

Parma Heights Christian Academy



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Kindergarten Handbook
2021-2022

Selected Phone Numbers

Parma Heights Christian Academy	440-845-8668
PHCA Fax	440-886-5748
Parma Heights Baptist Church	440-886-6100
Sonshine Preschool	440-886-7485

Dear Parents,

Welcome to your child's kindergarten year! Kindergarten is a special time in each child's life where they reach many new milestones, growing academically, mentally, emotionally and most importantly spiritually. There is a quote that was passed along to me and I believe it adequately summarizes the importance of a good education. It reads, "Upon our children, how they are taught, rest the fate and fortune of tomorrow's world". It is my goal the students leave my class at the end of the year with positive learning experiences that will be the beginning of a bright future. I pray they learn the importance of making the right decisions and working obediently. I desire they learn to be respectful of their peers and work cooperatively with each other. Most importantly I want the children to understand they each have unique traits and abilities and should feel proud of all they accomplish over the year. Your children are a treasure of God and it is my desire that the students will understand how much they are valued.

In order to give your children the necessary tools for learning we must be confident in our curriculum. Our curriculum is both rich and meaningful. It is filled with skills and information that will encourage your child to truly love learning. It will provide your child with learning experiences in the areas of Bible, Language Arts (Reading, Phonics, Writing, Listening, and Oral Language), Math, Science, Social Studies, Health, Computer, Music, Art, and Physical Education. In each subject area the students will participate in both fine motor and gross motor activities that will engage them in opportunities to advance their knowledge in a subject matter as well as to work individually and in small groups. I believe Biblical principles are the core to a positive learning environment; therefore, these principles will be integrated into all subject areas.

In order for your child to have a positive learning experience, I need the support and understanding of each one of you. I would appreciate it if you would pray for our class each day. This is a very special time as it is the beginning of their future. I look forward to a great year filled with many wonderful memories and experiences with the boys and girls!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Domer

Bible



Each day the boys and girls will actively learn about God's great love through Old and New Testament Bible stories, life application stories, songs, and memory verses. Each Friday the students will receive a Bible verse to memorize in the newsletter. Please practice it with your child at home. The students will orally recite the verse to me on the Friday of the next week. Their Bible grade consists of the oral recitation.

Chapel: We will participate in a chapel service each Thursday morning. The children will enjoy special stories, songs, and guest speakers. We will also support missionaries through the offerings that the children bring with them to our chapel services each week.

Each Thursday the boys need to wear pants and a white dress shirt and tie. The girls need to wear a jumper or skirt with a **WHITE** dress blouse. The students may **NOT** wear shorts on chapel day.

Language Arts

Language

The kindergarten program focuses on developing the children's abilities to communicate correctly and confidently. It will help them further develop their speaking and listening (receptive) vocabularies.

The children will show growth in language skills by:

1. Developing the ability to speak in complete sentences with increasing complexity
2. Using correct verb forms in oral sentences
3. Using pronouns correctly in oral sentences
4. Volunteering verbal ideas and participating in conversations
5. Speaking distinctly in a pleasant voice with good control of volume and tone
6. Using courteous speech habits without interrupting others or monopolizing the conversation
7. Retelling stories in own words
8. Demonstrating the ability to tell a story in sequence
9. Dictating sentences and stories
10. Expanding oral and receptive vocabularies

The students will have opportunities to earn rewards corresponding with the behavior system below. The class as a whole will also have opportunities to earn rewards such as extra recess, game time, sitting with a friend, etc.

As a class, we will use a "Clip Chart" behavior system. The levels on the chart are as follows:

Outstanding
Great Job
Good Day
Ready to Learn
Think About It
Teacher's Choice
Parent Contact

At the beginning of each day, your child's clothespin will be clipped to the "Ready to Learn" section. Throughout the day, your child's clip can be moved up or down, according to the choices he/she makes. If your child's clip moves *below* the "Ready to Learn" section, he/she will have the chance to move back up if he/she begins to make better choices.

The results of having a clip moved *below* "Ready to Learn" are:

Think about it = warning

Teacher's Choice = appropriate consequence chosen by teacher

Parent Contact = you will receive a phone call explaining your child's behavior

If your child's clip ends the day on "Ready to Learn" or above, your child made good choices and he/she will color a square on a chart in his/her folder. The color will coordinate with the Clip Chart. Once the chart is filled, the student will get to choose a reward.

A common phrase in our classroom this year will be:

"Stop, Think and Pray"

A. Stop: the poor choices

B. Think: about your poor choice and which standard it was not following

C. Pray: ask God to help you want to obey him and make better choices

Note: Additional instances or severe infractions will necessitate the involvement of the school administrator.

If someone other than your standard pick-up arrangement needs to pick up your child at the end of the day, please send a note or call the office with the name of the person so that we have this information.

After School Care Program

PHCA has an After School Care Program (\$4 per hour) available if this would be helpful to your schedule. It may be used for those occasional "I'm running a bit late" situations or it may be used on a regular basis. Please call the school office for more information if you are interested in this program.

Supply List

- * Ziploc bag of extra school uniform/undergarments, socks (name on bag)
- * 1 small water bottle with a flip lid
- * Oversized painting shirt with short sleeves
- * 1 large box of tissues
- * 1 beach towel (NO BLANKETS)
- * 1 box of gallon-size Ziploc bags
- * 1 set of small headphones (3-6 foot cord - no earbuds)
- * Other supplies will be purchased by PHCA at a cost to parents of \$20.00 (due by 8/27)

No rolling backpacks

If Your Child is Sick

If your child is sick and cannot come to school, please call the office before 8:30 AM at 440-845-8668.

Kindergarten Behavior Standards

The behavioral standards in our classroom are based on the Biblical principles of obedience and respect. It is my goal for each child to accept personal responsibility and to exhibit self-control for his/her own behavior. These are the classroom standards that we will be following all year.

- * *We will be kind to others*
- * *We will listen and follow directions*
- * *We will take care of all things*
- * *We will tell the truth*
- * *We will raise our hand to talk*
- * *We will do our best every day*

Reading Readiness



Our Language Arts program is designed to instill a love and appreciation of reading through hearing and enjoying many books, acting out stories, making books, listening to poetry, and writing group and individual stories.

Visual Perception and Discrimination - The children will show growth in visual perception skills by:

1. Recognizing likenesses and differences in color, size, shape, form and internal details in objects and pictures
2. Identifying likenesses and differences of position in objects and pictures
3. Identifying the position of an object in a series or a letter in a word
4. Seeing likenesses and differences in letters and words
5. Developing directionality; determining right and left and developing the habit of left to right progression
6. Recognizing their own names in print and distinguishing them from other names
7. Identifying capital and lower-case letters out of sequence
8. Matching each capital to its lower-case form
9. Beginning to distinguish the difference between letter, word, and sentence
10. Blending sounds into words
11. Reading simple stories containing both phonetic and high-frequency words

Auditory Perception and Discrimination - The children will show growth in auditory perceptual skills by:

1. Distinguishing between types of sounds; human, animal, musical and environmental
2. Discriminating intensity, pitch, direction and distance of sounds
3. Identifying and distinguishing voices of classmates
4. Repeating words correctly
5. Discriminating whether word pairs are alike or different
6. Recognizing rhyming words
7. Identifying likenesses and differences in initial consonant sounds
8. Matching consonant sounds with their corresponding letters

Literary Appreciation - The children will develop an appreciation of literature by:

1. Showing a growth of interest in stories, poems, nursery rhymes, and fingerplays
2. Holding books comfortably and turning pages properly
3. Demonstrating a willingness to care for books properly
4. Demonstrating an increasing attention span
5. Expressing interpretation of stories and poems
6. Showing growth of interest in learning to read
7. Becoming aware that printed material conveys information and feelings that pictures do not convey

Oral Comprehension - The children will demonstrate increasing comprehension by:

1. Relating story content to past experiences
2. Identifying the main idea of a story
3. Recalling detail in stories and pictures
4. Identifying main characters in stories read aloud
5. Distinguishing between fact and fantasy in stories
6. Interpreting emotional reactions of characters in stories
7. Predicting outcomes, determining cause and effect
8. Making inferences and drawing conclusions
9. Relating sequence of ideas or events from stories



Math

 Our excellent mathematics curriculum (*Go Math* by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt) involves the children in a variety of activities that build a significant foundation for mathematical understanding. The children will have numerous opportunities to discover, investigate, estimate, and reason mathematically through a hands-on, multisensory approach.

The following skills are introduced during the kindergarten year and the children should be able to demonstrate ability in these areas:

1. Sorting and comparing objects by color, size, shape, function, general classification such as fruit, flowers, furniture, etc.
2. Recognizing, representing, counting, and writing numbers 0-100.

Communication To and From School

Please check your child's school bag every day for your child's papers, notes, or other important communication from school that may require a response from you (in the Purple Folder). Our **Kindergarten Newsletter** comes home each Friday, with an overview for the next week and the Bible verse for memorization. I may not send home a newsletter on short weeks. The weekly **homework** assignment will always include completing the *Reading Journal*. This involves reading with your child for four days out of the week. Any family member may read with your child, but please write the title of the book(s), along with your (or other family member's) signature. Reading together is an important part of developing your child's love for reading in addition to his/her skills. Your child may increasingly read for part of this time as the year progresses. Other weekly homework assignments will be listed in the Reading Journal.



When you send in notes or money for the office, please put them in an envelope/ Ziploc bag and mark the outside with your child's name as well as the content of the envelope.

Questions or Concerns

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call the school office (440.845.8668) and leave a message. I will return the call as soon as possible. If you need to see me, I will be more than happy to meet with you before or after school. You may also write me a note regarding the concern whenever possible. This will give me time to get the information you may be seeking. Feel free to email me at ldomer@phcawarriors.com. Thank you!

School Hours / Dismissal Notes

Our school hours are from 8:15 AM - 2:50 PM. Please help your child arrive at school by 8:00 so that he/she has plenty of time to hang up his/her coat and to put away lunch boxes, school bags, and folders before the 8:15 AM bell. *This is a time for your child to develop independence by entering the classroom on his/her own.* It will be best (though I realize, maybe not the easiest) for you to say "Good-bye" at the school or gym door.

4. Being able to identify a dominant hand
5. Handling art media such as glue, paint, folded paper
6. Mastering the use of scissors
7. Being able to complete handwork projects of increasing complexity as the year progresses
8. Holding a crayon or writing utensil properly and being able to color or draw within boundaries



These skills lead directly to those involved in handwriting and the formation of strokes used in printing letters.

General Information

Birthdays

Birthdays are special days, and we love to celebrate them! You are welcome to send in a take-home treat for the birthday child to share with each classmate. The treat should be pre-packaged (cookie in a bag, a snack pack, a small toy in a bag, etc.). Simple is best for everyone 😊. For weekend and holiday birthdays, please choose a school day close to the actual day for us to celebrate. We will celebrate the summer birthdays during the months of May/June.

Snack Time

Each morning we will have a snack break. During this time your child may use their water bottle, *no other drinks please*, and eat a snack that you send to school for your child each day. I will not provide a snack if your child does not have one. The snacks will be stored on the lunch shelves. Please make sure your child knows what his/her snack is (a labeled bag, special spot in a lunch box, etc.). Thank you.

Rest Time Materials

After lunch the students will participate in rest time. Please provide a beach towel for your child to use as a mat (labeled with your child's first and last name). The size is important, due to limited storage space. At the end of each month your child's towel will be sent home over the weekend to be washed and returned on Monday.

3. Understanding set-numeral correspondence (knowing that numeral 1 means 1 object, etc.)
4. Adding and Subtracting numbers to 10
5. Identifying and describing two-dimensional shapes (square, triangle, circle, etc.)
6. Identifying and describing three-dimensional shapes (sphere, cube, cylinder, etc.)
7. Comparing and measuring lengths, heights, and weights
8. Becoming aware of time relationships; morning, afternoon, evening; yesterday, tomorrow, days, weeks, months, years
9. Naming the hours on the clock and knowing clock vocabulary: face, hour hand, minute hand
10. Understanding the function of money and recognizing pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters



Social Studies, Science and Health

The themes that we will explore throughout the year will allow the students to recognize that God loves each individual and has made everyone very special. We will observe nature and appreciate the world that God created. The concepts are explored through the use of real objects, pictures, literature, field trips, guest speakers, experiments, and songs.

Through Social Studies, Science, and Health lessons, the children will develop a better understanding of:

1. Friends & Family
2. Where We Live
3. Working Together
4. Citizenship
5. People at Work
6. Animals
7. Plants
8. Earth's Land, Air and Water
9. Weather and Seasons
10. Objects Around Us
11. Investigating Water
12. Safety
13. Nutrition
14. Good Health Habits

Specials

Music



I enjoy incorporating song and rhythm into lessons and activities with the students each day. The students will also sing a wide variety of songs and will begin to develop a basis for understanding musical elements with our music teacher.

Art



We will enjoy a myriad of fun and creative activities that include drawing, painting, coloring, and cutting. The children will manipulate a wide variety of materials to stimulate creativity, both in class and with the art teacher each week.

Physical Education and Recess



PE is another important part of the total educational process. Our program provides progressive, sequential instruction that includes basic movement activities for the development of gross motor and fine motor skills. The children are guided in developing an understanding of the proper attitude toward competition and the importance of cooperating with one another while playing games.

Everyone must wear gym shoes on gym days. I also suggest that the girls wear pants/shorts (depending on time of year) on gym days.

Weather permitting, we will also go outside to play during recess after lunch every day, so please have your child dress accordingly. In an effort to encourage your child's independence, try to select coats and boots that your child can handle with the least amount of assistance from an adult. THANK YOU!

Computers



The students will have the opportunity to work in the computer lab every week. They will learn basic computer skills such as using a mouse, typing their name, finding letters on a keyboard and so on. The students will utilize these skills to complete various projects. We will also use the computers to practice readiness skills.

Social and Emotional Development



Through social experiences in kindergarten, the children will grow in confidence and kindness. They will become increasingly independent, and will learn to become productive, cooperative class members. They will expand their interests, understanding, tolerance, and experience.

The children will show growth in the following:

1. Respecting the rights of others by being able to share materials, take turns, and by allowing classmates their fair share of the teacher's time and attention
2. Using good manners which include polite listening without interrupting, caring for personal needs independently, being aware of the feelings of others and tolerant of their differences, displaying a friendly attitude
3. Assuming responsibility for clothing, supplies, classroom equipment, their own behavior, solving minor problems independently
4. Developing a positive attitude toward school, classmates, teacher

The children will improve their work habits by:

1. Listening attentively and following directions accurately
2. Working quietly and independently
3. Completing assigned tasks carefully and demonstrating pride in their accomplishments
4. Working steadily without being distracted or wasting time
5. Cleaning up, handing in work, putting away materials used

Manipulative Skills

The children will develop and refine their fine motor skills through a variety of activities including finger plays, games, and art projects. Some of these activities include:

1. Mastering the use of a variety of clothing fasteners and tying shoes
2. Mastering the opening, packing, and closing of a tote bag or back pack
3. Demonstrating hand control through puzzles, manipulative games, blocks, etc.