

# Welcome to Early Childhood at Sheboygan Christian

Sheboygan Christian offers a 3 year-old Kindergarten and a 4 year-old Kindergarten program. Our Sheboygan Chrisitan teachers love working with young children as they begin to explore and experience the world around them. Your children are a special gift from God. Our early childhood teachers strive to be your partner in training them to be servants in His Kingdom, and to achieve academic, social, physical and spiritual growth for each child in an age-appropriate classroom setting.

# Our Early Childhood program:

Our classrooms are warm and inviting and provide many learning opportunities through math, literacy, writing, art, and science centers and activities. We incorporate music and physical activity into the school day along with engaging units that reinforce academic learning. In 3K and 4K, we maintain a balance of work and play, with individual, large and small group activities. Children are challenged at their level of ability and given varied opportunities to engage in educational activities that complement the units. Every aspect of our curriculum is taught from a Christian perspective. Children are encouraged to grow in their love for God while serving and showing kindness to classmates and others in the world around them.

# In the SCS Early Childhood Program, we believe:

\*Children are created by God as unique individuals.

- \*Children need love and care.
- \*Children learn through play and exploration.
- \*Children learn cooperation and sensitivity to others by interacting with peers.

\*Children learn problem solving skills, gain in self-confidence, and develop their own creativity when they are actively involved in their learning.

\*Children progress at their own rate of development.

\*Children need to grow and develop in all areas - - spiritual, social, emotional, intellectual, and physical.

## 3K and 4K Schedule:

Our 3K schedule is three morning sessions per week on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Our 4K schedule is four morning or afternoon sessions per week on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, from 8:15am to 11:30am or 12-3:15pm. There is extended care offered before and after school from 7:30am-5:30pm.

## 3K and 4K Curriculum:

Our teachers plan activities geared to the developmental level of the children to stimulate their desire for knowledge. Children are encouraged to be actively involved in the planned activities. These activities focus on the following areas:

Bible:

- --listening to Bible stories and lessons
- --learning that God made the world
- --developing a love for Jesus
- --learning to obey as God wishes us to do
- --singing praises to God
- --learning the importance of prayer

Social Skills:

- --learning how to share and help others
- --playing and working cooperatively with peers
- --communicate basic needs/feelings and growing in independence
- --developing responsible attitudes
- --practicing and using manners
- --learning to share and take turns and learning how to solve social conflicts

Literacy:

--Foster of love of reading through stories, poems, and literacy activities.

--learning essential literacy skills such as alphabet identification, book skills, alphabet sound awareness, and rhyming.

--developing oral language skills

--drawing and writing pictures and words to convey meaning through journal writing

--develop essential fine motor skills through Handwriting without Tears program

Math:

--learning numeral knowledge and counting

-- developing skills in sorting, patterning, and classifying

--learning colors and shapes

-- developing number sense by making sets and early addition

## Sample of classroom schedule:

Many activities happen throughout the day but the length of each activity varies on the time of the end and the needs of the students.

Arrival- children are encouraged to choose a table-top activity until all students arrive.

Whole Group Time- prayer, literacy/math song, story, thematic activity and modeling of center activities

Center Time- learning activities in small groups that center around thematic activities with a focusing on math, literacy concepts incorporating fine motor skills

Free Play- students may choose where to play in various centers throughout the classroom like math and literacy tables, building area, dramatic play, sensory table, and writing center

Bible/Devotional Time- typically a whole group activity focusing on a Bible lesson along with individual activity

Clean up/Bathroom Break/Wash hands

Snack/Book Time

Large motor/movement time- movement to music, group action songs, organized games, specific large motor activities like throwing, jumping and running.

Whole Group time- calendar, weather, and math and literacy activities.

Closing Time- prayer, goodbye song, collecting belongings, farewells and dismissal.

## Enrollment

Children must be three or four years old by September 1 of the current school year to enroll in an SCS Early Childhood program. All children must be toilet trained to attend our program. Classes for the three-year-old program meet on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings from 8:15 – 11:30am (if class reaches capacity, we open up an afternoon session from 12–3:15pm). Classes for the four-year-old program meet on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8:15 – 11:30am (if class reaches capacity, we open up an afternoon session from 12–3:15pm).

To enroll your child, call the Sheboygan Christian School Enrollment Office at 920-458-9981. You can also apply online <u>here</u>. No child shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or sex be excluded from admission to this Christian School.

# Extended Care Program - (before and after school care)

Our Extended Care sessions are designed to provide SCS students with a safe, enriching, and homelike atmosphere when they are not attending classes. Our extended care teachers communicate regularly with each other, and the Early Education teacher, to ensure that activities are consistent with the goals and activities of our Early Education program.

Enrollment in our Extended Care Program is provided for students in the three-year-old preschool class through fifth grade. It is open every week day from 7:30am-5:30pm. The program has the same schedule as the regular school calendar. Enrollment and payment is done on a quarterly basis.

#### Tuition

Our program depends on promptly paid tuition to meet budget needs since it operates on a non-profit basis. Tuition should be paid at the beginning of each school quarter for the extended care and on a monthly basis for the 3-year old and the 4-year old programs.

Tuition is set yearly by the Sheboygan Christian School Board. For information about this year's tuition please call the school office at 920-458-9981.

Tuition checks can be mailed or hand delivered to the school office. Please make checks payable to: Sheboygan Christian School, 929 Greenfield Ave, Sheboygan, WI 53081. Families may also enroll in the Tuition Autopay program.

The principal and the school board handle all finances. The teachers are not aware of financial arrangements.

Withdrawal from the program requires written notification sent to the office.

#### **Teaching staff and conferences**

Our teaching staff consists of a trained, Wisconsin certified teacher of Early Childhood Education and an assistant teacher (if enrollment requires an assistant). There will be a minimum of one staff member for every 9 children ages three and four as required by law. Classes are limited in size to 18 students for each of the 3-year old and 4-year old sessions.

The teacher will have a minimum of one conference per school year with each parent, or as problems needing attention arise. The teacher will be happy to schedule special conferences if necessary. All parents will receive progress reports of their child's progress twice in the school year.

#### **Parent Orientation**

Parent Orientation for the 3-year old and 4-year old programs will be held during the week prior to school opening. Parents will be notified of the orientation date and time. Adult volunteers are needed in the classroom from time to time. Parents will be given the opportunity to indicate their willingness to participate as an adult volunteer at the parent orientation session. In addition to other helpful information, the following materials will be distributed at the parent orientation: Calendar Bible Unit Plan and Key Verses Class Schedule Parent Volunteer Questionnaire Snack Suggestion List Academic Objectives

## **Field Trips**

Our early childhood program will plan multiple field trips throughout the school year. The teacher will inform you of field trips. For the 4-year old classes not less than 4 chaperones will accompany the class on field trips. Siblings of enrolled children will not be permitted on the field trip. Permission slips must be on file prior to child participation in any field trip.

## Clothing

All children must be toilet trained to attend our early childhood program. However, we understand that spills and accidents can easily occur when a child is busy with any of the activities. For your child's comfort, we suggest that you send a bag containing a change of clothing.

Children should be properly dressed for outdoor play, and we recommend play clothes because of the different types of activities in which the children will be involved.

## **Snow Cancellations**

In case of snow or inclement weather, listen to WHBL (1330 AM). If the Sheboygan Public Schools are cancelled, you can assume that Sheboygan Christian School will be also. Sheboygan Christian School might not be separately listed. If there is a delayed start, preschool classes will not be held.

## Snack

Our policy is to serve nutritious snacks. Parents may participate by taking turns providing the snack for the 3-year old and 4-year old classes. A snack suggestion sheet will be available at parent orientation. Children staying for the extended care session should bring their own lunch and beverage. Sheboygan Christian School provides a morning and an afternoon snack for children in the extended care session.

THANK YOU for your interest in Sheboygan Christian School's Early Childhood programs. We hope this pamphlet has answered some of your questions. If you would like to enroll your child, ask some more questions, or schedule a time to observe a class, please call the SCS Enrollment Office at 920-458-9981.