



1953

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ACADEMY

Leading in Courage • Learning with Purpose

**2026-2027
ACADEMIC OVERVIEW**

**CRUSADER STATION
K3, K4 & TK**

Shannon Forest Campus

829 Garlington Road Greenville SC 29615
864-678-5107

Downtown Campus

200 W. Washington Street Greenville, SC 29601
864-565-0990



Crusader Station Coordinator

Dear Crusader Station Families,

It is a privilege to partner with you as we help your children grow, learn, and discover God's love during these important early years. At Crusader Station, we believe these years are incredibly important, and we are honored to walk alongside your family as your child grows in confidence, independence, knowledge, and faith.

Our preschool classrooms are places where children are known, loved, and encouraged to grow. With caring teachers and small class sizes, we are able to build meaningful relationships with each child and celebrate the unique gifts and personalities God has given them. We want every child to feel safe, valued, and excited to come to school each day.

Learning at Crusader Station happens through a balance of purposeful play, hands-on experiences, and age-appropriate instruction. Our teachers follow a thoughtfully planned curriculum that builds foundational skills in language, early literacy, mathematics, science, social-emotional development, and more. Through play and exploration, children are encouraged to ask questions, solve problems, make connections, and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Most importantly, Christ is at the heart of all we do. Biblical truth is woven naturally throughout our days as children learn about God's creation, His love for them, kindness, forgiveness, serving others, and loving their neighbors. We want our children to begin developing a strong foundation of faith while experiencing the joy and wonder of childhood.

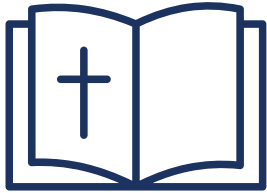
At Crusader Station, we believe preschool should be a place where children can learn through play, build friendships, develop confidence, and grow in their relationship with Jesus. From classroom activities and special events to music, chapel, and opportunities to serve, we strive to create an environment where both hearts and minds are nurtured.

Thank you for trusting us with your children and allowing us to partner with your family during these precious early years. It is our joy and privilege to watch your children learn, laugh, grow, and discover more about the wonderful plans God has for their lives.

We are grateful to be part of your family's journey and look forward to a wonderful year together!

With gratitude,
Laurie Thrasher
Crusader Station Coordinator



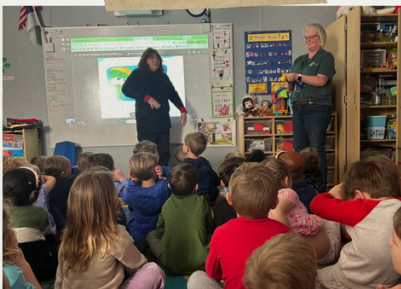


CHAPEL

Every Friday morning, our preschool gathers for one of our favorite parts of the week; Chapel!

This year, our theme is Unshakeable Truth, reminding our students that God's Word is true, trustworthy, and something we can stand on every day.

Chapel is a special time of worship, learning, and reflection as our students grow in their knowledge of God and their relationship with Christ. We love watching their little hearts and minds grow as they learn that God's truth is something they can carry with them wherever they go.



TOYS FOR TOTS & CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Each year, our FPA family spreads joy through our Toys for Tots toy drive, collecting toys for children in need in our local community. In eight years, we've collected nearly 5,000 toys, including 778 toys last year alone!

We also celebrate the 100th Day of School with a special service challenge. Our Preschool and Lower School classes collect 100 non-perishable food items to support a local food bank. These traditions give our students meaningful opportunities to practice generosity, compassion, and service.



ACSI DAY OF PRAYER

The ACSI Day of Prayer brings Christian schools around the world together in prayer for our schools, families, communities, and world.

At Crusader Station, our students used Prayer Passports to travel through prayer stations, stopping to pray, reflect, and receive a stamp along the way. They also created a Thankful Wall and colored pictures to bless our neighbors at a local nursing home.

Through this special day, our students are learning the power of prayer, gratitude, and serving others in Jesus' name.





K3



Michele Ensign



Audrey Mickey



Kristen Goodman



Sarah Eberhardt

**MUST BE 3 BY SEPT 1 OF
THE YEAR YOU APPLY**

MATH

K3 math focuses on building foundational concepts through, interactive play and hands-on learning.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- number sense (counting to 10+, recognizing numerals),
- geometry (naming basic shapes),
- measurement (comparing size/length)
- patterns (recognizing & creating)
- sorting/categorizing,

READING

K3 literacy overview focuses on building foundational skills like oral language, print awareness, phonological awareness, and alphabet knowledge through play-based activities.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Storytelling
- Book purposes
- Recognizing letters (especially in their name)
- Conversational skills to build a strong base for future reading success

WRITING

K3 writing focuses on emergent skills, moving from scribbles to recognizable pictures. Building fine motor skills and understanding that writing has purpose.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Drawing, scribbling, painting, coloring, sidewalk chalk
- Fine motor strengthening (sensory writing, playdough, tweezers)
*Using craft projects and manipulatives to strengthen hands for pencil dexterity.

SCIENCE

K3 students explore the natural world through hands-on science experiences. Students engage in nature exploration, observe seasonal changes, learn about living things, and discover concepts through the five senses. Interactive, age-appropriate activities foster curiosity, scientific thinking, and a love for discovery.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Nature & Seasonal Exploration
- Living Things
- The Five Senses
- Weather & Seasons
- Hands-On Exploration & Observation

SOCIAL STUDIES

K3 students develop social awareness and an understanding of community. Students learn about their families, develop friendship and social skills, and explore their roles within the classroom and home environments. Through engaging activities and real-world connections, young learners build empathy, understanding of others, and a sense of belonging.

KEY CONCEPTS:

Family & Community
Friendship & Social Skills
Classroom & Home Environments
Kindness & Empathy
Self-Awareness

BIBLE

K3 students are introduced to God's love and Word through developmentally appropriate Bible stories. Lessons feature engaging stories presented through rhyme, making Scripture memorable and fun. Students listen to Bible stories, join interactive activities, and explore ways to retell them through songs, movements, and hands-on experiences. Through these joyful interactions, young learners begin to understand that God loves them and is part of their everyday lives.

K3 On-Site Field Trip:

- Critter Keeper in-school field trip

K3 does not attend off campus field trips.





K4

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**MUST BE 4 BY SEPT 1 OF
THE YEAR YOU APPLY**



Sarah Bradley



Jeannine Stoneburner



Jamie Estep

MATH

Our K4 math curriculum helps our students develop fundamental math skills that will serve as a solid foundation for them as they move into K5 and beyond. These are hands-on, interactive lessons that allow for free play, exploration of materials, as well as small and large group instruction.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Number Recognition
- Sequencing
- Shapes and patterns
- Sorting and classifying
- Estimating
- Graphing

SCIENCE

Our K4 science program provides hands-on activities as the children explore God's creation through a Biblical world view. The children participate in a variety of engaging activities and experiments that spark their curiosity and encourage active participation and build their problem solving skills.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- 5 senses
- Animal habitats
- Healthy Foods / Choices
- Density (sink / float)
- Weather
- Plant Life
- Planets

READING

In K4 our approach to reading development spans across all curriculum areas. Our K4 program is literature rich and incorporates a wide range of children's literature across all areas of the curriculum. From daily story time and independent book time, to weekly letter bags, the children are actively engaged in a print rich environment that fosters reading at a developmentally appropriate level.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Letter names and sounds
- Print concepts
- Beginning Sounds
- Story Sequencing

SOCIAL STUDIES

Our K4 social studies presents our world through a biblical word view. From large scale topics such as creation and the planets, to the here and now of classroom community, community helps and neighborhoods, we seek to inspire our students to see the world through the lens of the Bible. This is accomplished through large and small group discussions and activities, along with hands-on learning and crafts to provide something concrete to often abstract concepts.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Biblical Creation / Bible Stories
- All about Me
- Community
- Community Helpers
- Native Americans
- Holiday Studies

WRITING

Our K4 classes use Handwriting Without Tears as a writing program. This is a developmental approach to letter and shape formation and includes a variety of hands-on activities to help these little ones develop the hand muscles and foundational writing and drawing skills that will serve as a foundation for their future writing in elementary school.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Lines and shapes
- Proper pencil grasp
- Proper letter formation
- Proper number formation

BIBLE

K4 uses ACSI Early Education Bible Curriculum Purposeful Design to help guide our students to develop not only a biblical worldview but to lead them towards a life of faith and hope in Jesus. We read through the Bible from beginning to end and engage the children in hands-on, engaging activities to help solidify their understanding of what we are learning. In addition scripture memorization is included to not only instill the word of God in their hearts, but strive to help make this a life long routine that they carry with them throughout their school career and beyond so that they leave FPA deeply rooted in God's Word.

K4 Grade Field Trips:

- Pizza Inn
- Callaham Orchards
- Critter Keeper in-school field trip





TRANSITIONAL KINDERGARTEN

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**MUST BE 5 BY SEPT 1 OF
THE YEAR YOU APPLY**



Erin Woodard



Melissa DeJong

MATH

In Transitional Kindergarten, students explore foundational math concepts using the K5 Bob Jones curriculum. Lessons focus on number recognition, counting, basic addition and subtraction, shapes, and measurement. Hands-on activities and play-based learning help students develop number sense, confidence, and a love for math.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Number Recognition & Counting
- Comparing Quantities
- Basic Addition & Subtraction
- Shapes & Spatial Awareness
- Measurement & Comparison
- Patterns

SCIENCE

Transitional Kindergarten students explore the natural world through hands-on science experiences using integrated resources and curriculum. Students engage in nature exploration, observe seasonal changes, learn about living things and their habitats, and discover concepts through the five senses. Interactive activities and real-world connections foster curiosity, scientific thinking, and a love for discovery.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Nature & Seasonal Exploration
- Living Things & Habitats
- The Five Senses
- Weather & Seasons
- Hands-On Exploration & Observation

READING

In Transitional Kindergarten, students explore foundational skills using a teacher-created curriculum bundle that supplements the Scope and Sequence for Kindergarten. Lessons focus on letter recognition, phonemic awareness, alphabet development, basic sight words, number concepts, and social-emotional development. Hands-on activities and play-based learning grounded in the Science of Reading help students build confidence, early literacy skills, and a strong foundation for kindergarten.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Letter Recognition & Phonemic Awareness
- Alphabet Development (Science of Reading approach)
- Sight Words
- Number Concepts & Counting
- Fine Motor Skills
- Social-Emotional Development
- Shapes & Colors

SOCIAL STUDIES

Transitional Kindergarten students develop social awareness and community understanding through Social Studies lessons using hands-on resources and literacy-integrated activities. Students learn about community helpers, develop friendship and social skills, and explore their roles within the classroom and home environments. Through engaging activities and real-world connections, young learners build empathy, understanding of others, and a sense of belonging.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Community Helpers & Roles
- Friendship & Social Skills
- Classroom & Home Environments
- Kindness & Empathy
- Understanding Our Community

WRITING

In Transitional Kindergarten, students develop pre-writing and fine motor skills using Handwriting Without Tears' Kick Start to Kindergarten program. This developmentally appropriate curriculum uses multisensory techniques, fun activities, and proper pencil-grip instruction to prepare young learners for writing. Students practice letter formation, build hand strength, and gain confidence with writing tools through interactive lessons.

KEY CONCEPTS:

- Pre-Writing Strokes & Motor Skills
- Proper Pencil Grip Development
- Letter Formation Basics
- Hand Strength & Dexterity
- Writing Readiness Activities
- Confidence Building Through Play

BIBLE

Transitional Kindergarten students are introduced to God's love and Word through the K5 ACSI Bible Curriculum, Purposeful Design. Lessons feature Bible stories about Jesus, God's care, and His love for us, presented in age-appropriate, engaging ways. Students listen to simple Bible stories, learn about Jesus and His teachings, practice basic scripture concepts, and explore foundational biblical truths such as God's love, kindness, obedience, and belonging to God's family, helping them begin to understand that God loves them and is part of their everyday lives.



TK Grade Field Trips:

- Pizza Inn
- Callaham Orchards
- Critter Keeper in-school field trip



RELATED ARTS

Each week, students participate in Related Arts classes, including Art, PE, Spanish (K4, TK), and Music. These classes nurture the whole child; creatively, intellectually, and spiritually, helping students explore God's world, develop their gifts, and grow in character alongside academic learning.



De'quan Rowland
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

"Every PE class is a chance to move, learn, and grow; building strength, faith, and joy in Jesus through active play and teamwork."



Melonie Martin
MUSIC

In preschool music, children delight in exploring God's gift of music through singing, movement, rhythm activities, instruments, and musical games. Throughout the year, they build foundational music skills while developing listening, coordination, creativity, and confidence. Created in God's image, each child is encouraged to use their unique gifts to praise Him and enjoy making music with others. Students also prepare two joyful music programs each year to share what they've learned with family and friends while growing in confidence and a love for music.



Ann Carruthers
SPANISH

"My goal for teaching Spanish in Crusader Station is to provide engaging exposure that makes the language feel familiar rather than foreign. I also encourage students to use what they have learned to glorify God and share Him with others."

Art

In Art class at First Presbyterian Academy, students explore a variety of mediums and artists from around the world while learning how creativity reflects the character of God.

Special Events

- Christmas Program
- Grandparents Day
- Spring Program
- Field Day
- Book Fair
- ACSI Day of Prayer
- ABC (Athletes Bridging Connections)
- Muffins for Ma'ams
- Donuts for Dudes
- ABC Fashion Show





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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN ACADEMY

STAY CONNECTED!

Scan the QR code to access our Parent Portal—your one-stop resource for important school information, calendars, forms, supply lists, lunch ordering, handbooks, academic resources, and more. Everything you need, all in one place.

