

Everything You Want to Know About Kindergarten at Valley Christian Academy



Q: What types of kindergarten programs exist at Valley Christian Academy?

A: You have two choices: a full-day program which takes place from 8:30AM to 3:00PM every day, or an Optional intermediate program

Q: What is the Intermediate Program?

A: The intermediate program is designed to help students become familiar with school while “shortening” their day. In the program, students will attend half-day kindergarten on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday (8:30AM with pick-up at 11:20AM). On Tuesday and Thursday, the children stay for the full-day schedule (8:30AM-3:00PM). In the classroom, there is no difference between full-day students and intermediate students. Children in the intermediate program simply leave earlier three days of the week.

Q: How do I decide if my child should do intermediate or full-day kindergarten?

A: There is no specific formula or checklist to determine what is best for your child. Some factors to consider are maturity, how tired your child is after school, the amount of time away from home, adjustment to school routine, and family needs. Each child is unique, as is each family situation. The teachers will communicate to you during the year if they feel your child would benefit by switching from one program to the other.



Q: Will my child be prepared for first grade if they are in the intermediate program, and what is my child missing when they go home half-day?

A: Intermediate kindergarteners miss three afternoons a week. Reading and math are always taught in the morning, so your child will never miss the main lessons for the core subjects. Centers, story time, science, social studies, free play, and crafts are done in the afternoon. Depending on the day and the teacher, a few of these lessons will be missed.

Q: How many students are intermediate kindergarteners?

A: This percentage varies from year to year. However, approximately one quarter of the class leaves Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Q: What should my child wear to VCA?

A: Students are required to follow dress code guidelines for the school year which available through the office. In the main hallways is the area to find clothes donated by families after their children have outgrown their uniforms. Kindergarten students do not need to wear belts and do not change for gym class.

Q: What about transportation to and from school?

A: VCA does not transport any of its own students. About three-quarters of the VCA families take advantage of the public school bussing offered in their local communities. There is also a good networking of carpooling among parents. For bussing information, check directly with your local district to determine pick-up and drop-off times and locations for your child.



Q: Do you have snack time?

A: Everyday, kindergarten students have snack. Parents provide one classroom healthy snack per month. (Fruit, granola bars, crackers, etc.) The teacher determines the time throughout the day for snack.

Q: What's for lunch?

A: Students order their lunches in the morning while in the classroom. What your child orders will be billed directly to you on your statement from the VCA business office. No money should be sent to school with your child. Also, the school does not use a lunch ticket. Orders are recorded on a lunch form, sent to the cafeteria, and then given to the Business Office for billing.

Q: What can your child order?

A: Everyday of the week, snacks, drinks, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are available. Other choices follow a menu sent home at the beginning of the month.

Q: What can a parent do to help at home?

A: At home, please read to your child nightly! Help your child get organized for school, perhaps the night before. Make sure your child has lots of sleep, especially at the beginning of the school year. Most five-year-old children need at least 10 hours of sleep per night. Breakfast is important if your child is to be an efficient learner. Review the material that comes home in your child's folder nightly.

Q: Do VCA kindergarteners have a "nap time?"

A: No.



Q: What should my child know when they start VCA?

A: The more familiar your child is with letter names and sounds, the better prepared he will be. Please work with your child on upper and lower case letters. Your child should be familiar with numbers up to 20. Your child should be able to work on an activity for 10-15 minutes. Students should be able to listen to a story. They should be able to identify and write their names. Students should be able to interact in a group setting. Students should be comfortable away from you for a period of time.

Q: What is a typical day in kindergarten?

A: In our kindergarten classrooms, we emphasize the amount of time children have to use their hands.

Kindergarten is not a place for teaching children by talking at them, not a place for grownup lectures. It is a place where children are actively involved in the learning in the classroom. Because of the unique quality of children this age, the focus of our objectives for kindergarten will be through hands-on lessons, manipulative-based activities, and interactive games. A typical day in kindergarten will consist of large-group, small-group, and individual activities. The day is filled with a diverse group of activities that allow the children to work for a period of time and then relax. There is recess everyday, one special (Art, PE, Library, or Music), and computer time.



Note: At the beginning of every year, every family receives a Parent/Student Handbook. In this handbook, procedures for the routines of life at Valley Christian Academy are specifically outlined and will be very helpful with additional questions.

