

## THE KINDERGARTEN/FIRST GRADE CURRICULUM

The Kindergarten/First Grade program at Hilltop Christian School continues the school's philosophy of learning and respect for each child's individual learning style. Our Kindergarten/First Grade program:

- Assumes students learn at different rates
- Allows continuous learning through small group instruction and individual pacing
- Is success oriented and noncompetitive
- Allows for a broad social experience with opportunities to lead and follow

### Academic Curriculum for Language Arts and Math

The school uses the *Wright Group Literacy* curriculum for a comprehensive literacy program promoting authentic reading, writing, listening and speaking experiences. The teaching philosophy encompasses a blend of strategies and methods, including phonics and basic skills instruction and immersion in meaningful literature and writing. Based on the assessed needs of the students, this approach combines developmentally appropriate literature, language and writing experiences with explicit instruction in skills. The main components of the program include:

- **Shared reading**-Whole group instructional process where teacher models and demonstrates skills and strategies, and invites beginning readers to participate in a supportive environment.
- **Guided reading**-Small group instructional process where students are guided through the reading of a carefully leveled text.
- **Independent reading**- Students read on their own from self-selected and teacher-selected reading materials.
- **Shared Writing**-Whole group experiences where teacher models writing process, skills and strategies as students dictate and participate in the writing.
- **Guided Writing**- small group instruction that focuses on a skill needed in student writing.
- **Process Writing**- Students develop a piece of writing by working through stages.
- **Independent Writing**- Opportunities to practice writing skills, strategies, and conventions that students learn during shared and guided writing.

The School utilizes the *Growing with Mathematics* curriculum for math instruction.

The *Growing with Mathematics* program:

- Utilizes children's experiences, interests, and ability to think
- Provides mathematics learning that is "active, rich in natural and mathematical language, and filled with thought provoking activities"
- Develops both a depth and a breadth of understanding of key mathematical concepts
- Embeds problem solving and encourages the use of powerful thinking strategies into every lesson.

In addition to math and literacy, our daily learning activities include music and movement, art activities, science, social studies, foreign language, and outdoor play/physical education. Weekly Chapel time includes singing, prayer and a short story or Bible scripture emphasizing Christian values.