



2023-2024 Kindergarten Syllabus

Welcome to kindergarten! We are so excited about the upcoming school year and are looking forward to co-teaching with your family. We hope to fill minds and hearts with knowledge and offer your child a biblical view of our world.

Communication

We believe that open communication between teacher and parent is key to a child's academic success, so we invite you to communicate with us often. A communication folder will travel between home and school every day and will serve as a way to send notes to parents or teachers. You will also be able to communicate with us through the following emails:

smckethan@fortisacademy.net

yechun@fortisacademy.net

*We will answer emails by 9:00am the next morning after each school day.

Behavioral Expectations

Classroom expectations will be covered the first week of school. As a school, we are utilizing rules to help everyone learn in a safe, respectful environment based on the love of God and one another. We are incorporating the following Habits of the Heart:

Attention: Listening with eyes, ears, and heart.

Obedience: Responding to authority with a happy heart.

Respect: Valuing others more than self.

Responsibility: Doing what I have been entrusted to do.

We understand that all children make mistakes and learn through good choices and unfortunate ones. We will share both with you, as we do our part in helping to gently guide them using God's Word. In kindergarten your student will have a chance to go to the treasure box once he/she has earned 10 stickers for exceptional behavior.

Assessments

Assessments will take place throughout the year, both informally and formally. Report cards will be uploaded on Alma four times a year: October, December, March, and May. Each quarter the report card will measure your child's progress on several different objectives and will be reported on a 1-4 scale.

4. Mastered Objective: Can perform the objective easily without any help every time.
3. Met Objective: Can perform the objective most of the time, but may need a little reminder.
2. Approaching Objective: Can only perform the objective with guidance and help.
1. Struggling with Objective: Can not perform the objective or is not developmentally ready to perform this objective.

You should log on to Alma every couple of weeks to see the objectives that have already been covered and how your child is mastering each one. Any objective that is below a 3 means you need to be providing extra practice at home beyond what is assigned on the blog for that objective. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher at any time if you ever have a concern about your child's progress and a conference can be scheduled.

Backpack items

Please have your child bring the following books to school each day: the *Essential Math* workbook that we are currently using, the blue communication folder, and all journals that have been prepared for your child. Train your child in responsibility by getting him/her in the habit of checking his/her backpack the night before each class day.

Snacks/Lunch

Please provide a water bottle, lunch and a healthy snack for your child every day. Please send snacks that do not require a utensil. Water bottles should be full and have a spill-proof lid. Water only. The last Wednesday of each month is Pizza Day!

*We are not a peanut-free grade, but please be careful with what you pack in your child's lunch and snack bag.

Blog

Please be sure to check the blog as early as Friday at 4 o'clock for weekly lessons, updates, and important class info. Here is the website: <http://fortisacademy.net>. Go to the "Parent Links" at the top of the page and choose "Homework Blog" from the menu. Please be sure to check the main blog homepage often for school-wide events and information.

*Please help your child develop good work and study habits by having them complete all work required for each subject. Occasionally there will be worksheets that compliment assignments and these will be sent home in the blue communication folder.

Curriculum Overview

- **Math:** Singapore Primary Mathematics. Every lesson needs to include the concrete, pictorial, abstract approach detailed in the teacher directive at the bottom of each student page. Our goal is to build a solid foundation of number sense for your child to build upon for the remainder of his/her education.
- **Reading:** Ordinary Parent's Guide- A phonics based reading program. We will be doing anywhere from 1 to 4 lessons per week. Please review the 2 previous lessons prior to moving on to new teaching.
- **Bible:** You will read aloud to your child the entire *Jesus Storybook Bible* this year. It is a beautifully written book that teaches about God's never stopping, never giving up, unbreaking, always and forever love. We will be doing activities and discussions around the assigned reading in class.
- **Read Aloud** – Students should be listening to literature 2-3 grade levels above his/her reading level at least 3 hours over the course of a week. Read aloud as a family or listen to audiobooks!
- **Spelling:** We will begin the formal teaching of AAS Level 1 right away. We will do one lesson per week for 4 weeks then take a month to review before continuing the rest of the lessons.
- **Composition:** We will begin the year with formal handwriting instructions using Handwriting Without Tears. This book will stay at home. We will be doing instruction in class before moving into copywork and oral narrations as the year progresses.
- **History:** History in kindergarten is only done at school. You may supplement at home as you desire. In class we will be working through *History for Little Pilgrims*, and supplementing with many other pieces of wonderful classical literature. We will be learning about creation, Adam and Eve, Noah's Ark, Ancient Egypt, the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, Rome, Paul, Augustine, St. Patrick, St. Francis, Medieval life, Martin Luther, John Calvin, Christopher Columbus, Pilgrims, our Founding Fathers, and how we can serve Christ in so many wonderful ways!
- **Science:** Science in kindergarten is primarily done in school. There will be a few at home assignments sent home in the communication folder as well as one project. This year we will be exploring 2 different science units: Our Solar System and Weather. We will marvel at how beautifully God created this world! Please feel free to supplement the science units with additional reading and hands-on projects at home.
- **Memory work:** The classical education philosophy emphasizes memorization as a key skill and concept for future academic growth. Therefore, students will be required to memorize several things this year including an extended passage of scripture, four poems (*see communication folder*), 2 songs, and geography (Continents and Oceans and the states of the United States).

We are so excited to see God work in the lives of our students this year. We look forward to partnering with you to give your child a solid foundation to build their educational future upon! Please feel free to contact us anytime.

~The Fortis Academy Kindergarten Team: Mrs. McKethan and Miss Chun

