

## **Kindergarten Curriculum**

At Canyon Heights Academy, a leading private Catholic school in Campbell, California, our Kindergarten curriculum lays a strong foundation for a lifelong joy for learning, building on Montessori Principals and introducing teacher-led instruction. Our Integral Formation model is designed to foster intellectual curiosity, critical thinking, compassionate leadership, and a moral character rooted in Catholic values.

Kindergarten at Canyon Heights is a bridge between our Montessori Preschool and our traditional education model in Lower School and beyond. In Kindergarten, students will learn new concepts and deepen their advancement in academics with the support of hands-on Montessori materials and without being constrained to a desk or table. Our behavioral and character development ensure that the class remains joyful and calm to optimize learning and development.

### **Language Arts - Reading, Spelling, and Composition**

Our language arts program is designed to develop strong foundational literacy skills while cultivating a love of reading and writing.

In reading, students will:

- Develop phonemic and phonological awareness
- Distinguish between letters and sounds through various materials and activities
- Begin to read aloud with fluency and accuracy
- Use correct vocabulary to interpret a calendar (days, weeks, months)
- Comprehend what is read silently, provide detailed summary of the story, answer questions, and participate in class discussion

In phonics and spelling, students will:

- Identify, read, and spell basic sights words
- Use phonics skills to decode new words
- Learn decoding strategies

In grammar and composition, students will:

- Compose a story with basic structure (beginning, middle, end)
- Use adjectives and details when drafting
- Learn basic parts of speech and punctuation
- Accurately and efficiently copy words, sentences, and punctuation from the board

In handwriting, students will:

- Use proper pencil grip and sitting posture
- Form all uppercase letters with correct directionality
- Form letters in both manuscript and cursive using D'Nealian formation on lined and unlined paper

## **Communication Skills - Listening and Speaking**

We give students many opportunities to share their voice through classroom projects, socratic method instruction, and wider audience engagements, which fosters confidence and poise for a lifetime of self-advocacy.

Students will:

- Sustain focused attention for a minimum of 25 minutes
- Follow oral directions
- Maintain strong eye contact
- Ask and answer questions clearly and respectfully, taking turns to speak
- Recite poems and passages from memory
- Develop oral presentation skills
- Practice public speaking skills with poise and confidence

## **Mathematics - Developing Problem-Solving Skills**

Our Kindergarten math curriculum builds number fluency and problem-solving abilities through interactive lessons and hands-on practice, using tools from Montessori methodology.

Students will:

- Demonstrate understanding that numerical symbols represent quantity
- Master number placement to 4-digits
- Fluently and accurately count to 100 (by 1's, 5's, and 10's)
- Apply basic addition and subtraction skills (up to 3-digits)
- Introduction to multiplication concepts
- Identify basic understanding of time, measurement, and money
- Continue advancement in geometrical shapes and their properties
- Explore graphs and data sets
- Demonstrate understanding of fractions

## **Science - Experiential and Imaginative**

Our science program encourages inquiry, exploration, and wonder about God's creation. Students learn through hands-on experiments and discovery-based learning.

Students will:

- Engage in hands-on experiments and STEM-based investigations, using the scientific method
- Demonstrate understanding of weather and seasons, using scientific language and reasoning
- Study astronomy, geology, geography, biology, and paleontology
- Develop scientific thinking skills, including analyzing, predicting, and hypothesizing
- Describe scientific phenomena using compare/contrast language, logical reasoning, and critical thinking
- Explore human hygiene, health, and nutrition through the lens of God's design

## **Social Studies - American History & Geography**

Kindergarten social studies at Canyon Heights Academy introduces students to community, history, and the world around them, all through a Catholic worldview.

Students will:

- Develop an understanding of chronological thinking and historical change over time
- Learn about U.S. history, including Columbus, the Pilgrims, Native American cultures, early settlements and settlers, the Pledge of Allegiance, early Presidents
- Become familiar with global geography (poles, equator, continents, oceans)
- Study various forms of transportation
- Compare and contrast historical stories, people, places, and situations
- Understand points of view based on perspective, developing concepts of community
- Develop basic research skills

## **Faith Formation - Christ-Centered**

Through our religious education program, children begin to understand that they are intentionally and uniquely created in God's image and called to live with purpose and love.

Students will:

- Discover God as the source of life and grace as a loving Father who send us his Son to be our Savior
- Explore the Bible as the Word of God
- Learn about the sacraments, liturgical seasons, and customs in the life of the Church
- Study the life of Jesus and the Holy Family through Biblical texts
- Identify the Church, liturgy, and prayer as means of worshiping together
- Develop an awareness that others deserve love and respect because they made in the image and likeness of God

- Learn various forms of prayer, introduction to the lives of the saints, and participation in the Holy Mass
- Begin to practice virtue and morality through age-appropriate lessons in Theology of the Body
- Use Sacred Story as a reflective, contemplative practice to develop prayer habits

## **Enrichment Programs - Co-curricular**

To nurture the whole child, Kindergarten students also attend weekly classes in:

- Art
- Music
- Library
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Spanish Language
- Physical Education

These subjects enrich creativity, expression, motor skills, and global awareness.

## **Why Families Choose Canyon Heights Academy**

As one of the top-rated Catholic private schools in Campbell, CA, Canyon Heights Academy offers a comprehensive, Christ-centered education that forms students in academics, character, and leadership. Our First Grade curriculum is carefully crafted to support children's intellectual and spiritual development in a nurturing and joyful environment.

Located in the heart of Silicon Valley, we proudly serve families from Campbell, San Jose, Los Gatos, Saratoga, and the greater Bay Area.