

Preschool Curriculum

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

Preschool students are in mixed-age classes according to Montessori methodology where younger students learn from older students in a community setting where children learn appropriate socialization strategies and character development alongside academics. Both instructional circle time and unstructured individual work time are important features of a Montessori classroom at Canyon Heights Academy.

Language Arts - Reading and Writing

Our language arts program is designed to develop strong foundational literacy skills while cultivating a love of reading and recognition. Reading and writing readiness are carefully watched by trained teachers to ensure that these skills are encouraged and motivated by the child's natural enthusiasm.

In reading, students will:

- Develop phonemic and phonological awareness
- Distinguish between letters and sounds through various materials and activities
- Pre-reading Montessori jobs to learn vowel (short and long) and consonant sounds
- Introduction of phonics rules
- Comprehend what is read aloud, providing a sequential retelling of the story when asked

In writing, students will:

- Pre-writing Montessori jobs to develop proper hand and body posture
- Writing jobs that assist the formation of letters in both manuscript and cursive formation using D'Nealian formation

Communication Skills - Listening and Speaking

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

Students will:

- Sustain focused attention for a minimum of 20 minutes in circle time
- Follow oral directions

- Maintain strong eye contact
- Learn to ask and answer questions clearly and respectfully, taking turns to speak
- Develop oral presentation skills, learning to recite from memory alone and in a group setting
- Practice public speaking skills with poise and confidence

Mathematics - Developing Problem-Solving Skills

Our Montessori math curriculum builds number fluency and problem-solving abilities through interactive lessons and hands-on practice, using Montessori materials and guided by trained teachers in large group, small group, and individual settings.

Students will:

- Develop an early enthusiasm for the world of numbers
- Understand place value and reading numbers (up to 4-digits)
- Develop understanding that numerical symbols represent quantity
- Accurately count to 100
- Learn skip counting (by 5's, and 10's)
- Engage in self-discovery of mathematical facts, algebraic reasoning, and geometry through Montessori materials

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

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
- 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 age-appropriate lessons in Theology of the Body
- Discuss and adopt virtuous behavior such as forgiveness, understanding, orderliness, and kindness

Art & Practical Life - Self-Expression and Self-Control

In the Montessori classroom, students are given long periods of time to explore various areas in the classroom. In addition to core academic subject areas, there are also materials that encourage students in cultivating their natural curiosity for beauty and virtue.

In art jobs, students will:

- Awareness of elements and principles of art
- Explore of various mediums such as acrylic, water color, sculpture, cutting, pasting, pencil, and marker
- Introduction to famous artists and their methods like Michelangelo, Rafael, Mary Cassat, Monet, Tommy dePaola, and Paul Kee
- Identify of various artistic periods (Renaissance, Baroque, Impressionism)
- Develop imagination through creative expression

In practical life jobs, students will:

- Develop fine motor control
- Learn concepts of care of self and care for classroom environment
- Develop skills like concentration, coordination, order, and independence

Enrichment Programs - Co-curricular

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

- Music
- Library
- Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
- Spanish Language

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.