Tualatin Valley Academy
A SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SCHOOL

Kindergarten

Jesus said, "...let the little ones come to me...don't hold them back. They too are part of my kingdom." Matthew 19:14

Kindergarten is one of the first big steps in your child's journey through his or her school adventure. It is our goal that your child feels successful in all that he or she tries. In the classroom, we will create a partnership between home and school so that your child will develop spiritually, mentally, socially and physically to the best of his or her ability.

Meet Mr. Woodworth

Clark Woodworth joined the Tualatin Valley Academy team as our Kindergarten teacher in 2015. He earned his Elementary Education degree from Walla Walla University, and dove right into teaching some of the most curious, energetic learners out there - Kindergarteners!

Hearing students ask well thought-out questions is one of the highlights of Mr. Woodworth's job. He loves interacting with students, and the reason he became a teacher was to promote a love of learning in the kids he teaches, both in his classroom and on the basketball team he coaches.

Mr. Woodworth has a knack for making students feel heard. He draws out even the most quiet of students, getting to know them for who they are and encouraging them as they get their start in an academic learning environment.

Hear What Our Parents Have to Say

"Mr. Woodworth's Kindergarten class is a safe place to grow and learn. He is kind and gentle but firm. My son constantly surprises me with what he's learned at school whether math or reading or science. He is having an amazing year."

"Our son loved Mr. Woodworth's class and looked forward to school each and every morning. His confidence grew so much over the course of the school year and he loved how interactive the learning was."

Daily Schedule

Morning Activity
Worship
Math
Language Arts and Reading
Free Choice
Lunch
Recess
Sharing
Bible
Quiet Time
Science/Social Studies

Weekly Activities

Chapel
Music
Library
Computers
Art

Extracurricular Activities

Soccer
Bricks4Kidz
Piano/Voice lessons

Curriculum

Math
Daily calendar math
Patterning, shapes and sorting
Graphing
1 through 10 concepts
Counting by ones, twos, fives and tens
Numeral recognition and formation 1-100
Addition and subtraction
Simple multiplication/sorting into groups
Time and money

Bible
Jesus is my friend
Sharing Jesus' love with others
Creation story
Birth and life of Jesus

Language and Reading
Alphabet awareness, letter names
Letter recognition and formation manuscript writing
Word, sentence and phonemic awareness
Rhyme and alliteration awareness
High frequency words and word families
Book/literature concepts and library skills

Science
Animals, birds and plants
Insects, worms and spiders
Air, land and water
Ecology
Seasons
Nutrition and our bodies

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First and Second Grade

We believe children are a precious and wonderful gift from God. We strive to provide developmentally appropriate curriculum that is designed to nurture the spiritual, intellectual, physical, social and emotional growth of each child.

Meet Mr. Darby

Mr. Darby has been teaching for 10 years, but that doesn't mean he doesn't experience something new every day. In fact, that's what he loves most about his job:
"Every day I am guaranteed at least one moment of pure joy. Children have a beautiful outlook on life and I enjoy exploring this incredible world with them."

With a masters in Literary Instruction from Walla Walla University and an undergraduate degree in Elementary Education with an Art minor, Mr. Darby leads his students in new, creative learning techniques every day. This year he is most excited about exploring science and engineering projects with his class, an excitement his students share!

Meet Mrs. Wendt

Mrs. Wendt loves seeing and experiencing new things every day. It's what led her to be a teacher. She loves children, and thinks watching the light come on in a child is one of the most exciting things to witness!

As one of TVA's First and Second Grade teachers, Mrs. Wendt brings a wealth of knowledge and 23 years of experience to her classroom. She earned her Elementary Education degree from Walla Walla University and has endorsements in Early Childhood Education and Psychology.

Since joining TVA's team in 2005 Mrs. Wendt has been working to broaden her students' horizons academically including bringing several new STEM activities into the classroom, including boxes of STEM-oriented activities for free play and Wacky Science experiments every Tuesday.

Mrs. Wendt's students know she has a passion for learning, and that inspires them to get excited about learning too!

Why Combine First and Second Grade?

We have chosen to teach in a multi-grade format because of the benefits of cross-age and cross-grade teaching. Students benefit from seeing the work that the other students are doing and the opportunity to help each other. For example, grouping for reading is facilitated by allowing more flexibility for placing students in a group that best fits their needs. Both teachers feel this format has been beneficial to both the first and second grade students.

Parents as Partners

At TVA we believe in working together with parents to create a climate of mutual trust, respect and support. Here are just a few ways for parents to be involved:

Visit the classroom
Volunteer to help in the classroom
Join us on a field trip
Be a guest speaker
Become involved in our parent organization, Home and School
Attend parent/teacher conferences
Read the weekly class and school newsletters
Attend school functions

Curriculum

Content is taught thematically.

Language Arts
Phonemic awareness
Guided reading
Writing processes

Mathematics
Number sense
Mathematical literacy
Problem solving and real world applications

Bible
Christian virtues/Character development
Families in the Old and New Testament

Science
Habitats around the world
Earth, life and physical science

Social Studies
Communities past and present
Cultures around the world

Enrichment

In addition to the rich curriculum provided at TVA, we also offer these extra enrichment opportunities:

Daily physical education class
Weekly Wacky Science class
Bi-weekly music class with two yearly performances
Weekly chapels and pastoral visits
Fully equipped computer lab
Weekly library time
Volunteer art literacy program
Community service opportunities
Optional after-school soccer program
Optional private piano and violin lessons
Educational field trips and guest speakers

A mind that is stretched by a new experience can never go back to its old dimensions.
-Oliver Wendell Holmes

This is an exciting time in the life of your child! Third grade is an important year as it forms the bridge between the primary and intermediate levels of the elementary experience. Third graders work on becoming confident, responsible and independent learners. At Tualatin Valley Academy we strive to create a community in which students are encouraged to develop to their fullest potential spiritually, mentally, socially and physically. Our classroom doors are always open. Feel free to stop in and take a look. Parents are always welcome!

Meet Mrs. Halversen

Mrs. Halversen has been teaching at Tualatin Valley Academy since 2003. She is one of our two Third Grade teachers, and she brings 25 years of teaching experience to her classroom. With her Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction, her Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies, and her Reading Specialist endorsement from Portland State University, she is a valuable resource for students and colleagues alike at TVA.

Mrs. Halversen enjoys the kids, families and people she works with. Every year she looks forward to her new group of students, saying "Every group of kids is different. I'm always excited to get to know each child and see where the year takes us."

Meet Mrs. Youker

Learning new things and getting kids excited about learning new things are two activities Mrs. Youker is passionate about! She is especially excited about helping her class delve into science.

Mrs. Youker came to TVA in 2015. She has 11 years of teaching experience from Kindergarten through High School, and she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education with endorsements in English and Spanish from Walla Walla University. She also has a 5th year degree from Pacific Union College in Angwin, California.

When asked why she became a teacher, she said: "I love kids and always knew I wanted to work with kids." She's a born teacher, and her students benefit greatly from that dedication!

Curriculum

Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.
Proverbs 23:12

Math
Addition and subtraction strategies to 100
Representing and interpreting data
Multiplication and division facts and strategies
Understanding and comparing fractions
Time, length, volume and mass
Two-dimensional shapes
Story problems
Real world applications

Language
Selected reading across a variety of genres
Writing complete sentences
Types of sentences
Paragraph structure
Parts of speech: nouns, verbs, adjectives, pronouns and adverbs
Writing process
Dictionary and thesaurus skills
Stories, poems, research
Manuscript and cursive handwriting

Science
Living organisms
Human body
Energy/force/motion
Earth surfaces

Social Studies
Early communities
Local communities
World communities
Map study

Bible
Old and New Testament stories
Fruit of the Spirit

Weekly Activities:

Chapel
Music
Library
Computers
Art