

Cypress Christian School

K I N D E R G A R T E N

The following information is designed to give parents an overview of kindergarten at CCS.

The CCS Advantage:

- Kindergarten through 12th grade!
- Educational excellence since 1978
- Developmental Assessment provided for each student
- Comprehensive Kindergarten program features individualized, phonics-based reading
- Professionally staffed Learning Center which supports the Search & Teach program
- Accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
- Caring, committed Christian faculty who are degreed and professionally certified
- Weekly chapel time to experience worship and praise
- Kindergarteners experience music, art, library, computer lab and physical education
- Active parent involvement
- Thursday folders along with RenWeb and Thursday E-Letters provide communication between school, teachers, and parents.

Elementary Principal: Donna Stumbaugh

Mrs. Donna Stumbaugh is the Elementary Principal. Mrs. Stumbaugh has been a familiar face on campus for over 14 years. She has served as an elementary classroom teacher, enrichment coordinator, and Curriculum Director. She has worked with children at all levels and all abilities, from those with learning challenges to the gifted and talented. Mrs. Stumbaugh holds a Bachelor's of Science degree in Education from the University of Arkansas, a Master's degree from the University of Tulsa in Learning Disabilities. She holds certificates from the state in Gifted and Talented and Mid-management and is ACSI certified. She is truly committed to having each child discover who God has made them to be.

Teacher: Jan Beam Jan Beam graduated from Purdue University – with distinction – while earning a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and Speech Therapy. She has more than 19 years of experience teaching Kindergarten and first grade in Christian and public schools. Seven of those years have been at CCS! Additionally, Jan has taught classes on Children's Ministry at the South Texas Bible Institute and served as a Children's Pastor at her church. Having parented three children who are adults actively serving the Lord, Jan has learned that it is "easier to train a child than repair an adult." She enjoys teaching Kindergarteners the foundational principles in God's Word.

Teacher: Sonya Thelen Sonya Thelen graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Early Childhood Education. She completed her Masters degree in Educational Administration at the University of St. Thomas. Sonya has state certifications in Early Childhood, E.S.L., Special Education, and as Principal. She has taught various grade levels in her 8 years of teaching in both public and private schools. Sonya has four children of her own; two attend CCS and the other two are on the way! Sonya is passionate about teaching kindergarten and feels "called to love and nurture children" as she cultivates their natural curiosity and desire to learn. Sonya feels "God has given me the awesome responsibility of teaching children who He is and how to follow His way."

Conduct

Learning to live in the gentleness and truth of Christ is God's educational goal for every person. Such a goal is the highest calling of a Christian school. Teaching each student to act in loving and responsible ways is of lasting value to him/her. The expectations of students at Cypress Christian are set high to reflect a lifestyle that is distinctively Christ-like.

Curriculum

Bible	<u>Bible Truths</u> , Bob Jones University Press
Math	<u>Math Their Way</u> , (activities from Scott Foresman-Addison Wesley/ABeka)
Language	<u>6 + 1 Traits of Writing</u> , Ruth Culham
Reading	Leveled books/phonics-SRA Open Court Vocabulary-Worldly wise 3000 Book K
Handwriting	<u>Handwriting Without Tears</u>
History	<u>Social Studies</u> , Core Knowledge Sequence
Science	Core Knowledge Sequence
Art/Computer/Library/Music/PE/Spanish-in class	

Kindergarten Parent Perspectives

"Our daughter's teacher demonstrates in abundant ways that she is teaching kindergarten at CCS because she is called and gifted by God. She is creative, compassionate, knowledgeable, and transparent with the children. Our daughter knows that she's loved personally. Without reservation, we entrust our daughter to her teachers because of their experience, talent and Christian example."

"My son's teacher has worked with my husband and I to help reinforce things we are working on at home. She treats each child fairly and individually based on each child's gifting. She has really created an inviting and safe environment for learning. My son loves to come to school each day. What a wonderful way to start his school career!"

Inspirational Christian Culture

CCS families and visitors regularly comment on the unique and loving environment at Cypress Christian School. Students are taught by Christian educators about God's activity within human history. Biblical standards permeate classroom and office management. We seek to live out an exciting faith in very practical daily matters. God calls us to be Christ-like and to be transformed. For this reason, the application of Christian character is central to the goals of the school and all school personnel reflect Christ as they carry out the mission of the school. CCS students are often complimented for displaying Christ-like behavior whether on or off campus at all grade levels.

Professionally Qualified Faculty

The faculty and staff of CCS diligently focus on the school mission of '*equipping students to engage and impact their world for Jesus Christ*'. Each faculty member is a born-again, degreed and certified teacher that models spiritual and academic excellence.

Standardized Testing

Achievement tests are administered each spring to students in K-10th grade. The school participates in the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) testing program which employs the Stanford Achievement Test. The tests are sent to a testing agency and CCS receives narrative reports that are distributed to the parents. These reports compare our students with national norms and norms developed for ACSI schools.

Respect and Esteem

Philippians 2 instructs us to "consider one another as better than ourselves" or, in other words, to put others first. Protecting the dignity of all students is our aim.

Relationships

"When a man's ways please the Lord he causes even his enemies to be at peace with him." (Proverbs 16:7)
Clearly our relationship with Christ is the foundation for our relationships with others.

Honesty

We seek to have all students learn the value of honesty and the serious consequences of dishonesty. Lying, cheating, and stealing are considered very serious offenses and will be treated earnestly by the faculty and administration.

Uniform Dress Code

The purpose of the uniform dress code is to clarify a standard of appearance which will encourage our students to bring glory to God (I Corinthians 10:31) in an atmosphere free from distraction. Students are required to wear uniforms Monday-Thursday and may wear blue jeans and a Christian T-shirt on Fridays.

Academic and Athletic Organizations/Competitions:

- Sports through the YMCA
- ACSI Art Festival
- Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo Art

Sports (K-12th grades)

We will raise our banner high and continue the tradition of God-honoring sports programs at CCS. We are confident that this is His program and our walk as coaches, athletes, and fans must be pleasing in His sight. We make the commitment to honor God through athletics, in our mission to train our students to be the Godly leaders God has called them to be, and our values that will build a steadfast commitment to Jesus Christ and His Word. The coaches are prepared to work with each and every athlete, to teach teamwork, to work to win the prize, to teach them how to overcome obstacles, and to be a success.

