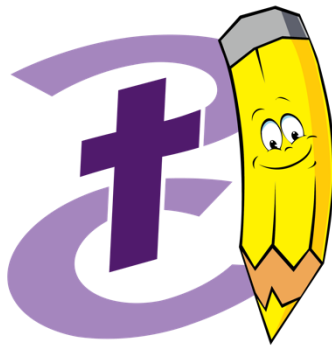


What to expect: Peoria Christian School Early Education



PEORIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
3506 N. CALIFORNIA AVE.
PEORIA, IL 61603
Phone: 309.686.4500
Website: www.peoriachristian.org
Email: pcsmail@peoriachristian.org

MISSION

Peoria Christian School supports the Christian home and church by preparing students to lead Christ like lives through a biblical approach to education.

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Peoria Christian school admits students of any race, color, or national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic programs, or other school-administrated programs.

PEORIA CHRISTIAN EARLY EDUCATION VISION STATEMENT

It is our purpose and delegated responsibility to educate the child in the Christian world and life view in order to become an effective member of the body of Christ (Mark 12:30). We recognize the foundational aspect of Early Childhood Education and provide learning opportunities through exploration, hands-on material, individual choice, play, movement, and sensory experiences. All matters taught to the child are integrated with God's Word so as to result in a consistent growth of the spiritual, physical, mental and emotional development of the child.

PEORIA CHRISTIAN EARLY EDUCATION PHILOSOPHY

Purpose Statement

- Supports the Christian home and church by recognizing the families' role as primary educators of their children. (Deuteronomy 11:19)
- Prepares students to lead Christ-like lives through a biblical approach to education. (Deuteronomy 4:9)
- Creates a nurturing environment by using age-appropriate methods.
- Recognizes the foundational aspect of Early Childhood Education and provides learning opportunities through exploration, hands-on material, individual choice, play, movement, and sensory experiences.
- Gives opportunities to form a solid academic foundation in reading and math readiness.
- Facilitates growth in the development of gross and fine motor skills.
- Promotes character development and spiritual growth of each child. (Mark 12:30)

Teaching Biblical Truths

- Highlights the importance and uniqueness of the Word of God as living, timeless, and practical.
- Teaches biblical truths through age-appropriate Bible stories.
- Emphasizes the gift of prayer as communication with God, our Creator through Jesus, our Savior and Friend.
- Encourages the character qualities of Jesus Christ and the fruit of the Spirit.

Educational Philosophy

- Intellectually – Implements a variety of activities to provide the opportunity for a child's brain to develop.
- Physically – Involves children in activities in safe exploration as they go through stages of development at their own individual rates. (Psalm 139:14)
- Spiritually – Builds spiritual growth on concepts learned early in life, such as "God loves me." "God made me." and "I can love and help other people."
- Socially/Emotionally – Teaches social/emotional growth as they are shown the importance of self-control, encouraged to solve their own problems, and learn how to express and receive forgiveness.
- Provides opportunities for meaningful experiences and the opportunity for creative expression.
- Respects the child's individual timetable by creating a learning environment that provides instruction within the context of the child's developmental level.
- Provides a balanced approach to education, addressing the intellectual, physical, social/emotional, and spiritual needs of the pre-kindergarten student.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Our students experience a play-based environment designed for them to flourish and grow in confidence while learning through fun centers and active group time, enjoying snack with peers, and small group teacher instruction time. They will experience the benefits of an intentional learning community that promotes academic, physical, social, emotional, and spiritual growth. Most importantly, our students develop academically in reading and math readiness for kindergarten in a caring, Christ-centered environment. Whether students are learning about math or music, they are taught from a Biblical perspective, fostering spiritual development in an age-appropriate way.

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is built on ISBE State Standards for Early Childhood Education and Scripture Bites by Standard Publishing. Our students learn academic standards through a play-based approach. Each week students are immersed in a theme through hands on activities, intentionally curated centers, and small group teacher instruction.

The students discuss basic Bible stories, apply these to their lives, and learn Bible verses. We introduce the alphabet, the letter sounds, and the phrases used in kindergarten's ABeka reading program. Show and Tell is used as an opportunity for the students to apply the letter sounds to objects that they bring to school. Science, Social Studies, and Fine Arts are included throughout the year. In Math, we teach numerals 1–20. The students count using one-to-one correspondence, recognize numerals 1–20, and count by rote to 20. The numbers 0–100 will be introduced. The students identify shapes, classify objects, and identify patterns. We use a variety of methods and materials to teach the students.

EARLY EDUCATION OBJECTIVES

Intellectual Growth

3- and 4-year-olds

Reading Readiness:

- Participates in songs and colors
- Sings songs or rhymes, 3 - 4 lines
- Memorizes and repeats finger plays, 4 lines
- Recognizes and names pieces of furniture
- Recognizes and names articles of clothing he or she is wearing
- Understands: up/down, stop/go, fast/slow, open/close, happy/sad, hot/cold
- Recognizes 8 basic colors
- Identifies letters in first name
- Identifies first name
- Makes simple sentences
- Uses words to express own feelings
- Echoes songs and verses
- Verbalizes own ideas/feelings

Math Readiness:

- Understands concepts: full/empty
- Sorts objects by: size/shape/color
- Identifies 8 basic shapes
- Identifies numbers 0-10
- Compares objects
- Recognizes same and different
- Orders objects from smallest to largest
- Counts objects 1-10
- Rote counts

4- and 5-year-olds

Reading Readiness:

- Identifies 8 basic colors
- Participates in songs and actions
- Participates in fingerplays
- Identifies own name
- Identifies letters of the alphabet
- Verbalizes own ideas/feelings

Math Readiness:

- Understands calendar (knows next day/week)
- Recognizes similarities/differences
- Classifies objects by size and color
- Identifies numerals 0 through 20
- Names shapes: circle, square, triangle, rectangle, diamond, oval
- Counts objects 0-20

Physical Growth

3- and 4-year-olds

Gross Motor

- Climbs stairs with alternating feet
- Stands on one foot for 5 seconds
- Puts on coat or sweater
- Pulls on shoes
- Imitates actions modeled by teacher
- Climbs up and down play equipment with ease
- Moves creatively to music
- Catches a ball with two hands
- Runs, jumps, and gallops

Fine Motor

- Completes 3-5 and 5-7 pieces puzzles
- Draws using crayons or markers
- Cuts with scissors (but not necessarily following a line)
- Builds with blocks
- Draws a circle
- Stirs liquids with a spoon
- Begins to draw human figures (head and feet)
- Snaps, zips, and buttons

- Dresses appropriately
- Strings objects
- Pours rice and sand

4- and 5-year-olds

Gross Motor

- Moves up and down stairs with alternating feet
- Hangs from climbing equipment
- Throws and catches a ball
- Skips and somersaults
- Balances on either foot for 10 seconds
- Hops forward/in place 4-8 times on either foot
- Pulls on shoes
- Puts on coat/sweater

Fine Motor

- Strings small objects
- Completes 10-20 piece puzzles
- Snaps, zips, button, buckles
- Pours from container to container
- Draws recognizable pictures
- Colors within lines
- Uses proper amount of glue
- Holds/uses scissors properly
- Cuts on line leaving outline showing
- Traces dotted lines
- Establishes movement for proper letter formation
- Prints name

Social and Emotional Growth

3- and 4-year-olds

- Plays singularly with sustained interest alongside or among other children or adults
- Interacts with another child or children
- Shows friendliness/kindness to others
- Helps with clean up and table settings
- Shows confidence in expressing own ideas
- Shares materials
- Takes turns
- Shows respect for others' belongings
- Works and plays cooperatively with others
- Follows 1- to 2-step directions
- Separates from parents with ease
- Keeps hands to own self
- Demonstrates understanding that he or she is important to God and to others.
- Relates growth and increasing abilities to God's special plan for him or her
- Chooses between two options, either of which is acceptable to the adult
- Talks about his or her family
- Demonstrates cooperation with the adults in his or her family
- Demonstrates helpfulness to others
- Accepts contributions of others to the group

4- and 5-year-olds

- Works and plays cooperatively with others
- Gains control over feelings
- Engages in role play and dramatic play
- Responds positively to the teacher's guidance
- Seeks a child to play with
- Learns social behavior by watching and imitating
- Follows 3- to 5-step directions
- Shows appropriate self-confidence
- Adjusts well to change
- Acknowledges that God gave him or her abilities to think, work, and play
- Displays feelings of happiness when obeying God's teachings
- Displays feelings of sadness after doing things that are wrong
- Demonstrates the ability to make good choices
- Accepts and obeys family rules
- Helps with responsibilities at home
- Shows consideration of the rights and feelings of others
- Demonstrates empathy to others
- Willingly shares with others

Spiritual Growth (According to the book, *Teaching in Christian Weekday Early Education*, pg.261)

3- and 4-year-olds

Creation

- Verbalizes that
 - God made him or her
 - God made people, plants, and animals
 - God made the earth, sky, and the seasons
- Demonstrates helpfulness in caring for the things God has made

Jesus

- Talks about things Jesus did
- Acknowledges that Jesus did things that people cannot do
- Handles the Bible with respect

God

- Listens attentively to short Bible stories
- Participates in group prayer time with a quiet body, folded hands, and/or verbalization
- Verbalizes Bible truth

4- and 5-year-olds

Creation

- Verbalizes that God is the creator of people, plants, animals, and things in the natural world
- Demonstrates acceptance of differences in people
- Demonstrates acceptance of his or her role in helping to take care of the things God made

Jesus

- Asks questions or tells about Jesus dying on the cross and being buried

- Demonstrates acceptance of the fact that Jesus is alive
- Demonstrates understanding that the Bible contains rules that are to be applied to life

God

- Recalls portions of Bible stories heard in class
- Independently expresses thanks to God
- Verbalizes that God has a plan for his/her life
- Verbalizes that God is ruler of the world
- Accepts that God loves him despite the wrong things he may do

Classroom Conduct

3- and 4-year-olds

- Sits quietly and attentively for 5-10 minutes
- Raises hand and waits for teacher's response
- Listens to and follows directions
- Works independently
- Completes tasks
- Participates in group activities
- Shows respect for the American and Christian flags

4- and 5-year-olds

- Sits quietly and attentively for 10-15 minutes
- Raises hand and waits for teacher's attention
- Listens to and follows directions
- Works independently
- Works without being easily distracted
- Completes tasks
- Participates in group activities
- Assumes class responsibilities
- Learns respectful treatment of the Bible and the American and Christian flags

ACCREDITATION

PCS Pre-K is exempt from state licensing. We are committed to on-going self-monitoring to maintain compliance with IL State Standards for Early Childhood Education as well as meet the majority of ACSI's accreditation standards.

REGISTRATION, ADMISSION, ENROLLMENT

Thinking about joining the PCS family? It's as easy as 1-2-3!

1) Review our Admissions Criteria below. Read our Mission, Vision, & Statement of Faith. Review our Required Application Documents and Application Process below.

2) You can Request Information &/or Tour by sharing a little about your student and family here: <https://registration.powerschool.com/family/ActionForms/Public/21118>. We'll be in contact!

3) Then begin your student(s) application(s).

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA & APPLICATION

Family professes faith in Jesus Christ. Within the application, parent/guardian(s) will give testimony of how they came to Christ as Savior.

Family is active in a Bible-believing church. Regular church attendance of parent(s) and student is required for admission. Within the application, applicant provides contact information for a church leader or pastor. We then send your church leader our online Pastor/Church leader Form to complete on behalf of the applying family. This is a required form for all applicants.

Family subscribes to and supports our Mission, Vision and Statement of Faith. www.peoriachristian.org/missionvisionvalues

CONTACT US, WE'RE HAPPY TO ASSIST YOU

We would love to talk with you about Christian education and all PCS has to offer students and families. Whether you are beginning your school adventure or transferring from public, private or home school, let us know how we can assist you.

Pat Prosser
Director of Admissions & Communications
pprosser@peoriachristian.org
309-686-4500 x218

Karen Hutchins
Admissions Coordinator
khutchins@peoriachristian.org
309.686.4500 x 217

DAY TO DAY DETAILS

ATTENDANCE

If your child arrives after 8:30 a.m., you will need to go to the elementary office to sign him/her in for the day. When your child is not at school, please call the office or send a note to his/her teacher if you know ahead of time about the absence. If your child forgets something, please take it to the elementary office. The secretary will make sure it gets to your child's classroom.

BEFORE SCHOOL BEGINS REQUIREMENTS

State required paperwork is turned into the Elementary Office. This includes:

1. Copy of Official Birth Certificate
2. Current Physical
3. Immunization Records

Student is toilet trained.

1. Able to accomplish all bathroom tasks independently.
2. Communicates bathroom needs to adults.

CALENDAR

Refer to PCS calendar.

DISCIPLINE

PCS is an atmosphere of positive Christian standards of conduct. We provide an opportunity for the development of strong Christian character. Students will be given the following guidelines for the classroom: A child's behavior is redirected if it is inappropriate or harmful to another child. A child who continues to disrupt the class or bother another child will be spoken to about his/her behavior. If the behavior continues, the child will have a break (3 min. for 3-year-olds, 4 min. for 4-year-olds, and 5 min. 5-year-olds). If a student does something very serious, he/she will be given a time-out immediately or taken to see the director. You will be informed about any serious behavior. If there is a consistent problem, the teacher will work with the parents to develop a plan to help the child thrive in class.

DRESS CODE

Preschool students are able to wear their personal clothes to school, no PCS attire is required. We do expect clothes to be:

- Clean and properly fitting and in good repair.
- Shirts/tops with logos associated with non-Christian values are not acceptable.
- Girls' tank or spaghetti tops may not be worn without a shirt underneath that meets dress code requirements.
- No hats or caps inside the classrooms.
- Shoes are to be worn at all times. Students may have difficulty running on the playground and walking on the carpeted floors when wearing flip-flops or sandals

without heel straps. The best shoe for playing on the playground or in the gym for recess is a tennis shoe.

- Hair must be clean, well-groomed, and kept out of face for both male and female students

EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR FAMILIES

The aim of Peoria Christian Early Education program is to prepare children and their families spiritually, socially/emotionally, physically, and cognitively for the upcoming years of formal schooling.

Parents:

- Understand the importance of being the primary educator of their child and of participating in the educational process.
- Partner with PCS to provide an enriched educational experience for their child.
- Understand the significance of continuing Christian education through elementary, secondary, and college years.

FAMILY VISIT DAYS

We believe in partnering with families throughout the year. Family Visit Day is an opportunity for family members (the adult loved ones in your preschooler's life: moms, dads, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, loved ones, etc.) to come to school and join in their child's activities related to literacy, math and social development. These dates are shared in the Parent Newsletter sent by the director.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips will be used as an extension of the classroom. Some possibilities are the fire station (to coincide with our Community Helper Unit) and the park (end of the year time with friends)

PARENT MEET AND GREET

The first day of school is set aside as an orientation for parents. Dates and schedules will be announced. Teachers will inform parents of expectations of the students for the year. They will also explain special classroom rules and policies.

PARTIES

Periodically throughout the school year classrooms will have special parties: Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Easter.

Each room will have a party planned and given by the room mothers with input from the teacher. These parties will take place the final 45 minutes of school.

POTTY TRAINING

Children are expected to be fully potty trained and not need assistance in the restroom before entering the preschool program. By the term "fully potty trained," we mean that the

child will be able to express his need to go to the restroom, be able to pull his clothing down, wipe and pull his clothing back up. Students may not wear pull-ups to school. You are asked to bring a spare set of clothing in case of an occasional accident. These accidents are a part of the growing process and will be handled in a kind and gentle way, with respect for the child's feelings.

If a pattern of accidents occurs, your child's teacher will contact you to discuss what further measures may be taken. Please be aware that if your child does not demonstrate being fully potty trained, you will be asked to withdraw him from the program until full potty training has been achieved. If daily or multiple accidents occur in a three-day period, the child will be asked to stay home for one week. If multiple accidents occur in a two-week period, the child will be asked to stay home for two weeks

PROGRESS REPORTS

Preschool: August – October, November – January, February – May.

Grading

Scale	Subjects
Proficient	Spiritual Development
Progress Observed	Social / Emotional Development
Emerging	Language Arts
Not Yet	Science
Not Applicable	Social Studies
	Math
	Physical Development
	Fine Art

SCHOOL HOURS

	ALL DAY	HALF-DAY
Pre-K 3 Half T, W, Th		8:30 am – 11:30 am
Pre-K 4 Half M, T, W, Th, F		8:30 am – 11:30 am
Pre-K 4 All M – F	8:30 am – 3:15 pm	

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

The Elementary Office will have a current school supply list. **BOOK BAG:** All students will need backpacks. We recommend the backpack be large enough to keep the student's work in it. Please check your child's backpack each night for important papers.

SHOW AND TELL

The students will have the opportunity to participate in Show and Tell. During the second semester, the students may bring items designated by the teacher. As the letter sounds are introduced, the students may bring something for Show and Tell that begins with that letter. We do not want your child's toys broken or lost, so they will not be allowed to play with them at recess. Other than for show and tell, students are not allowed to bring toys to school

SNACK AND DRINK

Snacks will be served daily. Students will be given a nutritious drink and snack. Each parent will receive a schedule for the year and will be asked to help supply the drink and snack for their scheduled week. Birthday treats may be sent to school with your child. Please get prior permission from your child's teacher to prevent any conflicts

SPECIAL AREA CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES

The students will participate in Mobile Library, Music, Spanish, and P.E. once a week.



PEORIA CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Distinctively Christian. Decidedly Academic.