

NURSERY

Children in the Nursery program learn through a wide variety of hands-on experiences, and each child is able to grow and learn at his or her own pace in a safe, stimulating environment. The Nursery curriculum uses a thematic approach. Monthly themes are integrated into various academic subjects including reading, math, social studies, science, art, and music. This approach leads students to see connections between topics and be fully immersed in learning. The Nursery program teaches students foundational academic skills alongside life skills such as cooperation, caring for self and others, and learning how to be a positive member of the classroom community. Through carefully planned activities, play, and modeling, the teachers constantly teach and reinforce oral language skills and foster social-emotional development.

Class Size and Communication with Parents

The 6:1 student/teacher ratio in our Nursery program allows the teachers to understand and meet the needs of each child. Teachers use ongoing informal assessment to monitor student progress and to tailor their instruction to match the level and interests of the student. Over the course of the year, the teachers partner with parents and have frequent communication about the curriculum and student progress through detailed monthly newsletters, parent/teacher conferences, written reports, and informal conversations at drop-off or pick-up. Teachers and parents work together to foster strong, positive home-school connections.

Program Hours

The Nursery program runs Monday - Thursday from 8am-12pm and Friday from 8am-12:15pm. The children have the option of staying for Lunch



Bunch Monday-Thursday until 3pm for an additional fee. During Lunch Bunch, the children eat lunch and then participate in the following activities: **Art** on Monday, **Dance/Movement** on Tuesday, **Yoga** on Wednesday, and **Soccer** on Thursday. Children entering Nursery need to be toilet trained and independent in the bathroom.

Schedule

The schedule and routines are an important part of the Nursery curriculum.

These are introduced on the first day of school and followed throughout the year. This predictable structure helps children adapt to school and feel a sense of security. Over the course of the day, the children have opportunities to learn through whole group activities, small group activities, and independent exploration.

HERE IS A TYPICAL SCHEDULE:

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| 8:00AM..... | Arrival |
| 8:00-9:30AM..... | Discovery Time and Projects |
| 9:30-9:40AM..... | Clean-up |
| 9:40-10:00AM..... | Snack |
| 10:00-10:30AM..... | Special Class
(Physical Education, Spanish, Music, or Library) |
| 10:30-11:30AM..... | Group Time |
| 11:30-12:00PM..... | Outside Play |
| 12:00PM..... | Dismissal |
- During Discovery Time, the children choose freely among several open-ended activities in various learning centers such as the art center, the writing center, the science table, the math and manipulative table, the book corner, the dramatic play center, the block corner and dollhouse, and the sand table. During this time, the teachers circulate to work in small groups or one-on-one with children.
 - Each child participates and learns to put away materials and care for their environment.
 - Each week, two children help the teachers get the snack from the kitchen and pass out the cups, napkins, and food. The teachers foster as much independence as possible, and snack is a positive time for socializing and practicing appropriate table manners.
 - Group meeting time includes weather and calendar activities, singing, read-alouds, and sharing and discussion.



Special Classes: Physical Education

The Nursery students attend Physical Education class two times per week. During class, the children learn to move safely and efficiently around the gym as they practice and perform a variety of motor skills. Through games and activities, the students begin to develop spatial and body awareness, coordination, and cooperative skills.

Music

The Nursery students attend Music class two times per week. Using the *First Steps in Music* curriculum, students focus on Pitch Exploration, Fragment Songs, Simple Songs, Arioso, Movement Explorations, Movement for Form and Expression, Beat Motion Activities, and SongTales. Students also use songs, chants, and stories to explore a variety of percussion instruments. The Nursery students participate in a musical performance with Pre-Kindergarten in the winter and spring.



Library

The Nursery students attend Library once a week. They enjoy stories that are related to a variety of themes and learn to develop active listening and discussion skills. The students are introduced to the concept of borrowing and proper book care. Games and activities are related to the books read aloud, and during book selection time, students choose from a developmentally appropriate selection of fiction and informational titles.

Spanish

The Nursery students attend Spanish once a week. The children are introduced to the Spanish language in a supportive, engaging environment. Music, movement, stories and play activities are incorporated to foster the student's enthusiasm for learning Spanish.

Science Lab

Several times during the course of the year, Nursery students participate in laboratory experiences that are linked to the Nursery curriculum that are led by Jane Powell of OmniLearn Corporation and her team of scientists. Some lab topics include Owl Pellet Dissection, Sink and Float, and Germs.

