

Curriculum Guide

PRESCHOOL

The preschool program at Genesis allows students to receive a well-rounded introduction to learning. The program is centered in the belief that a caring environment, creativity, and a positive self-image are essential to a child's development.

Academic Program

Instruction in academic readiness skills, art, music, physical education, science, and an introduction to computers are all part of the “Genesis” exposure to learning.

The overall goal of the preschool's academic program is to introduce the child to the alphabet, numbers, colors, shapes, and readiness skills. Our Little Owls program (two-year-olds) emphasizes social skills, listening skills, and motor skills, and prepares the students for the PreKI program by introducing letters, numbers, shapes, and colors. The specific goals in the PreKI program (3-year-olds) are to enable the students to begin to recognize the capital letters of the alphabet, count in sequence to ten or above, begin to recognize numerals one through ten, and to become acquainted with the basic shapes and colors.

The specific goals in the PreKII program (4-year-olds) extend to recognize the alphabet letters in and out of sequence, printing capital and lower case letters, counting one to thirty or more, recognizing numerals one through twenty out of sequence and number concepts one through ten, rhyming words and opposites. Many of the skills are taught to students through the use of music, art, computer activities, and games.

Reading and Math Readiness

The program for the preschool classes, centers on a “letter and number of the week”, and is presented through audio, visual, oral and written means, and “hands-on” activities. In the PreKII classes, daily concentration is placed on phonics and vocabulary, as words beginning with the week's letter sound are discussed and written on the board. The students also practice writing the letter and number on the chalkboard and on practice sheets. All the classes enjoy art projects and cooking classes involving the letter and number of the week. The activities emphasize a “hands-on” approach, which involves the use of assorted materials such as chalk, Popsicle sticks, plants, play dough, and yarn. Counting aloud is usually done as a daily routine during the morning openings. Many of our students are able to count beyond the basic goals set for the classes, so our review usually goes beyond those goals to challenge the faster students. Flashcards, manipulatives, flannelboards, computer software, and numerous assorted counting objects are all used for teaching math concepts. Daily calendar discussions also reinforce recognition of numbers one through thirty.

Social Interaction

A generous amount of social interaction is provided for the preschooler such as

housekeeping play, role-play, and “make believe”. In the PreKII classes, “center” times are scheduled so that the children have the chance to choose a fun activity to work on individually. Puzzles, board games, computer activities, and flashcards are available to the children during “center” times.

A scheduled outdoor playtime and snack are part of the daily routine. During this time, the children have an opportunity to participate in outdoor games.

Enrichment Activities

Storytime

Storytime is a daily occurrence in all classes, as well as during before and after school care. Weekend experiences are usually discussed on Monday mornings, giving the children a chance to speak to their entire class. “Show and Tell” is scheduled once a week to encourage “sharing” time.

Music

The Preschool music program provides students with the opportunity to sing, dance, and “act out” to different musical arrangements. The musical selection includes seasonal songs, children’s songs, folk songs, alphabet songs, number songs, and traditional nursery rhymes. Music periods are conducted weekly with each class session lasting thirty minutes. Of course, music is always part of the daily activities at Genesis. The students also have fun participating in special school events such as the Holiday and Spring Shows.

Physical Education

Genesis children also enjoy participation in a physical education program. Gross motor skills, coordination, good sportsmanship, and cooperation are all skills that are reinforced through tumbling, organized sports, various exercises, and group play.

Field Trips/Guest Appearances

During the year, the preschool students enjoy various field trips to such places as Old McMickey’s Farm, grocery stores, and local parks. Traveling theater groups, the Fire Department, and various guests provide exposure to the arts and community resources.

Library

Literature and reading experiences are emphasized daily. The preschool teachers try to instill a “love of reading” during class time and during weekly visits to the library. Each class also participates in the Pizza Hut “Book It” program.

Friday Folders

Parents will have an opportunity to review their child's weekly papers and tests in the Friday folders. Daily assignments, tests, notes, and reminders are sent home every Friday. The folders are signed by a parent and returned the following Monday. A space is provided for parent or teacher comments.

KINDERGARTEN

At the heart of the philosophy at Genesis is our deep commitment to the development of the unique qualities of each child in an atmosphere of respect and understanding. We believe that an important goal of the school is to promote the excitement of learning and the development of independent thinking. The Kindergarten program offers a traditional

approach to teaching the academics. The students are exposed to an accelerated curriculum that emphasizes not only academic development but emotional, social, and physical development as well. Small class sizes, and the wealth of talent and academic experience of the faculty, enable students to receive individual attention. In addition to the following curriculum, the children enjoy an outdoor recess, storytime, computer, and workshop time.

Reading

Open Court Reading and Writing is the phonics-based series used at Genesis. The children are introduced to new sounds and words through a story that links sounds and spellings. The children apply the decoding strategies to blend these into words and sentences. Through dictation, they also practice sound-spelling relationships by writing sounds in isolation, in words, and in sentences. By the last interim, the kindergarten children complete a series of twelve storybooks. They are also writing their own stories independently.

Math

The children are challenged in the hands-on approach to mathematical skills. The concepts of basic addition, subtraction, patterns, counting, and printing numbers through 100, and place value (ones and tens) are among the skills being mastered.

Social Studies and Science

The children participate in many experiments to help them understand the world and its elements. Plant life, animals, and the planets are some of the topics covered. In addition, the children learn about the United States and some of the unique qualities each state offers.

Enrichment Classes and Programs

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Conferences

The Genesis administration and faculty believe that involved, informed parents are better able to help their children master the accelerated curriculum. Parents are encouraged to meet and talk with teachers before or after school. Two formal conferences are scheduled yearly.

FIRST GRADE

At the heart of the philosophy at Genesis is our deep commitment to the development of the unique qualities of each child in an atmosphere of respect and understanding. We believe that an important goal of the school is to promote the excitement of learning and the development of independent thinking. The Kindergarten program offers a firm

foundation in phonics, reading, math, science, and social studies. The class size is limited to twenty students, which encourages an atmosphere of respect, individual attention, and self-motivation.

Language Arts

Phonics

All basic sounds and sound spellings in the English language are presented and reviewed. Use of these sounds in words, sentences, and original composition is taught. Word line and sentence papers are sent home weekly to practice until fluent. Phonics Review Workbooks are completed in Interim IV.

Spelling

Twenty-five lessons are taken from workbook Word Lists and eight lessons are taken from the First Grade List for the Private School Spelling Bee. Spelling words are sent home on Monday and students are tested on Friday.

Reading

Two textbooks and correlating workbooks are used throughout the year. Books are sent home weekly for extra oral reading practice to increase fluency and expression. Oral exercises, workbook pages, and activity sheets evaluate comprehension and word study skills. Book reports begin in October and continue monthly.

Handwriting

The manuscript alphabet, both upper and lower case, is practiced and mastered daily. Particular attention is paid to correct formation of letters, holding pencils properly, and neatness.

Math

Emphasis is placed on understanding basic concepts of addition and subtraction. Memorization of addition and subtraction facts through eighteen is stressed. Value and use of money (pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters) is taught. Telling time to the hour and half hour and at five-minute intervals is presented. Place value (ones, tens, and hundreds) and basic measurement skills (inches, centimeters, cups, pints, quarts, and gallons) are taught. Story problems are also introduced.

Science

The units studied include classification of Living and Non-living things, Plants, Animals, and the Solar System. Various projects and audiovisual aids are used to enrich each unit.

Social Studies

The units studied in the Social Studies program include School, Town and Country, City and Suburb, and All Around the Big World. There is an emphasis on map skills relating to each area studied.

Monthly Activity Books

These books provide challenge and practice activities relating to math, language arts, holidays, countries of the world, and an author of the month. They also include extra credit activities, which may be completed at home.

Enrichment Classes and Programs

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Conferences

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SECOND GRADE

At the heart of the philosophy at Genesis is our deep commitment to the development of the unique qualities of each child in an atmosphere of respect and understanding. We believe that an important goal of the school is to promote the excitement of learning and the development of independent thinking. The Second Grade program offers a firm foundation in reading skills, grammar, composition, handwriting, math, science, and social studies. Class sizes are limited to twenty students. The Second Grade students are encouraged to develop their own personal work ethics, which they can rely on as they progress at Genesis. An experienced staff and an accelerated curriculum help Genesis students reach their highest potential.

Language Arts

Phonics

All basic sounds and sound spellings in the English language are presented and reviewed. A phonics practice workbook is completed by the second interim. Word lines in conjunction with the phonics practice workbook are done weekly.

Spelling

A phonics-based program is used to reinforce all sounds taught in the phonics program. Emphasis is also placed on word meaning and use of words in sentences. Second and third grade Spelling Bee lists are used to offer extra challenge and extra credit. Words and sounds are introduced on Monday, a pre-test is given on Thursday, and a final test is given on Friday.

Reading

The Reading program consists of two textbooks with correlated workbooks. Comprehension, reference skills, word meaning, and literature skills are reinforced through workbook pages, oral discussions, activity sheets, and S.R.A. Reading Labs.

English

Daily lessons are taught in sentence structure, capitalization and punctuation, grammar and usage through the use of writing skill sheets and board work.

Composition

Basic skills in note taking and paragraph writing are introduced through the reading workbook. A daily journal is practiced with given titles and subjects. Special journals are

written at seasonal times of the year.

Handwriting

The manuscript alphabet, both upper and lower case, is reviewed and practiced. Introduction, practice, and mastery of the cursive alphabet, both upper and lower case letters, takes place during the third and fourth interim. Particular attention is given to the correct formation of individual letters and also how cursive letter join and flow to produce neat and legible writing.

Math

During Second Grade, addition and subtraction facts one through eighteen are mastered. Place value through the hundreds, addition and subtraction of two and three digit numbers with training is taught. Time and money skills are mastered. Geometry, graphing, fractions, and standard metric measurements are introduced as well as multiplication concepts and computation through factors of five. Problem solving strategies are introduced, reinforced, and mastered.

Science

The Science units studied in Second Grade include Plants and Animals, Growth, Air and Weather, and Measurement and Sound. Various projects, experiments, and audiovisual aids are used to enrich each unit.

Social Studies

The Social Studies program consists of the following:

Unit 1 How People Depend on Others - business and family relationships

Unit 2 Knowing Your Family - ancestral relationships, people from other countries and their traditions

Unit 3 Living in Our Country - our symbols, what they represent, the meaning of citizenship, the voting process and our system of government

Unit 4 People Who Make a Difference - special citizens of the United States who made a difference in our country's history and growth

Each unit teaches and reinforces mapping skills.

Homework

Homework is the means by which a student practices what is learned in the classroom each day. Homework is assigned Monday through Thursday.

Enrichment Classes and Programs

Friday Folders

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Conferences

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meet and talk with teachers before or after school. Two formal conferences are scheduled yearly.

THIRD GRADE

At the heart of the philosophy at Genesis is our deep commitment to the development of the unique qualities of each child in an atmosphere of respect and understanding. We believe that an important goal of the school is to promote the excitement of learning and the development of independent thinking. The Third Grade program begins to prepare the student for higher-level cognitive skills. The Third Grade students benefit from a firm foundation in reading, grammar, composition, handwriting, math, science, and social studies. The teachers in grades three through five prepare the students in becoming independent learners. Teachers encourage students to develop personal work ethics, study skills, and a strong sense of self worth on which they can rely as they progress at Genesis.

Language Arts

Spelling

The spelling program consists of thirty-six spelling lessons. Each lesson consists of four pages of phonics, dictionary skills, and Cloze activities. Spelling words are introduced on Monday, a spelling practice test is administered on Thursday, and the final test is given on Friday. Spelling words are pretested on Monday. Students demonstrating mastery of that week's list (100%) are given an enrichment list.

English

Students are taught sentence structure, parts of speech, capitalization and punctuation, grammar, and usage. These skills are taught through an English textbook and related practice sheets.

Composition

Technical aspects of writing taught in English are applied. Students are taught paragraph construction, brainstorming, and use of webbing, which leads to original compositions.

Handwriting

The cursive alphabet, both upper and lower case, is practiced and mastered. Students are expected to complete class work in cursive during the second semester.

Reading

Comprehension and reference skills are reinforced through oral discussion, workbook pages, activity sheets, comprehension sheets, SRA Labs, and Accelerated Reader.

Math

Specific content areas in Third Grade include mastery of addition and subtraction facts through eighteen. Multiplication and division facts through the five family with exposure and practice through the nine family are also mastered.

Content areas also include: subtraction with and without regrouping, metric and English measurement, value of money (pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and paper money/making change), place value through hundred thousands, multiplications with one digit multipliers, division with one digit divisors, fractions, and decimals. Story problems

are given extensive practice, and concepts are used in real life math, i.e., banking, shopping, etc.

Science

The scientific method is taught and reinforced through the completion of a science project.

Areas covered include: animals, food chains and food webs, magnets and electricity, states of matter, machines, the water cycle, the solar system, and the moon.

Geography

Topics covered include maps and globes, landforms (mountains, rivers, coastlines, grasslands, and deserts), Native Americans, the arrival of Europeans, westward expansion, American government, farming and food production, transportation, trade, holidays and symbols, and taking care of the environment.

Students will research a foreign country by planning a vacation to that country. Students will prepare a written report and visual aids to accompany the report.

Homework

Homework is assigned Monday through Thursday night. Assignments are geared toward reinforcing concepts taught in class as well as to promote study skills. Studying for tests is included. Students are also asked to read for fifteen minutes each night.

Enrichment Classes and Programs

Friday Folders

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Conferences

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FOURTH GRADE

At the heart of the philosophy at Genesis is our deep commitment to the development of the unique qualities of each child in an atmosphere of respect and understanding. We believe that an important goal of the school is to promote the excitement of learning and the development of independent thinking. The Fourth Grade offers an accelerated curriculum in a traditional teaching environment. Students are encouraged to develop higher level thinking skills, which will make them independent learners.

Language Arts

Spelling

The spelling program consists of thirty-six spelling lessons. Each lesson consists of four pages of phonics, dictionary skills, Cloze activities, and other related spelling skills such as vocabulary, word structures, and affixes. Spelling words are pretested on Monday, and a final test is given on Friday.

Reading

Vocabulary, inferences, figures of speech, and fact or opinion are a few of the content areas covered in the reading series in the Fourth Grade. Emphasis on poetry, stories about different cultures, and studying world events help to develop the critical thinking stage. The accompanying workbook reinforces comprehension, vocabulary skills, context clues, and other vocabulary skills, as does the SRA Lab. Students are asked to read twenty minutes independently each night, and write one book report a month.

English

The curriculum will concentrate on grammar, sentence structure, usage, and language mechanics. Each of these aspects will be reinforced through workbook activities, enrichment activities, and written work in general.

Composition

Students are taught several aspects of creative writing such as description, character, and setting through various literary examples. Personal response, folk tale, biography, and poetry are some of the genres used.

The technical aspects of writing, as well as paragraph construction, brainstorming, and webbing will be reflected in these writing activities. The writing process is emphasized throughout.

Handwriting

The cursive alphabet, both upper and lower case, as well as maintaining manuscript, is practiced and mastered.

Math

Addition and subtraction, basic multiplication facts, division facts, and clock reading are reviewed. New concepts include fractions, double-digit multiplication, double-digit division, geometry, word problems, decimals, measurement, and place value. These are reinforced through the use of practice, reteaching, dittos, enrichment activities, and the use of the SRA Math Lab.

Science

In-depth units on the human body, planets, ocean life, rainforest, rocks and minerals, animal adaptation, and behavior are covered. Textbooks, worksheets, workbooks, and hands-on science labs are used.

The scientific method is taught and reinforced through the completion of a science project.

Florida History

A Florida History textbook contains units on exploration, early Indians, modern Florida, the Civil War, the State Capital, song, bird, animal, etc., and a unit on Florida Government. Reinforcement is through workbooks, crossword puzzles, worksheets, and research projects.

Homework

Homework is limited to forty minutes per night. Assignments are a review of work

already covered in class. Reviewing for tests is included in homework. Students are also required to do twenty minutes of reading each night.

Enrichment Classes and Programs

Friday Folders

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Conferences

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FIFTH GRADE

At the heart of the philosophy at Genesis is our deep commitment to the development of the unique qualities of each child in an atmosphere of respect and understanding. We believe that an important goal of the school is to promote the excitement of learning and the development of independent thinking. The Fifth Grade offers an accelerated curriculum in a traditional teaching environment. Students are encouraged to develop higher level thinking skills, which will make them independent learners. In preparation for Middle School, Fifth Grade students receive instruction in grammar, composition writing skills, drawing inferences, and building critical thinking skills.

Language Arts

Spelling

The spelling program consists of thirty-six spelling lessons. Each lesson consists of four pages of phonics, dictionary skills, Cloze activities, and other related spelling skills such as vocabulary, word structures, and affixes. Spelling words are pretested on Monday, and a final test is given on Friday.

All students are encouraged to participate in an annual Spelling Bee.

Reading

Emphasis will be placed on building vocabulary, practicing essential reading skills, critical thinking, and comprehension of literal and inferential questions. The text integrates higher-level thinking, writing, speaking, and listening. A study of various genres of writing is also included.

The accompanying workbook reinforces comprehension, vocabulary skills, context clues, and other vocabulary skills, as does the SRA Lab. Students are asked to read twenty minutes independently each night, and write one book report a month.

English

The curriculum will concentrate on grammar, sentence structure, usage, and language mechanics. Each of these aspects will be reinforced through workbook activities,

enrichment activities, and written work in general.

Composition

Students are taught several aspects of creative writing such as description, character, and setting through various literary examples. Personal response, folk tale, biography, and poetry are some of the genres used.

The technical aspects of writing, as well as paragraph construction, brainstorming, and webbing will be reflected in these writing activities. The writing process is emphasized throughout.

Math

Specific content areas in the Fifth Grade program are fractions, decimals, percentages, metric and standard measurement, ratios, and geometry. Estimation, number theory, and problem solving are an integral part of each chapter. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division will be reviewed with emphasis placed on quick, accurate computation. All areas will be reinforced through practice supplements.

Science

Several areas including Weather, The Rainforest, Constellations, and Classifying Matter will be investigated in the classroom. Each unit will be presented in a variety of ways, which may include demonstrations, experiments, or "hands-on" experience. Several projects will be required which may be done in groups or on an individual basis.

The scientific method is reinforced through the completion of a major project, which is then presented at the annual Science Fair.

Social Studies

The text provides an in-depth and exciting opportunity for the student to learn about the United States and American History. Emphasis will be placed on such topics as colonization, the American Revolution, Westward Expansion, on through to the Civil War. Basic map and globe reading skills as well as a study of regions, states, and capitals will also be accomplished.

Several group effort or individual projects will enhance this area of the Fifth Grade curriculum. A major research paper on an historical figure will also be required in the third term.

Homework

Homework is the means by which a student practices what is learned in the classroom each day. The assignments and practice supplements are geared toward reinforcing concepts taught as well as a way to promote study habits, organizational skills, and responsibility.

Space Camp, Florida

The culmination of a busy year in the Fifth Grade will be a weeklong visit the Space Camp in Titusville, Florida. The students learn about the Space Program, have an opportunity to fly a simulated space shuttle mission as a team, and visit NASA's Space Shuttle Launch Complex at the Kennedy Space Center.

Enrichment Classes and Programs

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Conferences

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ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Genesis School strives to offer each student a well-rounded education. In addition to a strong academic program of Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, students of the Elementary school are provided with a variety of enrichment classes. Music, Art, Physical Education, Computer, Library, and Spanish are offered to students in Kinder through Fifth Grade. In addition, students in Third and Fourth Grades are offered instruction in Sign Language. Reading and math instruction is enhanced in the classroom with SRA Reading and Math Labs.

Music

Students at Genesis School study music through singing and movement, beginning with folk songs and progressing to more involved compositions in the upper grades. Aural and visual comprehension of written music is introduced at the Kindergarten level, and reinforced by worksheets and activities at each level. Sight singing is taught, and students are introduced to music history and style in the upper grades.

Art

The art program provides students with many opportunities for creative expression. Through exposure to various art forms, the students are encouraged to explore their creative abilities and develop an appreciation for the arts. Our students are involved in local art shows and have won numerous awards for their participation.

Physical Education

Recognizing that physical activity is beneficial to both body and mind, Genesis School has instituted a program of regular physical activity for its elementary students. Kindergarten through Fifth Grade receives forty-five minutes of instructed physical activity once a week. Students participate in athletic activities designed to develop gross motor skills and coordination while fostering cooperation and good sportsmanship. The instructor uses a variety of activities, games, and visual aids throughout the year. Team sports such as whiffleball, flag football, kickball, basketball, soccer, and recreational games are used to accomplish the goals of the program. Each student is expected to participate and encourage each other. Students are not evaluated on the basis of physical activity. An attitude of respect toward the students is maintained at all times, and is expected from the students as well. Team sports are used to develop gross motor

skills, and encourage cooperation amongst the players. Individual sports such as tennis are taught to develop skills and player confidence.

The students also take part in the Annual Genesis School Olympics held every spring, and participate in the President's Physical Fitness Test.

Computer

Students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade visit the Computer Lab twice a week. The students learn how to use computers in a Windows environment, and receive instruction on how to use such programs as Microsoft Word, Excel, Paint, and various graphics programs. Through the use of the Internet, students are guided in researching and exploring the subject matter taught in the classroom.

In addition to the Computer Lab, every classroom is equipped with its own computer. Students are encouraged to use the teacher-selected software to complement their grade level curriculum, and the Accelerated Reader program is used throughout the year. Students in Fifth Grade have their own laptop computers, which are used in class to expand and enhance the existing curriculum. The laptops are equipped with integrated wireless cards, which allow the students to access the Internet from virtually anywhere on campus.

Library

The Media Center is bustling with activity. All classes make weekly visits to the library. Preschool classes enjoy story time as well as learn about book care, library manners, and procedures. PreKII classes select books to take home each week.

Students in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade visit the library weekly as a class to check out books and learn library skills. The library is open for individual study whenever the librarian or library assistant is present.

Library Programs and Activities

Accelerated Reader (Kinder - Fifth Grades)

Genesis School incorporates the Accelerated Reader Program in the weekly curriculum. Accelerated Reader is a computerized reading program that enhances reading comprehension. The students select from a list of book titles and complete comprehension questions on the classroom computer. What a fun way to read!

Sunshine State Reader (Third - Fifth Grades)

This statewide program encourages students to read specific books recommended by the state library system. Students then have a chance to vote on their favorite book for the Sunshine State Award.

Book Nook

A monthly publishing of "hot" book reviews written by First through Fifth Grade students.

Birthday Book Club

Parents and grandparents are invited to purchase books for the library in honor of their child or grandchild's birthday. A special bookplate is placed in the front of the chosen book.

Two other activities enjoyed by the students are the Semi-Annual Book Fair and the Summer Book Exchange.

Spanish

The Spanish program at Genesis is comprised of instruction in language, culture, and motivational thematic units. The four language skills: speaking, listening, reading, and writing are taught. An oral-aural approach will be used, and reading and writing will be introduced, especially in the Third through Fifth Grades. There is a high correlation of language study with elementary curriculum. Students will learn many aspects of the Spanish language through the use of stories, songs, dance, crafts, and games.

Sign Language

Sign Language is offered in Third and Fourth Grade. Students learn to use the manual alphabet, count, and sign through songs. Demonstrations using special equipment for the sensory impaired are presented in class. Class discussions involving the special needs of the sensory impaired are an integral part of the program. Students also have an opportunity to perform at various school functions.