

St. Nectarios Orthodox Day School

Class Description 2020/21

Preschool-Two's (2 years old by September 1st)

Two year old children love playing with other children and learning new things. They are inquisitive and they learn as they play by collecting information from the environment and then connecting it to what they already know and understand about their world. In this class the children will learn how to follow simple directions, become comfortable in a variety of environments, participate in coordinated and group play with other children, respond to the feelings of others with caring behavior, verbalize their wants and needs, listen to stories and songs, repeat songs, rhymes, and finger plays, and help with clean up time. The children will also be exposed to a variety of art projects. They will use crayons, paint and paint brushes, markers, glue, and scissors all while having fun with other children and their teachers through play. Children are not required to be fully toilet-trained to attend this program. The preschool is a ***Peanut and Tree Nut Free Zone***.

Preschool-Three's (3 years old by September 1st)

Give your child a great start. The focus in this program is on the social, emotional, cognitive, and physical development of the child. Children will learn from their experiences in an environment that is planned in such a way as to allow the child to initiate and act on the environment through observation, discussion, and participation. Activities include circle time, alphabet activities, math, science, colors, shapes, pre-writing, religious education, fine and gross motor skills, and social/emotional readiness. Children are required to bring a sack lunch for this program. Child **MUST** be toilet trained to attend this program. The preschool is a ***Peanut and Tree Nut Free Zone***.

Pre-Kindergarten (4 years old by September 1st)

The Pre-Kindergarten program has been developed to meet the specific skills needed in preparing a child for kindergarten. Children will learn through active exploration in a carefully planned environment while teachers observe, encourage, and aid in the child's learning. Our program is challenging and ever-expanding. It includes readiness in reading, literature, writing, math, science, social science, art, music, religious education, fine and gross motor skills, social/emotional readiness, and kindergarten readiness skills. The literacy program that will be used is the Jolly Phonics program. Children are required to bring a sack lunch for this program. Child **MUST** be toilet trained to attend this program. The preschool is a ***Peanut and Tree Nut Free Zone***.



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Greek Language Option & Preschool Enrichment Option

The St. Nectarios Day School offers two enrichment options as part of your child's daily routine. Parents will be able to choose between the Greek Language option and the Preschool Enrichment option. Each option is a year-long commitment and is chosen at the time of registration. For children choosing the Greek Language option during their daily routine, the Preschool Enrichment option will be offered as an after school program for an additional fee.

The **Greek Language** option will begin to expose children to the language in an immersion environment. Simply hearing the language on a continuous basis in a natural and interactive setting will help your child to begin learning Greek just as they would English. The focus will be on developing language skills through the use of exploration, play, and creative/musical activities so that your child will be able to understand and respond to simple instructions and express himself/herself with basic language.

It is never too early for a child to begin learning a foreign language. Studies show that toddlers who begin learning a language not only become more proficient and develop a native pronunciation, but also increase their general cognitive abilities and sensitivity to social and cultural differences in their environment.

Learning the Greek language in particular has many benefits for children as they move through their academic careers. In addition to the language playing a crucial role in shaping the Greek Orthodox identity for children of Greek ancestry, its relevance can be found in many other subject areas that children will encounter in their school and professional lives, such as math, science, and language arts. Having a command of the language can greatly facilitate a child's ability to easily learn vocabulary and other concepts that are rooted in the Greek language.

The **Preschool Enrichment** option offers an extend enrichment experience based on the themes of the week in the areas of Social Science, Science, Math, Fine Arts, Reading, and Language Arts. Children will learn through problem solving, decision making, and discovery as they explore and experiment in the world around them. Your child will strengthen math skills and describe how things interact in their environment. Children will participate in different activities, including music and art. They will also have fun with phonics by learning and recognizing sounds that the letters make to form a word. Finally, your child will learn about different people, places, and things in the world around them all while integrating many important areas of learning and Kindergarten Readiness.



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Kindergarten Enrichment Program (5 years old by December 31st)

This program is a unique and exciting enrichment adventure focusing on the areas of Fine Arts, Social Studies, Science, Math, Reading, and Language Arts. With "hands-on" activities and curious minds children will learn through observation, discussion, problem-solving, decision-making, and discovery as they explore each of the five enrichment areas mentioned above. The children will regularly experiment with a new science theme which will strengthen their science and math skills. As children investigate earth and space, they will learn how to use different scientific tools, record information, practice basic safety skills, and describe how things interact in the environment around them. Fun topics such as holidays, building character, careers, transportation, and geography will help build an understanding of and enthusiasm for social studies. New authors will be discovered followed by different activities including music, drama, and art. With this introduction to children's literature your child will reinforce important reading and language arts skills. The program will also focus on a wonderful introduction to the fine arts. While the children learn about different artist and musicians they will work with a variety of art media and instruments. Large motor activities will be offered daily during playground and gym time.

The Kindergarten Enrichment Program will follow the attendance schedule of Community Consolidated School District 15. Please note that the Greek Orthodox Church calendar will be followed for Orthodox Easter. Children are required to bring a sack lunch for this program. ***The Day School is a Peanut and Tree Nut Free Zone.*** After receiving your child's Kindergarten placement from the school district in August, parents may choose morning or afternoon enrichment.

Busing is only available to children attending Kindergarten at Marion Jordan Elementary School and Hunting Ridge Elementary School. The child MUST reside within the Marion Jordan Elementary School and Hunting Ridge Elementary School attendance boundaries.

