

# CSP Kindergarten Curriculum

For required Kindergarten Curriculum, please see the Curriculum Order tab on the Kindergarten Website. The curriculum that is used in the CSP Kindergarten program is detailed below.

**Writing and Pre-Reading:** We use the soundly proven Spalding Method for teaching writing and pre-reading. Studies have shown that The Spalding Method, with unqualified success, promotes the most powerful predictor of reading proficiency: phonemic awareness. To accomplish this, The Spalding Method engagingly 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. Additionally, students will be learning phonograms, Spalding's primary means of developing phonemic awareness; a phonogram is a single letter or combination of letters that represent a speech sound. Kindergarten students master the first fifty-four (54) phonograms, but are exposed to all seventy (70) by the end of the year. In our school day, we practice phonograms, handwriting and spelling. Your child will be most successful when you as parent-teacher practice these skills with your student at home on a daily basis. While we teach pre-reading skills on-sight in the CSP classroom, our partnership with you will allow you to select and implement your own reading curriculum for use at home.

**Language Arts:** In our daily read aloud, we expose our students to different genres, authors and types of writing. Students learn about the essential story elements of plot, character(s) and setting. We also discuss different types of writing: narrative, informative, and informative/narrative. During the spring semester, we introduce Shurley Grammar, a logical and systematic grammar curriculum. The students gain a basic understanding of nouns, verbs, and sentence structure. We teach these concepts through catchy jingles as well as song and dance.

**Character Education:** Character education plays a central role in our overall curriculum and so is incorporated into many different parts of our day. We talk about behaviors that exhibit good character and focus on those behaviors in our daily time together. Each month, we focus on different character traits that include the following: respect and responsibility, diligence, gratitude, generosity, courage, loyalty, compassion, forgiveness and true heroism.

**Enrichment:** In addition to the academics offered in The Cottage School Kindergarten Program, we are pleased to also offer enrichment classes in Art, Music, and Physical Education. A field trip, field day and other special days round out your child'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 built upon a solid foundation of knowledge.

We look forward to partnering with you,

*The CSP Kindergarten Team*