

# The ABC's of Kindergarten



**SIoux CENTER**  
**CHRISTIAN**  
**SCHOOL**

The mission of Sioux Center Christian School is to disciple God's children by equipping them with a knowledge and understanding of Christ and His creation so that they can obediently serve God and others as they work and play.





## **What your child will be doing in Kindergarten:**

Most of the time will be spent learning while participating in specially chosen activities. Your child will learn to write and to read the numbers and letters of the alphabet as well as simple words.

### **The Kindergarten program is designed to teach your child...**

1. To learn that all things must be done to the glory of our God because through Him we are allowed the opportunity to learn, discover, and seek out His world, all while growing closer in our walk of faith with him.
2. To learn lifelong skills such as being fair, polite, cheerful, and sharing while interacting with others.
3. To explore new things and ideas, using as many different means as possible.
4. To express himself/herself with words, clay, paint, crayons, music, scissors, etc.
5. To become an organized planner – “what will we do next?”
6. To listen respectfully not only to stories and directions, but to the ideas and expressions of others.
7. To look at the many varieties of books available and learn how to use them correctly.
8. To be introduced to and be able to use new words learned from a variety of experiences and media.
9. To recognize differences such as colors, sizes, shapes and sounds within the world and appreciate the variety found within God’s creation.
10. To become independent in terms of self and belongings – tending to bathroom needs, hanging up clothes, tying shoes and zipping coats, and returning toys and tools at pick-up time.
11. To express themselves in writing and art.

## **Parental Involvement**

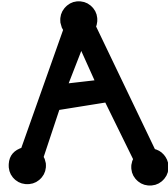
Parental involvement and commitment is of great value to your child's Christian education at SCCS. It is imperative that we work together, communicating any thoughts, ideas, and feelings.

We welcome your participation within our program through visits, conferences, participating as room parents, and in sharing your time and talents.

### **Things you as parents can do to enrich your child's time in Kindergarten...**

1. Spend time together reading stories, encouraging him/her to express personal ideas through drawings, retellings, and other activities.
2. Help your child enjoy picture books and tell your the story from the pictures.
3. Encourage your child to share their toys with others and put them away after play is finished.
4. Teach your child to lave his/her shoes and use zippers properly.
5. Teach your child to use the restroom and sink properly.
6. Provide encouragement in the things accomplished, even though they might not be equal to adult standards.
7. Teach your child to write his/her first name using a capital letter for the first letters of the name and the remaining lowercase format.
8. Teach your child to recognize the colors of God's creation.
9. Give responsibilities to your child to let him/her feel success.

It is through partnership of home, school, and church that our educational program for your child is strengthened!



## Absent Notes

Of course we want your child to be present each and every day of school! However, in the event that your child will be absent, we ask that you either call the school office or send an email as soon as possible. Also, if your child requires an early dismissal from school, please contact the office and/or the classroom teacher via note or email.

## Academics

Kindergarten students will be coming to school Monday through Thursday. We also dismiss at 2:00 every Wednesday for teachers to have professional development time.



## Birthdays

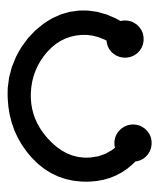
**Birthday Treats:** Birthdays are special to our Kindergartners! We love to celebrate this special event. If your family chooses to send in a treat to share, we ask that you ensure there is one for each child. The treats can be anything small (cookie, popcorn, pencils, stickers, bubbles, etc.). Remember, our school has enforced a nut-free policy – please ensure the treats do not contain nuts.

**Summer Birthdays:** Some children never get a chance to celebrate their birthdays while at school since they are born in the summer (or over a holiday break). If this is the case with your child, you can decide whether he/she prefers to celebrate it near the end of school (May) or on their ½ birthday.

## Bus

During the first two days of school, volunteers ride on each bus to ensure your child gets off at his/her appropriate stop.

A permission slip from the office is needed if your child is going to be riding a different bus. This is only allowed for a change in daycare, not play-dates with friends.



## Color Days

In the fall we celebrate all of God's beautiful colors by dressing in each color and learning how to read and write each color word. We will let you know when to have your child wear each color. At the end of our study, we will celebrate all of the colors with a rainbow day!

## Counselor

Our school counselor, Ms. Crista Smidt, is a valuable member of the staff at SCCS. She will be visiting our classroom a few times a year to help us learn to follow God's path in making good choices and how to be friends with others.

## Curriculum

Our curriculum follows the Iowa Core Curriculum standards and other national standards:  
Reading Curriculum: Treasures by Macmillan/Mc-Graw Hill

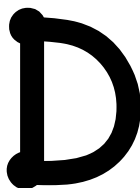
Handwriting Curriculum: Handwriting Without Tears

Writing Curriculum: Units of Study in Opinion, Information, and Narrative Writing by Lucy Calkins

Math Curriculum: KinderMath

Bible Curriculum: Christian Schools International

Science/Social Studies: tied into the season/holiday of the year

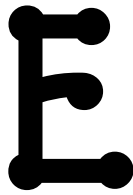


## Dismissal

Sioux Center Christian School dismisses at 3:00pm and 2:00pm every Wednesday.

## Director of Learning

Mrs. Lisa Mouw is the Director of Learning. We encourage students to see her as a leader who cares for them and the school. Feel free to contact her if you have any questions or concerns at 722-0777.



## Emergency Cards

It is very important for the school to have up-to-date emergency contacts in the case of illness, etc. Please include your family email address (if applicable) if you wish to receive Kindergarten communication.



## Field Trips

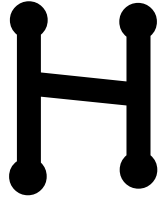
We will go on various little trips throughout the school year to tie into a theme we are studying at the current time (ex. walk to the park, leaf hunt, safety sign hunt, etc.).

Our large field trip is to the Country Apple Orchard in Harrisburg, SD. Room parents will be the only parents allowed to attend.



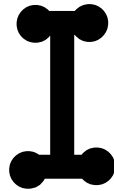
## Gym

The students will attend gym class with Mrs. Shelley Gesink twice a week. During this time, the children will develop fundamental skills, play games, and practice good sportsmanship. Please note that children will need to wear tennis shoes to participate in activities.



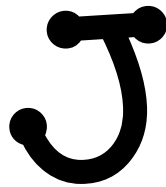
## Head of School

Mr. Josh Bowar is our Head of School. We encourage students to see him as a leader who cares for them and the school. Feel free to contact him if you have any questions or concerns at 722-0777.



## Illness

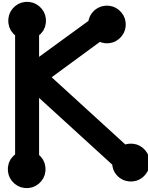
The question of when to keep your child home from school is often a difficult one, especially when decisions must be made first thing in the morning. It is important, however, to keep your child home if he/she is ill. This helps to make them more comfortable and prevents others from becoming ill. Children function more effectively in the classroom when they are healthy. In order for your child to come back to school, the policy at SCCS states he/she must be fever free and off medication for 24 hours. If you have any further questions, please call our school nurse, Mrs. Stacy Schaap, at 722-0777.



## Journals

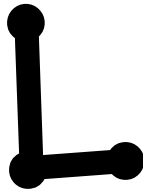
Writing is an essential element we incorporate into our daily routine. Your child will be allowed to take home his/her Kindergarten journal at the end of the school year.





## Keep Updated

Our weekly newsletters and monthly calendar will help your family keep updated on classroom events. Newsletters are sent via email unless a hard copy is requested. A monthly calendar will also be sent home which will feature general topics that will be covered throughout the month. In addition, check out our classroom website(s) which also feature important information (ex. memory verses, etc.).



## Library

Kindergarten goes to library once a week. They are allowed to check out one book each week to take home and enjoy. Our Media Specialist is Mrs. Jill Van Soelen.

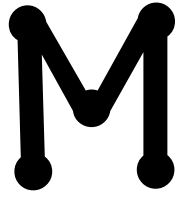
## Lunch

Kindergarten students eat in the cafeteria from 11:00-11:20

The option of taking a cold lunch from home is also acceptable. However, please choose one option or other (cold lunch or school lunch) as this can become difficult for the cooks in determining the lunch count for each meal. Sioux Center Christian is a nut-free school, so any school lunches or snacks need to be nut-free.

We encourage each child to try just one small bite/lick of each food.

You are always welcome to eat lunch with us! The cost for an adult meal can either be paid with cash or taken from your child's lunch account. Please contact the office the day before your planned visit.

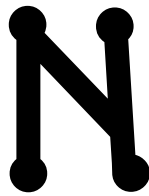


## Math

Math is an important part of the curriculum within Kindergarten, especially since it demonstrates the power and majesty of our Creator and the orderly world He created. The students will be involved in various hands-on activities. Once a chapter is covered, we will review the concepts learned throughout the course of the year.

## Music

The children will attend music class twice a week with Mrs. Jill Friend.

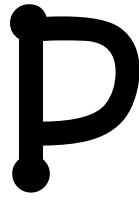


## Nurse

Mrs. Stacy Schaap is our school's registered nurse. Her hours at school are from 9:45-2:15 each day. She assists with everything ranging from bumps and bruises to tummy aches and is vital member of our school community.

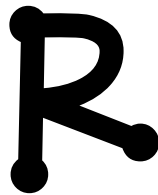
## Notes from Home

If your child is going home by a different means (ex. Student who usually rides the bus is riding home with a friend), we need a note/email. If there is no note/email provided, we have to place your child on the bus.



## Parent Teacher Conferences

We hold parent teacher conferences twice a year. Once in the fall and once in the spring. This is a great time to sit down with parents to discuss how their child is learning and growing through out the year.



## Recess

The children have three scheduled recesses during the day, weather permitting.

9:45-10:00 11:30-11:55

The afternoon recess will either be 1:25-1:40 or 1:45-2:00 depending on specials.

## Report Cards

Report cards are sent home with your child every trimester. These reports reflect the progress your child made in achieving various Kindergarten objectives.

## Room Parents

Parents interested in being a room volunteer are encouraged to sign up at registration. Each classroom is assigned three moms/dads who assist in planning various events throughout the year. Room parents also come along on our field trip.

# S

## Science and Social Studies

The children will be learning about God's wonderful world through exploration and observation in and outside of our classroom. Many topics will be covered such as seasons, weather, holidays, as well as ways of being stewards of God's creation.

## Snacks

Children enjoy having a snack during the day, especially in a busy day of school! Children may have a snack during the first and/or last recess. Remember, our snacks must be peanut/nut free.

## Supplies

The Kindergarten supply list will be posted online at our school website: [www.siouxcenterchristian.com](http://www.siouxcenterchristian.com) as well as in the local stores. Throughout the year, please ask your child about his/her supplies, which often need to be replenished, especially after Christmas.

# T

## Teach for Transformation

Teaching for Transformation binds together all subjects and activities, providing a framework for the education we provide and what we want graduates to be. It is our goal that our students will see God's fingerprints in everything that is taught, understand God's story of redemption, and see their role in His redemptive story. See the school website for more information.

## Toys

In our classrooms, we provide children with the opportunity to engage in using various materials. It is important for your child to grow in his/her independence. Therefore, we ask that your child keep his/her toys/comfort items at home vs. bringing them to school to play with at recess

## Trailblazer

At SCCS, we are TRAILBLAZERS. Being a Trailblazer means we are working toward being who God wants us to be and living our lives for Him. This means not only respecting others in shared spaces but also finding and using our gifts and talents while we work and play.



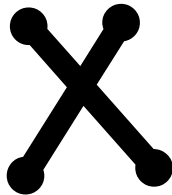
## Volunteers

We are always looking for a helping hand in or outside of our classroom! We will let you know whether in person or in our newsletters of upcoming events that could use additional hands. Also, special talents or abilities are always enjoyable to share with the children – just let us know what you would like to share and we will arrange it!



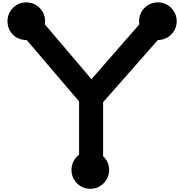
## Website

Check with your child's teacher for a classroom website. The school's website is [www.siouxcenterchristian.com](http://www.siouxcenterchristian.com).



## eXtra Clothes

Whether it is a large spill from lunch, a messy art project, or another type of accident... being prepared is always helpful! We suggest packing a change of clothes (especially pants and underwear) discreetly in your child's backpack. Soiled clothes will be sent home in a plastic bag, so you'll know if the "just in case" clothes need to be replaced. Thank you!



**You!**

You are your child's first teacher and we need your help to make his/her Kindergarten year a success. Strong family-school partnerships build strong learners.



*Zzzzzzzz....*

Please make sure your child gets enough sleep at night. Our day is quite busy and packed full of fun and discovery!





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SERVING GOD AND OTHERS AS WE WORK AND PLAY