

# VILLAGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO EASE YOUR CHILD'S TRANSITION TO KINDERGARTEN

*(Kindergarten applicants must be five years old by December 2.)*

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Your child's birth seems like only moments ago. Yet here you are, on the brink of the most important journey of your life as the parent of a school-age child. The glorious efforts you have invested in your child's development, from diapers to toddler toys to preschool friendships, have prepared the way for an exciting new era in the life of your family.

Some parents wonder whether their children are truly ready for Kindergarten, which is a worthy concern. For Village Christian, Kindergarten represents the beginning of a strong academic career. As a National Blue Ribbon School, we strive to provide academic excellence, spiritual nurturing, and a community environment, all in a peaceful, secluded natural setting clearly designed by God to invite curiosity.

At Village Christian, your child will enjoy seeing the morning wildlife of rabbits, deer, and peacocks, and can glimpse grazing horses on the surrounding hills. As the day progresses, a world of knowledge will unfold, friendships will develop and flourish, and teachers will knowingly provide living examples of the love of Christ.

We share your desire to start your child in Kindergarten when he or she has the social, physical, and developmental skills to be ready to learn. Our 20-30 minute assessment, sensitively and gently conducted by our own Kindergarten teachers, examines these and other related skills while acquainting us with the needs and personality of your child. Our ultimate goal is to use this information to ensure a successful start in school.

For children who have benefited from loving and educational preschool environments, the results of the Kindergarten assessment typically indicate readiness and are beneficial in matching new students with teachers. During assessments, parents complete a questionnaire to provide their own perspective on their child's abilities. For children who are not quite ready, we offer our Junior Kindergarten as an alternative that will prepare the child to enter Kindergarten the following year. If necessary and if space remains available, we will even offer a second assessment in borderline situations.

If the assessment reveals that the child is not ready for our Kindergarten or Junior Kindergarten, various options will be suggested. Importantly, we firmly believe that a child who enters school before readiness will likely experience low self-esteem, which can have a lifelong impact. That is why we make every effort in our placement strategies to ensure student success.

The many choices for Kindergarten can be an overwhelming odyssey of mixed information. Please view us not only as a potential school for your child, but also as a resource to walk you through your decision process. Our goal is to help you make a wise choice for your child. The "Daily Life" information on the reverse side of this sheet may help you envision Village Christian life. As questions arise, please consult our Admissions Director at (818) 767-8382.

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DAILY LIFE IN VILLAGE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL'S KINDERGARTEN  
(Sample schedule. Days and times vary by room.)

8:18: The signal. The Kindergarten classes are signaled to line up outside their classrooms.

8:20: School officially begins.

8:45: Phonics and Literature Program. Village Christian utilizes the multi-sensory total language Spalding program in conjunction with the literature of Open Court. The morning focuses on the Spalding program, which introduces 54 phonograms that are practiced orally and through writing exercises. A Spalding-certified aide assists the teacher by monitoring the children as they write, ensuring they are on task and following directions. Quality literature is also read to the class (each Kindergarten classroom is furnished with its own classroom library). Twice a week, the children make a craft or treat that corresponds with the phonograms taught that week.

8:45-9:15: Music/P.E. Once a week the children go to music class with a music teacher or P.E., and then return to their Kindergarten classroom for continued instruction.

9:45: Recess. Children can participate in our juice program or bring juice from home before playing.

10:00: Rug Time: Daily Life Skills. The children learn a variety of daily life skills. They count by 5's, 10's and 2's, learn the days of the week and months of the year, graph the weather, and identify numbers and money. The teacher also reads aloud books and involves the class in oral learning games.

10:30: Small Group Math Exploration/Phonogram Reinforcement. The children divide into four small groups. Each group focuses on writing phonograms, math concepts, or various math manipulatives, including puzzles, pegboards, play dough, activity sheets, etc.

10:55: Lunch. The classes wash up and proceed to the tables where they eat under supervision. Children may purchase a hot fresh lunch or bring their own. After eating, they are taken to the playground for recess.

12:00: Bible. Bible is taught in the classroom everyday except Wednesday, when all Kindergarten classes are together in the Chapel. The children practice Bible verses and are introduced to character traits such as love, thankfulness, giving, obedience, patience, faith and others, through Bible stories and everyday stories. The children sing and listen to stories that illustrate the character traits they learn in class. Scruffy is a dog puppet featured every week in chapel to help them learn about themselves and their world.

12:30: Nap time/P.E./Spanish. The children rest on small rugs that are brought from home and stored in their cubbies. They listen to story tapes, and are taught to respect others and not disturb anyone while they listen. Once a week, nap time ends early at 12:55 and each class has P.E. at that time. Other days, nap time ends at 1:30. Spanish is taught once a week from 12:30 to 1:00. (Upper grades receive increased frequency of Spanish instruction.)

1:30: Computers/Art/Science/Social Studies. Subjects in this time slot rotate through the week. Technology and art are taught by school-wide specialists. Science and social studies units are taught by the Kindergarten teachers.

1:55: Recess.

2:15: Extending the Learning through the Arts. Twice a week, parents help with crafts in the classroom. The crafts are for our Social Studies units and are usually hung in the classroom to promote what we are studying. Once a week, two classes join together and view a video to reinforce the units we are studying.

2:55: End of school day. Children who ride the bus are escorted by Kindergarten teachers to the buses. Children enrolled in childcare are released onto the Kindergarten playground where they check in with the childcare teachers. Children who are picked up at the rooms stay with the classroom teacher until 3:05. Any child who has not been picked up by 3:15 will be taken to childcare until the parent arrives.