

Preschool Curriculum

PreK 3

In the early learning classroom, students begin their journey into the reading process through exposure to stories, songs, and finger plays. Students are given many rich opportunities to aid in the development of both their receptive and expressive language skills. During this time, letters and initial sounds are introduced. Correct pencil grip is emphasized, as children learn to write letters, especially those appearing in their name.

Mathematical investigations occur through observations, working with manipulatives, and exploration of an object's attributes. In addition to rote counting, children begin to explore one-to-one correspondence, conservation, and spatial and time relationships.

Self-awareness, cooperative play, and pro-social skills are emphasized. Through group activities and unit projects, students will develop self-confidence, self-awareness, and emerging citizenship skills.

Art

The PreK 3 art class is thirty minutes long twice a week. The students experience drawing, painting, printmaking, cutting, folding, clay building, and crafts.

Library

The mission of the library is to encourage curiosity and to support instruction through collaboration with classroom teachers. Students in PreK 3 attend regular library lessons. Our youngest students enjoy story time while learning how to use a library.

Music

The PreK 3 music class serves as an early exposure to singing, listening, instrument exploration, creative movement, and dramatization. The PreK 3 curriculum encourages the young child to engage in the musical world while building focused attention, social skills, and self-confidence.

Physical Education

Classes meet two times a week for twenty minutes each period. Children will be introduced to several locomotor activities to develop gross motor skills. Sharing, playing well with others, and taking turns are also reinforced in this class.

Science

Children are naturally inquisitive, and science helps foster this innate curiosity in our young learners. At this age, our students get the opportunity to explore the world around them through regular science centers in their classrooms and periodic trips to our lower school science lab. Observational and inference skills are emphasized in this early phase of scientific learning. In addition to classroom and science lab activities, Smithgall Woods' staff regularly visits throughout the year, providing fantastic presentations and experiences for our students.

Spanish

Through songs, games, finger plays, and dance, students will develop an appreciation for the Spanish language. They will learn simple words and phrases as they begin to express themselves in Spanish.