

CSP Kindergarten Curricula—An Overview

For required Kindergarten curricula purchase(s), please see the “CSP Curriculum Orders” tab on the CSP website or click [here](#).

Writing and Pre-Reading

Text(s): *The Writing Road to Reading* by Romalda Spalding and Spalding Phonogram Cards (required purchase)

We use the soundly proved Spalding Method for teaching writing and pre-reading. Studies have shown that the Spalding Method promotes one of the most powerful predictors of reading proficiency: phonemic awareness. Spalding implements sequential and multisensory direct instruction in listening, speaking, spelling, writing, and pre-reading. Throughout the kindergarten year, we strive to create and develop phonemic awareness by engaging in activities that focus on rhyming, beginning sounds, ending sounds, and print awareness. Kindergarten students master the first 54 phonograms but are exposed to all 70 by the end of the year. In our school day, we practice phonograms, handwriting (including proper pencil grip and letter formation), and spelling. Your child will be most successful when you practice these skills, using the Spalding Method, at home on a daily basis. In the second semester, students will bring home “Baggie Books” to promote early reading skills. While we teach mainly pre-reading skills in the classroom, the foundation of Spalding will support you and your student as you select and implement your own reading curriculum for use at home. (Reading itself is not explicitly taught in CSP.)

Grammar

Text(s): None, although Shurley Grammar jingles are used to provide a multisensory learning experience.

Students are introduced to basic elements of grammar, gaining a basic understanding of nouns, verbs, and sentence structure through the use of catchy jingles, song, and dance.

Literature

Text(s): *The Three Little Kittens Who Lost Their Mittens, The Quiltmaker’s Gift, The Hole in the Dike, The Kissing Hand*, and a variety of classical literature stories and historical narratives

During daily read-alouds, students are exposed to different genres, authors, and styles of writing. Students learn about the essential story elements of plot, character(s), and setting. We also discuss different types of writing, such as narrative and informative. Literature appreciation and a love of books are key areas of focus as we experience quality texts as a class.

Character Education

Character education plays a central role in our overall curriculum and is therefore incorporated into many parts of our school day. We talk about behaviors that exhibit good character and how we can practice them daily. Each month, we focus on different character traits that include the following: kindness, love of learning, curiosity, self-regulation, teamwork, gratitude, courage, respect, responsibility, diligence, perseverance, compassion, loyalty, forgiveness, and true heroism. Literature is used to reinforce these character traits.

Enrichment

In addition to the Language Arts instruction offered at CSP, we are pleased to offer enrichment classes, (aka Specials) in the areas of art, music, and physical education. A field trip, field day, school concert, and art show are also part of every CSP student’s experience.

Our Mission

The Classical Academy exists to assist parents in their mission to develop exemplary citizens equipped with analytical thinking skills, virtuous character, and a passion for learning, all build upon a solid foundation of knowledge.

We look forward to partnering with you!