such as field trips, special days, the alphabet "letter of the week" and Bible memory verses. You'll also receive a bi-weekly newsletter from the school office.

Protect your Child's Health and Safety

Be sure your child has had his/her routine health exam, any immunizations you choose, and any speech, hearing or vision tests that you feel are necessary. Teach your child to be safe. Child Find has a wonderful list of safety "Tips for Tots." They can be reached at 1-800-387-7962. Please make sure your child comes to school well rested.



Attendance

Regular attendance helps children succeed; however, if your child is running a temperature or has a bad cold, please keep them home and phone the school regarding their absence. It is important for the school to have parent confirmation of any absences. When your child returns, please send a note, giving your child's name, the date and a reason for their absence. These notes are necessary for our annual school audit in May.

Arrival Time

In order to give teachers time to set up for the daily program, please have your children arrive at school not more than 5 – 10 minutes before the designated time.

Dismissal Procedures

It is important that each kindergarten student have a form on file with us indicating who has permission to pick up your child from school. If you foresee a change in your regular pick-up procedure (i.e. someone else will be picking up or you know you will be delayed), please inform us. Children will wait for parents in the classroom. We will open the Kindergarten room door upon dismissal and pick-up people may then enter.

Snacks and Drinks

Please pack a nutritious snack that is low in sugar content, such as fresh fruit or vegetables. Snack time is short in our daily schedule so please send a small snack. Please **DO NOT** send pop as the containers may explode. If you wish to send juice, please make sure that the container is water tight. If sending juice boxes, please send the small junior size – the larger ones are often not finished. We would prefer that you don't send red or purple drinks, as they stain the carpet. We will be sure the children have water available with their snack.



SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Through all the experiences that we share in Kindergarten we work to facilitate the understanding that all life is to be lived and understood with God at the center. Learning to live together as a class family is emphasized, as children are led to value themselves and others as image-bearers of their Creator and as His children who need His forgiveness and guidance.

Devotion, prayer, and Bible story times are an important part of our Kindergarten curriculum. We seek to teach in a way that allows children to relate Biblical truths to their own lives. We desire and pray that the children in our classroom will grow in their understanding of who God is and in their relationship with Him.

CURRICULUM

The Kindergarten program is carefully planned to allow children to learn the skills and concepts that lay a foundation for future learning. Within the context of themes and both individual and group activities, children are encouraged to interact with ideas, print, materials, and people in ways that foster social, physical, spiritual, aesthetic, and intellectual growth.

Language Arts

One of our goals in Primary education is to excite our students to find meaning and express meaning through print. In Kindergarten we begin the year by focusing on a different letter sound each week. The children learn to recognize the names of upper and lower case letters, the way in which they are printed, and most importantly, the sounds that they make. Once children have learned\memorized the basic letter sounds, they can then begin to decode words and blend those sounds together to spell words. We also encourage children to decode words with skills such as using picture cues, predicting what comes next, and recognizing familiar words.

About halfway through the year, we begin a home reading program. Not only at this time, but throughout the year we encourage you to read with your child whenever you can.

Another part of the Language Arts program is effective communication and interaction with others. Children will be encouraged to use a wide range of vocabulary to clearly express their ideas orally. Listening to others, speaking in turn, and following simple oral instructions are fundamental learning tools that children need to begin to develop in order to succeed in the grade levels ahead.

Math

Kindergarten children will be working with the following math concepts and activities:

- sorting
- patterning
- simple graphing
- estimating, building, measuring, and ordering objects
- working with shapes and spatial problem solving
- counting objects (to 50)
- counting orally (to 100)
- recognizing and printing numbers 1 - 10
- counting pennies, nickels and dimes

Science

Young children learn about God's creation as they use their senses to observe, describe and explore their surroundings. They gain knowledge as we help them to make connections between what they already know and new experiences.

Science concepts that are encouraged during the Kindergarten year involve:

- asking questions and predicting solutions
- describing similarities and differences
- estimating
- caring for the environment
- exploring ideas about people, animals, plant life, weather changes, seasons, and the way that objects move and change

Physical Education

The Kindergarten children will be involved in movement activities that help their coordination, develop large muscle skills as well as body and space awareness. Activities such as walking, leaping, sliding, galloping, hopping, skipping, rolling, dodging and throwing, alone and with others, will be included throughout the year. They will be encouraged to be aware of how their bodies move when bending, stretching, turning, twisting, pushing, pulling, lifting, swinging and how they coordinate these movements. Safe movement is stressed. Many types of balls and other equipment are used.



Gym Strip

No special gym strip will be required except inside running shoes which are kept at school. Girls are able to participate more fully in these fun activities when wearing tights, pants, or other suitable clothing.

Music

Music in our Kindergarten is a delightful part of the day. It is used during classroom activities as a natural learning tool to help your child. With the use of singing and instruments, the students will learn many songs and integrate movement activities with them.

Art

Children are encouraged to use their own observations, memory, and imaginations to develop images and develop strategies for design. They learn to respond to, and appreciate, the work of others. They learn new vocabulary. Using tools and equipment, and a variety of materials provides a stimulating environment to facilitate artistic growth. We celebrate every child's artistic expression as they begin using what God has given them.

Family Life Curriculum

Kindergarten students are encouraged to grow in their understanding that God is Lord of all and cares for His creation. These curriculum themes are designed to develop healthy self-esteem, consideration for others, and a developmentally-appropriate understanding of God's purpose for His creation. Against the backdrop of a biblical world view, children are encouraged to know God and His creation and their own place in His world.



REPORTING AND CONFERENCING

We have three reporting times throughout the year. These are designed to help parents and guardians stay informed and abreast of their child's learning accomplishments and challenges at school. Future learning goals may be included which will suggest ways that you can support your child's development. If at any time you would like to discuss your child's development and progress, please feel free to arrange a time to talk with your child's teacher.

VOLUNTEERING

We welcome parent volunteers in the classroom. Please feel free to sign up on our calendar for a time that works best for you. Volunteering usually begins in October. We want to say "thank you" in advance for those of you that can accompany us on field trips and help with driving.

