

## Expected School-Wide Learning Results

In developing the whole child, Almaden Country School will prepare students to be:

- ◆ *Critical and creative thinkers* who know, comprehend, apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate.
- ◆ *Literate individuals* who demonstrate developmental competency in reading, writing, mathematics, sciences, and other disciplines.
- ◆ *Effective communicators* who listen, explain, make presentations, and respond with clarity, in all curriculum disciplines.
- ◆ *Healthy individuals* who understand and demonstrate the elements of physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle.
- ◆ *Community contributors* who practice respect, responsibility, courtesy, service, cooperation, generosity, honesty, patriotism, good citizenship, appreciation for diversity, and school team building.
- ◆ *Productive individuals* who discover, develop, appreciate, and apply their unique gifts with a strong work ethic.
- ◆ *Self-respecting individuals* who understand their personal value and demonstrate confidence in their abilities.

## Statement of Purpose

Since 1982, the mission of Almaden Country School has been to discover the gifts in every child. An Almaden Country School education is one that offers a traditional liberal arts and sciences curriculum, taught in a developmentally appropriate sequence. It focuses on the individual and includes strong academics, continuity and integration of curriculum, broad enrichment programs and a dedicated partnership between home and school.

At ACS, we value childhood. Guided by our recognition that each child has unique capabilities and learning styles, we provide a wide variety of experiences to enable children to develop their innate talents. Academic expectations are high, and with the guidance of superior faculty, students acquire and develop the necessary skills to prepare them for life.

We also strive to develop inherent values in each student, encouraging learning in an atmosphere of respect through courtesy, cooperation, patriotism, honesty, good citizenship, and appreciation of diversity. With these values at the helm of our school, we believe that faculty, students, and parents will contribute to the well-being and stability of our community and our society.

Our purpose as a school is clear: we want children to succeed in their educational, social, and personal endeavors. In the process, our students also grow into delightful people—considerate, concerned, committed, and ready to make significant contributions to the world-at-large.

# Almaden Country School Curriculum

## Early Childhood Education

Rigorous Academics    Focus On The Individual    Broad Enrichment



At Almaden Country School we focus on each child as an individual who is accepted and valued, while encouraging the child's development in small and large groups.

The Early Childhood curriculum is a developmental program based on a sequence of skills. It is concerned with the development of the whole child, emphasizing social, intellectual, emotional and physical growth. Learning takes place through a hands-on, multi-sensory approach at each level — we hear, we see, we say, we do. Children learn to work, play, share with others and develop self-esteem through many meaningful experiences.

The Beginnergarten program introduces many new skills in a developmentally appropriate sequence to help prepare students socially and academically for their next educational steps. Jr. Kindergarten builds on those skills, introducing more structure and urging the continued development of critical thinking and social interactions. Students enter Kindergarten, eager and ready to continue exploring the world around them.

The Early Childhood years provide a strong foundation for future academic and social growth. We are dedicated to providing a child-centered environment where children learn with joy.

*Dr. Ole Jorgenson, Head of School*

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| Grade                      | Language Arts   | Math  | Social Studies  | Science  | Movement  | Art & Music  | Other   |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Beginnergarten</b>      | <p><b>Pre-Reading and Pre-Writing Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter recognition</li> <li>Beginning letter-sound recognition</li> <li>Exposure to rich, age-appropriate literature to develop comprehension skills</li> <li>Develop fine motor skills for future letter and number printing</li> </ul> <p><b>Oral Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story dictation and retelling</li> <li>Sharing experiences</li> <li>Listening and observing</li> <li>Memorization &amp; recitation</li> <li>Rhyming</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Beginning numeral recognition</li> <li>Beginning counting by correspondence</li> <li>Rote counting</li> <li>Beginning classification</li> <li>Beginning pattern recognition</li> <li>Calendar skills</li> <li>Beginning math vocabulary concepts: more than &amp; less than, under, over, sum of</li> <li>Ordering objects from smallest to largest</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin to see the world from another's perspective and grow away from egocentrism</li> <li>Develop ability to play, work and get along with classmates in a socially acceptable manner</li> <li>Age level skills in self care</li> <li>Learn to respect and honor the United States of America through discussing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance daily and through singing patriotic songs and discussing their meaning</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop curiosity and sense of wonder for the world around them</li> <li>Develop ability to observe, sequence, classify and describe</li> <li>Solve problems and reach conclusions</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Fine Motor</b></p> <p>Develop muscles in fingers and hands to perform tasks and use implements: scissors, pencils, markers, buttoning and controlling glue</p> <p><b>Gross Motor</b></p> <p>Develop large muscles in arms and legs to ride bikes, climb stairs and ladders, run, hop and skip; develop trunk muscles and center of gravity to ride indoor swing</p> <p><b>Musical Movement Program</b></p> <p>See details under Kindergarten Movement below</p>   | <p><b>Art</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop ability to communicate thoughts and feeling through a variety of art mediums</li> <li>Develop creativity and self expression through a variety of art mediums and risk taking</li> </ul> <p><b>Music</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refinement of auditory abilities to discern and discriminate sounds through a variety of music</li> <li>Begin to discern rhythm</li> <li>Learn to use voice to sing a song</li> <li>Gain an appreciation of different kinds of music</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cooking/Snack Program twice a week, which includes development of concepts using all of the 5 senses through concrete experiences</li> <li>Weekly story time at the Library</li> <li>Big Buddy Program</li> <li>Field Trips</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Junior Kindergarten</b> | <p><b>Pre-Reading and Pre-Writing Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Letter recognition and formation</li> <li>Letter and sound sequencing</li> <li>Exposure to rich, age-appropriate literature to develop comprehension skills &amp; expand critical thinking</li> <li>Story retelling and plot sequencing</li> <li>Phonemic awareness</li> <li>Print awareness</li> </ul> <p><b>Oral Language</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Story dictation and retelling</li> <li>Sharing experiences</li> <li>Listening and observing</li> <li>Memorization &amp; recitation</li> <li>Rhyming</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Random numeral recognition 1-10</li> <li>Count by correspondence 1-12</li> <li>Increased rote counting ability</li> <li>Classification by color, size and shape</li> <li>Pattern recognition</li> <li>Calendar skills</li> <li>Left to right progression</li> <li>Numerical sequence</li> <li>Graphing</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop conflict resolution skills</li> <li>Develop ability to play, work and get along with classmates in a socially acceptable manner</li> <li>Learn to respect and honor the United States of America through discussing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance daily, through singing patriotic songs and discussing their meaning</li> <li>Memorize and recite patriotic poems</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hands on participation in science experiments and activities</li> <li>Observe, compare, sequence, classify, describe and ask questions</li> <li>Solve problems and reach conclusions</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Fine Motor</b></p> <p>Develop and refine through repeated and regular usage of scissors, pencil, markers, glue, small building sets, etc.</p> <p><b>Gross Motor</b></p> <p>Develop large muscles in arms and legs to ride bikes, climb stairs and ladders, run, hop and skip; develop trunk muscles and center of gravity to ride indoor swing. Equipment requires increasingly greater coordination</p> <p><b>Musical Movement Program</b></p> <p>See details under Kindergarten Movement below</p>  | <p><b>Art</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop ability to communicate thoughts and feeling through a variety of art mediums</li> <li>Develop creativity and self expression through a variety of art mediums and risk taking. Daily participation required</li> </ul> <p><b>Music</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refinement of auditory abilities to discern and discriminate sounds through a variety of music</li> <li>Begin to discern rhythm</li> <li>Learn to use voice to sing a song</li> <li>Gain an appreciation of different kinds of music</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hands on Cooking/Snack Program daily, which includes development of concepts using all of the 5 senses through concrete experiences. Etiquette and table manners are emphasized</li> <li>Weekly story time at the library</li> <li>Big Buddy Program</li> <li>Field Trips</li> <li>As the year progresses, students are asked to do more required tasks and have less free choice options</li> </ul> |
| <b>Kindergarten</b>        | <p><b>Pre-Reading Skills</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phonemic awareness</li> <li>Print awareness</li> <li>Letter formation</li> <li>Sound and letter recognition</li> <li>Letter and sound sequencing</li> <li>Listening skills</li> <li>Letter and sound blending</li> <li>Punctuation</li> <li>Comprehension Skills</li> <li>Literature</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Calendar skills</li> <li>Numeral printing</li> <li>Geometric shapes</li> <li>Measurement</li> <li>Rote, skip, and backward counting</li> <li>Graphing</li> <li>Place value</li> <li>Time &amp; Money</li> <li>Addition &amp; Subtraction</li> <li>Numerical sequence, patterning, comparing numbers, classifying and sorting by numbers</li> </ul>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thematic units following the calendar</li> <li>Seasons</li> <li>Citizenship</li> <li>Patriotism</li> <li>Native Americans</li> <li>Holiday traditions and cultures</li> <li>Nutrition</li> <li>Mail System</li> <li>Maps and Globes</li> </ul>   | <p>Discovery and observation through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Senses</li> <li>Garden activities, pumpkins &amp; apples</li> <li>Solar System</li> <li>Oceans</li> <li>Arctic, Antarctica and Penguins</li> <li>Rainforest and Ecology</li> <li>Shadows</li> <li>Weather</li> <li>Nutrition</li> <li>Graphing</li> <li>Spiders and Bats</li> </ul> | <p>Musical Movement Program:</p> <p><b>Movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Body and space awareness</li> <li>Non-locomotor and locomotor skills</li> <li>Manipulative skills (throwing, catching, dribbling, kicking, jumping rope)</li> <li>Motor memory skills; visual &amp; auditory cues to copy and recall single movements &amp; movement/rhythm patterns</li> </ul> <p><b>Dramatic Expression/Creative Movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Self-initiated movement and expression through music, poems and stories</li> <li>Ability to listen for musical cues as they relate to movement</li> </ul> | <p><b>Art</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Colors</li> <li>Thematic projects</li> <li>Creative exploration</li> </ul> <p><b>Music</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developmental music; dramatic play</li> <li>Development of the following through the Musical Movement program: singing; percussion band; aural skills (high/low, fast/slow, loud/soft, steady beat); exposure to folk, classical, and patriotic music, and children's favorites</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly story time at the library</li> <li>Big Buddy Program</li> <li>Field Trips</li> </ul>  |