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A ministry of Spencer Christian Church

Elementary-Middle School – Cindy White, School Director

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Preschool-Kindergarten – Melanie Winstead, Preschool/Kindergarten Director

schoolprek@spencerchristian.org

Spencer Christian School exists as a ministry of Spencer Christian Church to love God, love people, and serve both in Christ.

Spencer Christian School's purpose is to provide an atmosphere that encourages the spiritual, social, emotional, physical, and intellectual growth and development of the child as a whole.

Our school staff is chosen carefully using a variety of factors, including education, experience and church involvement. All staff members have either a degree in education or significant experience working with young children.

Our school is set up to address the needs of children at different age levels. Our program also intentionally emphasizes the role of parents in the development of children by maintaining a three-day school week. This allows children optimal time spent at home with their primary caregiver.

SCS will be in operation from August through May. Classes will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday each week.

- ✓ Preschool will be in session for 32 weeks and preschool class times will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (AM session) or 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (PM session).
- ✓ Junior Kindergarten will be in session for 34 weeks and class times will be from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (AM session) or 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. (PM session*). **NOTE – PM JrK may be available only if AM session fills to capacity.*
- ✓ Kindergarten classes will be in session for 34 weeks with class times of 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- ✓ Elementary and Middle School classes will be in session for 34 weeks with class times of 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.



Mrs. Winstead is our Preschool/Kindergarten Director. You may contact her at schoolprek@spencerchristian.org.

Our preschool accepts children ages 3 and 4 (as of August 1st of current school year). Class times are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: AM preschool 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and PM preschool 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. These classes will operate 32 weeks.

Curriculum: The following are the highlights of our curriculum (learning plan):

- Monthly thematic studies which incorporate quality literature, science, social studies, fine arts & humanities.
- *Handwriting Without Tears* "Get Ready for School" program to address fine motor skill development as well as letter/phoneme recognition.
- *Handwriting Without Tears* "Numbers and Math" program to gently introduce all major mathematical strands through the use of hands-on games and manipulatives.
- *The Beginners Bible* by Zondervan introduces the children to all major Bible truths.
- Outdoor/Indoor playtime to stimulate the growth of gross motor skills.



Class times: Junior Kindergarten. Class times are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday: AM session 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and PM session* 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Junior Kindergarten will operate 34 weeks. *NOTE – PM JrK may be available only if AM session fills to capacity.

Admission: Junior Kindergarten class placement will be determined by SCS Administration based on the following:

1. Five years old (special consideration will be given to students with birthdates between June 1 and January 1).
2. Admissions screening (students will meet with a SCS staff member for an academic screening).
3. Behavior recommendation from previous classroom teacher.
4. Students who have attended two years of preschool will be given special consideration.

Junior Kindergarten Curriculum

With the change in the cutoff date in the Commonwealth of Kentucky for Kindergarten admittance combined with increased academic expectations during the Kindergarten year, SCS offers Junior Kindergarten. This year can be utilized as a third year of preschool or a transitional Kindergarten year for students who would benefit from one more year before formal schooling begins. Junior Kindergarten at SCS will reinforce the basic skills, work habits, and attitudes that are of crucial importance during the primary years using the complete Junior Kindergarten curriculum published by *Memoria Press*.

Phonics and Pre-Reading

Learning the alphabet is the critical first step in learning how to read. The *Alphabet Book* from *Memoria Press* teaches letter recognition, letter formation, and pencil grip, as well as introduces initial and ending sounds. Taught in a two-part series, Junior Kindergarten students receive a gentle introduction to phonics.

Numbers

Students will practice proper number formation, basic counting to 20, number sense concepts such as more and less, and many other early math skills. Junior Kindergarten utilizes early childhood math texts published by *Memoria Press*.

Literature

Classic picture books chosen for their beauty in prose and illustration are read aloud and discussed each week in Junior Kindergarten. Poetry books delight the children and continue to expose the early learner to quality literature.

Bible and Crafts

Students will read through the Bible with their Junior Kindergarten teacher. They will also complete weekly crafts which continue to develop cutting and other fine motor skills.

Physical Education and Snack Time

Students are given 25 minutes each day to play on the playground or in the gymnasium. SCS provides snacks for Junior Kindergarten students each morning.



Reading, writing, spelling, and arithmetic are the foundation upon which the tower of learning is built and are given the highest priority in K-2. The basic skills, work habits, and attitudes formed in the primary years are of crucial importance.

Phonics and Reading

Phonics is the system of letter-sound association taught to children for the purposes of learning to read and spell. Phonics is most effective when taught systematically, thoroughly, intensely, and in a logical and time-tested sequence. Kindergarten phonics is taught using *First Start Reading* as published by *Memoria Press*.

Phonics and spelling continue in 1st and 2nd grades with *Abeka Phonics*. In first grade, students continue to develop reading comprehension with the use of *Abeka* and *Memoria Press* Storytime Treasures. Teachers monitor student reading skills through daily oral reading.

First graders read:

- *Little Bear*
- *Caps For Sale*
- *The Story About Ping*
- *Billy and Blaze*, etc.

Second graders read:

- *Prairie School*
- *Animal Folk Tales*
- *The Courage of Sarah Noble*
- *Little House in the Big Woods*
- Four Beatrix Potter stories:
 - *Peter Rabbit*
 - *Benjamin Bunny*
 - *Tom Kitten*
 - *Johnny Town-Mouse*

Composition, vocabulary and enrichment lessons for each book are provided by *Memoria Press* Study Guides.

Spelling and Printing

Copybook is an exercise consisting of copying sayings, maxims, Scripture, and poetry in the student's best handwriting. Copybook is an important step in developing good penmanship, punctuation, and spelling. Habits of good penmanship are instilled early and required at every grade level by every teacher. The discipline of neat and legible handwriting is an aid to spelling and instills the value of accurate, careful work – an important academic skill that carries over into every aspect of learning. In Grade 1, students continue to practice manuscript printing while also beginning cursive script with *Memoria Press's New American Cursive* program. Students in Grade 2 continue to practice in cursive, and begin using it primarily halfway through the year, reinforcing their penmanship with the completion of *New American Cursive 2*.

Arithmetic

Number formation, counting, time, calendar, measurement, and money are the skills of K-2, along with mastery of addition and subtraction facts through 7s in Kindergarten, 10s in First Grade, and multiplication facts (1, 2, 5, 10) in Second Grade. Students learn number sense by skip counting, games, and drills, all of which make math time enjoyable and help students achieve immediate recall of math facts – the primary goal in K-2. Kindergarten uses *Rod and Staff* with *Abeka Arithmetic* as a supplement as our math texts. Kindergarten starts with *Number Skills Arithmetic K5*, while 1st and 2nd move to *Abeka Arithmetic 1 and 2*.

Geography, History, and Science

Students work with maps and globes to learn continents, oceans, and major countries. In science, students learn about the planets and seasons. Using a weekly read-aloud literature selection, K-1 teachers develop activities to encourage a child's natural creativity and curiosity. Second grade students enjoy science through *Abeka: Enjoying God's World* textbook.

Christian Studies, Music and Art

In Christian Studies students read or listen to Bible stories and memorize and copy Bible verses and prayers. Students attend chapel services each Wednesday. Students draw and color in their composition books where they illustrate copybook verses, poems, and composition lessons. In art appreciation, students learn about an artist and study an art masterwork every month.

Physical Education

Students have Physical Education or recess every day. P.E. provides 30 minutes of rigorous exercise as well as opportunities to play childhood games. Our P.E. instructor works to develop basic motor and motion skills, such as running, skipping, running backwards, and flexibility, as well as sportsmanship and team play. On days when students do not have P.E., they have recess in the gym or out back on our 20+ acres of property.

Conversational Spanish

Students are taught conversational Spanish once a week to whet their appetite for future language learning.



Our 3rd grade classes continue to reinforce the important academic and social skills emphasized in Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades:

- ✓ quality written work completed in a timely manner
- ✓ legible penmanship and accurate spelling
- ✓ speed and accuracy in arithmetic
- ✓ reading comprehension and vocabulary acquisition
- ✓ appropriate classroom behavior
- ✓ discipline and self-control
- ✓ good manners and respect for adults and classmates

Students learn from well-designed materials, high quality content, and teacher-directed lessons. Classrooms are quiet, disciplined, and orderly. Students are motivated to work and learn because they are led by knowledgeable, enthusiastic teachers.

Curriculum Overview:

All students receive Bible instruction daily through class devotions and an academic Bible course. Students learn all major Bible stories, both Old and New Testament, and are gently guided through knowledge of God's salvation history. *Abeka Bible Flash-A-Cards* provide visual stimulation to the facts and faith of Scripture.

Saxon Mathematics uses a spiral review approach to mathematics instruction for 3rd-8th grades.

The very best in English literature is taught in depth using *Memoria Press* study guides. During their time in 3rd grade, children will read a variety of classic literature (see pacing guide on back). For spelling, daily lessons from *Spelling Workout* create thoughtful spellers. English grammar and composition are studied utilizing a thorough spiral approach in the *Abeka Language 3* textbook. Students will also complete an *Abeka Phonics* program.

Students are introduced to the roots of Latin words through the curriculum, *Word Wisdom*. This is a great word study curriculum that strengthens the students' vocabulary while introducing them to a word study of Latin. Once a week our students will also enjoy a conversational Spanish class.

Geography focuses on states and capitals (*Memoria Press*). Students will also enjoy a variety of historical fiction novels read aloud in class.

In Science, students use *Abeka's Exploring God's World* to learn about the sequence of the awe-inspiring six days of Creation, launching students into an exploration of outer space, the animal kingdom, and other aspects of God's intricate creations. Students will apply the knowledge gained from the scientific method, practical demonstrations, and experiments to discover scientific principles related to the many facets of God's amazing creation.

Classwork:

All lessons are teacher directed. Students are given ample time to complete classroom assignments, which are carefully monitored so that students learn to do quality written work in a timely fashion.

Weekend Work:

1. Math review problems (all instruction occurs in class).
2. Reading (reading/rereading literature, Bible reading and reading for pleasure).
3. Study for exams as needed.
4. Review work from class.
5. Projects: There will be occasional projects in Language Arts, Science and History.

Breakdown of Curriculum by Subject:

Literature

MP Novels:

Charlotte's Web

Mr. Popper's Penguins

A Bear Called Paddington

Latin

Word Wisdom (Latin roots study)

Math

Saxon Intermediate 3

History

States and Capitals

Historical fiction read aloud program

Bible

Abeka: Salvation Series

Abeka: Favorite Bible Stories

Abeka: Thanksgiving

Abeka: Christmas

Abeka: Boyhood & Early Ministry of Jesus

Abeka: Crucifixion & Resurrection

Abeka: Parables of Jesus

Science

Abeka: Exploring God's World

Physical Education

Students have Physical Education or recess every day. P.E. provides 30 minutes of rigorous exercise as well as opportunities to play childhood games. Our P.E. instructor works to develop basic motor and motion skills, such as running, skipping, running backwards, and flexibility, as well as sportsmanship and team play. On days when students do not have P.E., they have recess in the gym or out back on our 20+ acres of property.

Conversational Spanish

Students are taught conversational Spanish once a week to whet their appetite for future language learning.



Our 4th through 8th grade classes continue to reinforce the important academic and social skills emphasized in Kindergarten, and 1st – 3rd grades:

- ✓ quality written work completed in a timely manner
- ✓ legible penmanship and accurate spelling
- ✓ speed and accuracy in arithmetic
- ✓ reading comprehension and vocabulary acquisition
- ✓ appropriate classroom behavior
- ✓ discipline and self-control
- ✓ good manners and respect for adults and classmates

Students learn from well-designed materials, high quality content, and teacher-directed lessons. Classrooms are quiet, disciplined, and orderly. Students are motivated to work and learn because they are led by knowledgeable, enthusiastic teachers.

Curriculum Overview:

All students receive Bible instruction through class devotions and an academic Bible course. Students learn all major Bible stories, both Old and New Testament, and are gently guided through knowledge of God's salvation History, all while being exposed daily to the gospel.

Saxon Mathematics uses a spiral review approach to mathematics instruction for 4th -8th grades.

During their time in 4th-8th grade, children will read a variety of classic literature through Memoria Press (see pacing guide on back). For 4th-5th spelling, daily lessons create thoughtful spellers using a variety of resources. Well-Ordered Language and Writing Rhetoric offers our students a wealth of information for Language Arts and helps to make creative writers. 6th-8th grade continues their training in Language Arts through *Writer's Choice* and the practice of writing essays, research papers, etc.

Middle School will have a Latin roots study through *Word Wisdom* curriculum and conversational Spanish through *Sonrisa* curriculum.

Geography focuses on states, capitals, and world geography while History focuses on the major time periods of history beginning with Ancient Civilizations continuing through American and Modern History. Our middle school students also receive one year of economic lessons using a variety of resources. A variety of textbooks as well as original sources are utilized.

The *Apologia* series science curriculum covers astronomy, zoology, chemistry/physics, human anatomy, and a general science course. *Apologia* author Jeannie Fulbright approaches science from a biblical worldview, emphasizing God's handiwork in the world around us and showing how real science supports biblical authority. Published by *Apologia*.

Classwork:

All lessons are teacher directed. Students are given ample time to complete classroom assignments, which are carefully monitored so that students learn to do quality written work in a timely fashion.

Weekend Work:

1. Math review problems (all instruction occurs in class)
2. Reading (reading/rereading literature, Bible reading and reading for pleasure); written responses to text
3. Study for exams as needed; develop study skills and nightly review to prepare high school habits
4. Review work from class
5. Projects: There will be occasional projects in Language Arts, Science and History
6. Writing: Essays, research paper, short stories, book reports, etc.

Breakdown of Curriculum by Grade and Year:

| | Grade 4 | Grade 5 | Grade 6 | Grade 7 | Grade 8 |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| Literature | MP Novels: <i>Cricket in Times Square, Farmer Boy, The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe</i> | MP Novels: <i>Lassie Come-Home, Dangerous Journey, Magician's Nephew</i> | MP Novels: <i>Robin Hood, Heidi, Golden Goblet</i> | MP Novels: <i>Anne of Green Gables, The Bronze Bow, Twenty-one Balloons</i> | MP Novels: <i>The Hobbit, Greek Myths, American poem and short stories</i> |
| Grammar, Composition, Spelling | Spelling Workout E; Essentials In Writing | Spelling Workout F; Essentials In Writing | Essentials In Writing | | |
| Latin Spanish | Conversational Spanish | | Conversational Spanish | | |
| Math* | Saxon Intermediate 4 | Saxon Intermediate 5 | Saxon Course 1 | Saxon Course 2 | Saxon Course 3 |
| Geography, History | Notgrass Our Star-spangled story: American History | Masterbooks Countries & Cultures | Students are taught on a 3-year loop for middle school: 1. American Republic-American History <i>BJU Press</i> 2. Geography Exploring The World Through Cartography (Classical Conversations) 3. From Adam to Us – Notgrass-World History | | |
| Bible | God's Great Covenant Old Testament 1 | God's Great Covenant Old Testament 2 | Students are taught on a 3-year loop for middle school: 1. New Testament The Gospels 2. New Testament Acts 3. Dave Ramsey Responsible Stewardship/Personal Finance - Apologetics | | |
| Science | Apologia <i>Astronomy</i> | Apologia <i>Zoology 2: Oceanography</i> | Students are taught on a 3-year loop for middle school: 1. Chemistry and Physics Apologia <i>Apologia</i> 2. Human Anatomy and Physiology Apologia 3. General Science Apologia | | |

*All students will participate in a placement test for Saxon Mathematics to determine the appropriate instructional level.

Physical Education

Students have Physical Education twice a week. P.E. provides 30 minutes of rigorous exercise as well as opportunities to play childhood games. Our P.E. instructor works to develop basic motor and motion skills, such as running, skipping, running backwards, and flexibility, as well as sportsmanship and team play.