

Expected School-Wide Learning Results

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

1. Critical and creative thinkers who know, comprehend, apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate.
2. Literate individuals who demonstrate competency in reading, writing, listening and presenting in all curriculum disciplines.
3. Effective communicators who listen, demonstrate, explain and respond with clarity.
4. Healthy individuals who understand the elements of physical fitness and a healthy lifestyle.
5. Community contributors who practice respect, courtesy, service, cooperation, generosity, honesty, patriotism, good citizenship, appreciation for diversity, school spirit and team building.
6. Productive individuals who discover, develop and apply their unique gifts.
7. Contemporary learners who demonstrate knowledge and skills in mathematics, in the sciences and in the prevalent technology.

Statement of Purpose

Since 1982, the mission of Almaden Country School has been to provide a “gifted education” for every child. A gifted 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 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.

Steve Hayden, Head of Schools



Grade	Language Arts	Math	Social Studies	Science	Physical Education	Art & Music	Other Enrichment
Beginnergarten	<p>Development of oral and receptive language through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Story dictation and retelling · Sharing experiences · Listening and observing · Memorization & recitation · Rhyming · Letter recognition · Exposure to rich, age-appropriate literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Shape recognition · Beginning classification · Beginning counting by correspondence · Beginning number recognition · Rote count 1-10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Begin to see the world from another's perspective and grow away from egocentrism · Be able to play, work and get along with classmates in a socially acceptable manner · Learn to respect and honor the United States of America through discussing and reciting daily the Pledge of Allegiance and through singing patriotic songs and discussing their meaning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Develop curiosity and sense of wonder for the world around them · Develop ability to observe, sequence, classify and describe · Use these skills to solve problems and reach conclusions 	<p>Fine Motor Develop muscles in fingers and hands to perform tasks including scissors, pencils, markers, buttoning and controlling glue</p> <p>Gross Motor 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>Musical Movement Program See details under Kindergarten Physical Education below</p>	<p>Art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Develop ability to communicate thoughts and feeling through a variety of art mediums · Develop creativity and self expression through a variety of art mediums and risk taking <p>Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Refinement of auditory abilities to discern and discriminate sounds through a variety of music · Begin to discern rhythm · Learn to use voice to sing a song · Gain an appreciation of different kinds of music 	<p>Cooking/Snack Program which includes development of concepts using all of the 5 senses through concrete experiences</p>
Junior Kindergarten	<p>Continued development of oral language through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Story dictation and retelling · Sharing experiences · Listening and observing · Memorization & recitation · Rhyming · Letter recognition via required letter jobs · Daily reading aloud of varied age-appropriate children's literature for comprehension · Weekly library visit 	<p>Demonstrate pre-math skills of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Random numeral recognition 1-10 · Count by correspondence 1-12 · Rote count 1-20 · Classification by color, size and shape · Left to right progression 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Develop socialization skills and patriotism · Develop ability to express feelings in words · Develop ability to play, work and get along with classmates in a socially acceptable manner · Learn to respect and honor the United States of America through discussing and reciting daily the Pledge of Allegiance, through singing patriotic songs and discussing their meaning and through memorizing and reciting patriotic poems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Participation in science experiments and activities · Observe, compare, sequence, classify, describe and ask questions · Solve problems and reach conclusions 	<p>Fine Motor Develop and refine through repeated usage of scissors, pencil, markers, glue, small building sets, buttons and zippers</p> <p>Gross Motor Develop large muscle strength and coordination in arms and legs through repeated usage of outdoor and indoor activities and play equipment</p> <p>Musical Movement Program See details under Kindergarten Physical Education below</p>	<p>Art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Develop ability to communicate thoughts and feeling through a variety of art mediums · Develop creativity and self expression through a variety of art mediums and risk taking <p>Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Refinement of auditory abilities to discern and discriminate sounds through a variety of music · Begin to discern rhythm · Learn to use voice to sing a song · Gain an appreciation of different kinds of music 	<p>Cooking/Snack Program which includes development of concepts using all of the 5 senses through concrete experiences</p>
Kindergarten	<p>Pre-reading skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Phonemic awareness · Print awareness · Letter formation · Sound and letter recognition · Letter and sound sequencing · Dictation · Listening skills · Letter and sound blending · Punctuation · Recitation · Literature 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Calendar skills · Numeral printing · Geometric shapes · Measurement · Rote counting · Graphing · Place value · Time · Money · Addition · Subtraction · Numerical sequence · Classifying and sorting by numbers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Thematic units following the calendar · Seasons · Community · Patriotism · Native Americans · Holiday traditions and cultures · Nutrition · Dinosaurs · Solar System and space · Plants and flowers 	<p>Discovery and observation through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Senses · Garden activities · Classification · Simple machines · Pollination · Magnets · Butterflies · Bubbles · Graphing 	<p>Musical Movement program, which includes:</p> <p>Movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Body and space awareness · Non-locomotor and locomotor skills · Manipulative skills (throwing, catching, dribbling, kicking, jumping rope) · Elements of movement <p>Dramatic Expression/ Creative Movement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Self-initiated movement and expression through music, poems and stories 	<p>Art</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Colors · Thematic projects · Study of artists · Creative exploration · Lines and textures <p>Music</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Developmental music; dramatic play · 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, patriotic and children's favorites 	<p>Optional French classes offered after school</p>