

River Hills Early Childhood Center Kindergarten



Miss Udelhoven's Kindergarten
Informational Packet

The History of RHECC Kindergarten

River Hills Early Childhood Center Kindergarten has been part of River Hills United Methodist Church for over two decades. We are proud to offer this wonderful academic experience to both our families and the community. RHECC Kindergarten is an all day academic kindergarten program licensed by the state of Minnesota. We offer a rich learning experience in a loving, nurturing Christian environment. RHECC Kindergarten also offers a small class size with a maximum enrollment of 15 children. With a small class size we offer more opportunity for one on one instruction. For example, A Beka Christian Curriculum offers a wonderful kindergarten reading program. With a smaller class size children are able to read one on one with their teacher. Children are also able to move through the reading curriculum at their own pace.

RHECC Kindergarten curriculum offers all academic areas important to a Kindergartener's long term academic success. Phonics, handwriting, reading, and Bible are taught through the A Beka Christian Curriculum. Math is taught through the Association of Christian Schools International Curriculum. Other academic curriculum includes science, social studies, art, music, Spanish, American Sign Language, and computer. Our curriculum is taught using fun, hands on techniques that get children excited about learning!

About Miss Udelhoven

I have been a teacher at River Hills Early Childhood Center since February of 2005. My first two years at RHECC I taught preschool in the young preschool room. I have been the kindergarten teacher since 2007. I have a degree in Early Childhood Education from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. I am certified by the state of Minnesota to teach kindergarten through third grade.

I am so happy to be part of RHECC. Since a young child I have wanted to be a kindergarten teacher. Working at RHECC has given me the opportunity to fulfill that dream. I feel truly blessed to have the opportunity to teach kindergarten in a setting that really lets me teach and get to know my students.

About Miss Feuk

I have been a teacher at River Hills Early Childhood Center since February of 2008. I am the Spanish and American Sign Language teacher, I also run the after school program. I have a degree from the Art Institutes International Minnesota. I have a great passion for art and love to incorporate it into my teaching. I truly enjoy teaching kindergarteners; they are very enthusiastic about learning!

A Day in the Life of a RHECC Kindergarten

- **Before school care (6:30-8:00 a.m.)**
RHECC offers before school care to parents who need care for their child before school starts at 8:05 a.m. Before school care is located in the preschool-two classroom (pre-kindergarten room). I pick up before school kindergarteners at 8:00 a.m. and bring them down to the kindergarten classroom.
- **Check in/individual table activity (8:00-8:05 a.m.)**
Kindergarteners start each day by checking in when they arrive to kindergarten. Each morning children sign their own name in the Kindergarten Attendance Book. Each child also has a check-in person that they decorated the first day of school. This person gets put into a check in bucket. After children have checked in for the day they go to their table spot. Children will have a different activity to do independently each day while their classmates check in.
- **Morning meeting (8:05-8:25 a.m.)**
Kindergarteners meet as a group on the calendar rug to start our morning meeting. During this time we say the Pledge of Allegiance, the Pledge to the Christian Flag, sing morning songs, read our morning note about our day, read a story, and recite our poem for the week.

- **Phonics/reading/writing/journaling (8:25-9:25 a.m.)**
Kindergartners receive phonics instruction, receive writing instruction, work on A Beka phonics and handwriting sheets, have one on one reading time with me, and participate in literacy centers. Kindergartners also journal twice a week and illustrate their weekly poem for their Kindergarten Poetry Book.
- **Bible (9:25-9:40 a.m.)**
Kindergartners sing Bible songs and listen to stories from the Bible. Christian characteristics are also taught during this time. Bible stories are non-denominational.
- **Restrooms (9:40-9:50 a.m.)**
Kindergartners go as a class to use the bathroom. During this time children use the restroom if needed and wash their hands for morning snack.
- **Morning snack (9:50-10:00 a.m.)**
Kindergartners eat their morning snack at their table spots in the kindergarten classroom. Snack varies day to day (menu available).
- **Recess (10:00-10:30 a.m.)**
Kindergartners go outside everyday for recess (weather permitting). During recess children free play and join in organized large muscle activities.
- **Calendar (10:30-10:45 a.m.)**
Kindergartners participate as a large group to fill in our classroom calendar, days of the week, weather graph, and a number of math activities to track the number of days in school.
- **Math/math centers (10:45-11:30 a.m.)**
Kindergartners participate in math centers where they play games with their peers. These games are specifically made to enhance important kindergarten math skills. Kindergartners also have a workbook they work through that follows the math units taught through ACSI.

- **Music (11:30-11:45 a.m.)**
Kindergarteners have a blast as they sing and dance to educational music.
- **Science or social studies (11:45-12:20 p.m.)**
Kindergarteners learn about the world around them. The curriculum switches back and forth between science and social studies units depending on the themes that we are covering each month. Science and social studies units are usually two weeks long. See kindergarten themes to see units covered.
- **Restrooms (12:20-12:30 p.m.)**
Kindergarteners go as a class to use the bathroom. During this time children use the restroom if needed and wash their hands for lunch.
- **Lunch (12:30-1:00 p.m.)**
Kindergarteners get the lunch room experience eating out in Fellowship Hall. Lunch is provided every day and is served with milk. Lunch Menus are available. Lunches from home are allowed, but a school lunch will also be served to ensure all food groups are covered.
- **Quiet time (1:00-1:35 p.m.)**
Kindergartners have quiet rest time for thirty five minutes. Children rest on mats (provided). Children are allowed to bring in a pillow, blanket, and soft friend to rest with.
- **Art/computer/centers (1:35-2:00 p.m.)**
Kindergarteners participate in free art activities, play educational computer games, and play at classroom centers. This part of the day is a wonderful time for children to express their creativity and work on social skill as they talk, learn, and play with their peers.
- **Spanish or American Sign Language (2:00-2:40 p.m.)**
Kindergartners learn basic Spanish and American Sing Language words. Kindergartners play games, do projects, and read stories to enhance this learning experience.

- **Restrooms (2:40-2:50 p.m.)**
Kindergarteners go as a class to use the bathroom. During this time children use the restroom if needed and wash their hands for afternoon snack
- **Afternoon snack (2:50-3:00 p.m.)**
Kindergartners eat their afternoon snack at their table spots in the kindergarten classroom. Snack varies day to day (menu available)
- **Dismissal-after school care begins (2:50 p.m.)**
The school day is official over at this time. Children not needing after school care may be picked up at this time. Children needing after school care will join the preschool-two classroom for outside time and then come back to kindergarten for the after school program.

Curriculum

There is a one time curriculum fee at the beginning of the school year. This curriculum fee pays for all of your child's school supplies, workbooks, and reading books.

- **Curriculums used**
 - A Beka is Christian curriculum. I use A Beka curriculum to teach phonics, reading, writing, and Bible.
 - Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) is a Christian curriculum. I use ACSI to teach math.
 - Curriculum for science and social studies is teacher created and theme oriented.

Computer Class

Kindergartners have computer class once a week for a half an hour. An instructor from GITS SMART-computer education for children comes to our school. Each week the children work on computer skills, educational skills, and social skills. RMECC will pay half of the monthly cost for this class. There is also computer instruction in the classroom.

Kindergarten Themes

- **September**
 - Welcome to kindergarten
 - All about me
 - Houses and homes/family
 - Apples
- **October**
 - Apples
 - Leaves/fall
 - Pumpkins/Halloween
- **November**
 - Election**
 - Weather/seasons
 - Turkeys
 - Giving thanks /Thanksgiving
- **December**
 - Holidays around the world
 - Christmas
- **January**
 - New Years
 - Chinese New Year
 - Martin Luther King Jr.
 - Snow/winter animals
- **February**
 - Groundhogs Day
 - Valentines
 - 100 days of school
 - Presidents
 - Dental health/nutrition
- **March**
 - Read Across America/Dr. Seuss
 - Community helpers
 - Saint Patrick's Day
 - Spring
 - Easter**
- **April**
 - Five senses
 - Easter
 - Farm animals
 - Earth Day
- **May**
 - Bugs/insects
 - Flowers/growing
- **June**
 - Graduation

Kindergarten Poetry Book and Letter sheets

- **Kindergarten Poetry Book**

Your Kindergartener will start a Kindergarten Poetry Book at the beginning of the school year. Each week our class will learn a new poem or rhyme. At the end of the

week each child will illustrate their poem and highlight certain words or letters. The poem is then put into their book and brought home for the weekend. Each weekend children bring their poetry books home to read to family and friends. The poetry book comes home all school year long. At the end of the school year children get to keep their books. These books are a big hit with the kindergarteners!

- **Letter sheets**

Letter sheets are sent home at the beginning of the school year when we are learning letter sounds. Children practice printing the letter they have learned. They also pick one or two activities listed on the letter sheet to do. When the letter sheet is completed children bring it back to school. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to get involved in what we are learning about in school.

Kindergarten Homework

At times during the school year your child will bring things home to complete. The homework that is sent home is an opportunity for you to work with your child, and to stay connected to what we are learning about at school. If your child does bring homework home it should be completed in a timely manner, please.

Report Cards

Report cards are sent home six times during the school year. Please make sure to look over your child's report card and sign the back. Report cards are to be sent back to school in an envelope the next school day. A final report card will be sent to you the week after school ends. You may keep this copy, another copy will be sent to your child's new school.

MRT Testing

The MRT also known as the Metropolitan Readiness Test is given twice a year. The test assesses emerging literacy skills,

story comprehension, and mathematical skills. The test given in the fall is a practice test for the class. The scores from this test help me gauge what skills the child has and what skills the child needs to improve upon. In the spring we will take the test again, these scores count. A copy of these scores will be sent to you and also to your child's new school.

Conferences

Conferences are twice a year, in the fall and in the spring. I encourage parents to please come to school for their child's conference instead of over the phone. Please let me know ahead of time if you are unable to meet in person for your child's conference.

Kindergarten Uniforms

Kindergartens are required to wear uniforms on school days. This is a wonderful way for kindergarteners to take pride in themselves and their school. Uniform colors are navy, red, khaki, and white. Children are allowed to wear clothing in these colors. Kindergartners are also required to wear dark dress shoes. Children are asked to bring a pair of sneakers to wear during recess (sneakers can be kept at school). I also recommend that your child please bring a backpack to school each day.

Kindergarteners also have an official uniform they are asked to wear to school on certain days of school. Please see the uniform information sheet to see official uniform pieces.

Uniform clothing can be ordered from French Toast Uniforms (www.Frenchtoast.com) or found in clothing stores. I ask that shirts do not have print of them (small emblems are ok) and that shirts have a collar.

Non School Days and School Closings

- **Non school days**

RHECC follows Independent School District 191 school calendar. You will be notified at the beginning of the school year what days we will not have kindergarten. If you bring your child in for care on a non school day

there will be a full day of planned activities. This is another opportunity for social growth. Children do not need to wear their uniforms on non school days. Child care will be offered for your child when RHECC is open. There are some dates that RHECC will also be closed (see RHECC closing sheet). Please see school calendar for days when we do not have kindergarten.

- **School closings**

If neighboring schools close due to bad weather, RHECC Kindergarten maybe closed. If there is no school we will post it on WCCO news and radio (channel 4) and Kare 11 (channel 11). If you are in need childcare that day RHECC will most likely be open. Please watch to make sure RHECC is still open before coming in. If school is ending early due to the weather I will call you personally.

Absences, Tardiness, and Sickness

- **Absences**

If you know that your child is going to be absent please let me know. If you are unable to let me know ahead of time, please call. Please remember that I do keep track of absences and records are sent to your child's new school.

- **Tardiness**

School starts at 8:05 a.m. every morning. Please have your child to school each day by the start of school. Seven times of being tardy does equal one absence. Again, I do keep track of tardiness and records are sent to you child's new school.

- **Sickness**

If your child is sick and will not be at school, please to let me know. If your child becomes ill at school I will call to inform you. Depending on the type of illness your child has they may need to be excluded for twenty four hours.

Kindergarten Field Trips

Through out the school year Kindergarten goes on a couple of different field trips. Kindergarteners do not have to wear their uniform on field trip days. We always love parents to come along on our field trips! Please keep your eye out for field trip information.

Kindergarten Parties

Our classroom has a lot of fun parties through out the school year. We always love parents to come join us! Please keep your eye out for party information. Below you will find a list of our Kindergarten parties.

- Thanksgiving
- Gingerbread House Party (Christmas)
- 100 Days of School
- Saint Patrick's Day

School Wide Events

Through out the school year RHECC hosts different school wide events. Kindergarten participates in all school wide events. Family and friends are always invited to these events. Please keep your eye out for school wide event information. Below you will find a list of our school wide events.

- Grandparent's Lunch
- Halloween Party and Trick-or-Treating
- Thanksgiving Feast
- Christmas Program
- Christmas Party
- Valentines Party
- Sweetheart Breakfast
- Spring Program
- Easter Party
- Muffins with Mom
- *other events may occur

Kindergarten Graduation

Kindergarten graduation is on the last Friday of the school year (afternoon). Kindergarteners wear caps and gowns for this special occasion. Graduation is held in the RHUMC Sanctuary. There is a reception for the new graduates after graduation. All family and friends are encouraged to come to this exciting event!

Tuition

Tuition is charged for each week during the school year (Sept. through the first week of June) regardless of attendance. Please note that this includes non school days. Please see rate sheet for specific rates.



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