



ACADEMICS - KINDERGARTEN

OUR CORE VALUES

Christ Centered

Our faith and trust in God and His Grace serves as the foundation of our ministry and is reflected in our teaching, relationships, and service.

Excellence

We strive for excellence in education and promote our God given potential.

Service

We inspire students to serve others reflecting Christ in our lives.

Harmony

Diversity brings strength to our Lutheran family. All people are valued and welcomed.

The Program

Kindergarten at Rockford Lutheran focuses on the development of the child's educational needs. We encourage creativity and exploration while developing an environment of respect, trust, learning, and affection. Both group and individualized instruction are used to help each child develop such skills.

Program Offerings

- **5 full days (8am-3pm / Monday-Friday)**
- *Half day kindergarten from 8-11:30am (Monday-Friday) is another option available; however, it will be a reduced schedule and some classes will not be offered.*

Religion

We learn about the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with the forgiveness and salvation offered through Jesus' death and resurrection. As a class we come to faith and grow in Christian maturity, and learn to value all of God's creation and care for it wisely and well.

Math

Within our math curriculum, we develop the fluency in numerical operations, conceptual understanding and discover with hands-on instruction through learning stations and manipulatives

Reading/Language/Writing

Children will experience Phonemic awareness instruction, hands on instruction through learning stations, guided reading based on each student's ability, and each student is given the opportunity to express themselves through Writer's Workshop and Readers Workshop.



Social Studies

We center on building a Moral Community Classroom, becoming citizens of good character. This experience includes hands-on instruction delivered through projects and activities.

Science

Opportunities are provided for students to develop and maintain the essential skills that form a basis for scientific inquiry. This experience includes hands-on instruction delivered through projects and activities.

Field Trips

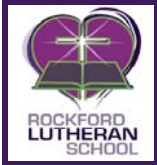
- Apple Orchard • Pumpkin Patch • Theater Production • Bowling • Zoo • In House Discovery Center-Planetarium

Clubs/Activities

- Lego Club • Young Rembrandts • Computer Color Club

Extended Care

This program allows students to be in a safe environment while providing opportunities for activities above and beyond the regular school day. Before Care runs from 6:30-7:45am and After Care is 3:15-5:30pm.



ACADEMICS - GRADE 1

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The Program (8am-3pm)

Grade 1 at Rockford Lutheran focuses on the development of the child's social, cognitive and language skills. It encourages creativity and physical coordination while nurturing emotional development and fostering an environment of respect, trust, learning, and affection. Both group and individualized instruction are used to help each child develop such skills.

Religion

Religion studies are done through teaching lifelong social skills through lessons of the Bible. We focus on Christian character education for peaceful problem-solving skills. We discuss readings and make connections from the Bible verses into our lives. Every year first graders participate in service projects.

Reading

Reading instruction is achieved by focusing on standards and goals. A few key elements are reading with sufficient accuracy and fluency to support comprehension, phonemic awareness, word focus, rhyming words, compound words, contractions, synonyms/antonyms, and spelling patterns. Students are exposed to a range of reading texts and genres through literature and leveled readers that provide instruction at student's level with an interdisciplinary focus. We conduct structured centers and instruction to meet individual needs.

Social Studies

Social Studies is about making connections to the world through rules and laws of a community and where people live geographically. We discover our changing world past, present, and future through history and technology. Real life application of simple economic skills such as a Marketplace is explored.

Science

Science is the study of living and non-living things through habitats/environments and needs. We study our Earth through natural resources, energy, matter, weather. We discover through experiments using scientific methods.



Math

Math instruction happens in a student centered environment where modeling of core ideas is communicated clearly. Students focus on exploring number sense and patterns, addition, subtraction, regrouping, basic fact strategies, geometry, fractions, money, time, and place value. We conduct structured centers and instruction to meet individual needs.

Language Arts/Writing

Language Arts/Writing is taught through experiences based approach to develop oral language and thinking skills. We focus on recognition and structure different types of sentences, parts of a sentence, punctuations, and capitalization. We enhance vocabulary building through nouns, verbs, adjectives, and conjunctions. Spelling mastery works through word families and focus words from all subjects.

Field Trips

• Gymnastics Academy • Wesley Willows • Severson Dells • Lockwood Park • Rockford Public Library

Clubs/Activities

• Chess Club • Lego Club • Young Rembrandts • Choir • Computer Color Club • Yoga Club

Extended Care

This program allows students to be in a safe environment while providing opportunities for activities above and beyond the regular school day. Before Care runs from 6:30-7:45am and After Care is 3:15-5:30pm.



ACADEMICS - GRADE 2

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The Program (8am-3pm)

Grade 2 at Rockford Lutheran focuses on developing academic, spiritual, and social growth by fostering an environment of respect, trust, and learning. Students will learn new concepts through hands-on activities as well as through whole group and small group instruction.

Religion

Faith is the foundation of the daily curriculum including daily devotion, Bible stories, prayer, and weekly chapels. Students are taught how to live by integrating Christian morals and values.

Math

Students use critical thinking to solve problems using skills that can be transferred to everyday life. By the end of second grade students will be able to add and subtract two and three digit numbers along with using place value for rounding. Students are introduced to linear measurement as well as learning telling time to the nearest 5 minutes. Instruction includes individual, small group, and whole group.

Social Studies

Students understand that our country is made up of many different people and cultures. They learn how national and local governments operate to serve and protect its citizens. Students apply map skills by navigating maps around the community.

Science

Students understand that everything is classified as living and nonliving things. Students study animal habitats culminated by an educational experience to the Shedd Aquarium. Students learn about physical and earth science including states of matter and the rotation of the earth.

Reading

Second grade utilizes the Fountas and Pinell guided reading program which enables students to master comprehension skills at their own pace. Individual reading levels are determined by student assessment. Our goal is to achieve growth for each student. Students use Daily 5 Centers to enhance reading skills in both fiction and non-fiction works.

Language Arts/Writing

Writing is incorporated across the curriculum. Students learn that writing is a process including rough draft, editing skills, and final copy. Basic researching skills are developed as they write narrative, expository and opinion articles. Paragraph formation is introduced and discussed to help in completing their thought process.

Field Trips

• Shedd Aquarium • MAP Skill (local establishments) • Nursing Homes • Trip to Local Business

Clubs/Activities

• Chess Club • Lego Club • Young Rembrandts • Choir • Computer Color Club • Book Worms

Extended Care

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ACADEMICS - GRADE 3

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The Program (8am-3pm)

Grade 3 at Rockford Lutheran Academy is full of wonderful new experiences. Students grow in independence and confidence. Curriculum integrates all learning types and styles to address the needs of each student. Students are challenged and motivated to apply new skills to everyday life. The learning environment is built around Christian character and includes love for God and respect for others.

Religion

Students learn through daily devotions, a weekly memory verse, and Christian character education. Along with Bible stories and a focus on the Seasons of the Church, student strengthen their journey of faith.

Math

Third grade math focuses on multiplication, division, and geometry. Concepts in basic fractions, decimals, and measurement are included. Technology is utilized to aid in reinforcement of skills. Small group centers are used for differentiated instruction. Software tools such as Greg Tang Math and Khan Academy are applied as a strengthening tool.

Science

Life, Earth, and Physical Sciences are taught throughout the year. Hands-on and interactive activities, as well as technology are used to facilitate learning. Real settings provided educational balance. Students are engaged in projects and experiments as they learn about the Scientific Method and the world around them.

Social Studies

Students explore with a variety of resources. As students focus on cultures and the world around them, research activities, hands-on projects, and technology provide a range of learning experiences. Extra tools include Scholastic News, BrainPop, and Democracy Weekly.

Reading

Reading is student-centered and designed to meet each student's level of readiness. The Daily 5 program, Guided Reading, and novel studies are utilized to provide individualized attention. A leveled reader library is readily available to provide essential tools for fluency, comprehension, and a love of reading.

Language Arts/Writing

Comprised of three types of writing including Narrative, Informative, and Opinion, students create paragraphs using the 6 Trait writing process. Grammar studies and writer's notebooks are used to enhance language skills.

Field Trips

• Atwood • Various theatrical performances • Earth Day movie

Clubs/Activities

• Chess Club • Lego Club • Young Rembrandts • Choir • Computer Color Club • Book Worms • K-Kids • Jr Crew Football • Soccer (co-ed)

Extended Care

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ACADEMICS - GRADE 4

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The Program (8am-3pm)

Grade 4 at Rockford Lutheran teaches students to strive to respect God and one another, learning new concepts in all areas, improving previous skills, and gaining more independence in learning. We will focus on time management, following directions the first time, organization, and most importantly spiritual growth. In fourth grade, students will also focus on being *joyful* by honoring Jesus first, then others, followed by ourselves.

Religion

In Bible students memorize scripture for daily use and later recollection. Students use application of Biblical principles in everyday life. We study the life of Jesus as our example of how we can live for Him. We use the Character Education program along with daily Bible work. This program works on the core values of what makes a great student, great classmate and a child of God. This program goes hand-in-hand with our Bible readings for the week and allows us to pair the two together.

Math

Math is based on small group learning. Students use games and activities as challenges to strengthen the objectives in the curriculum. Some key math concepts are: multiplication, (long) division, fractions, geometry and introduction to basic algebraic concepts. We utilize technology (Khan Academy & Greg Tang Math) to strengthen individual level skills for each student.

Science

Science in the 4th grade is project based and research based learning. We explore our textbook throughout the year using tools, projects and labs to enhance the curriculum. Throughout the year we learn about Earth Science, Physical Science, and Life Science. Each unit comes with a research based project and hands-on labs to allow students the extra support and understanding for the topic. We use technology to complete PowerPoints, newsletters and brochures for different topics and subjects throughout the year.

Social Studies

Social studies is project and research based learning. There are many writing opportunities based on social studies content. Students also utilize and practice their technology skills.



Reading

Fourth graders participate in novel studies. Reading is closely tied in with writing opportunities. Students are ability grouped by grade level or advanced abilities. Both levels are challenged. There are also literature circles for leveled reading.

Language Arts/Writing

We focus on using language skills within writing. We also practice many different types of writing, including narrative, persuasive, letters, descriptive writing, informative writing and performing research. Students also practice peer evaluating with 5th graders.

Field Trips

• Camp Winnebago • Severson Dells in-Class Trip • Spotlight Youth Theater • Fourth Grade Play

Clubs/Activities

• Chess Club • Lego Club • Young Rembrandts • Computer Color Club • Choir • K-Kids • Student Council • Trivia Time • Basketball • Jr Crew Football • Volleyball (Girls) • Cheerleading • Soccer (co-ed) • Acolytes • Chapel Song Leaders

Extended Care

This program allows students to be in a safe environment while providing opportunities for activities above and beyond the regular school day. Before Care runs from 6:30-7:45am and After Care is 3:15-5:30pm.



ACADEMICS - GRADE 5

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The Program (8am-3pm)

Grade 5 at Rockford Lutheran focuses on growth in academics, social behavior, and Spirit. Students are encouraged in the development of independence and self-responsibility of learning.

Religion

Students focus on Old and New Testament Bible stories and what they mean and how they are applied to their daily lives. Through Bible verses, skits and music, students grow in their close relationship with our Savior.

Math

Class focuses on problem-solving strategies; and becoming more fluent in basic computation; fractions, and geometry. Khan Academy, centers, and online practice are used to reinforce concepts. Both levels of math stress precision and persevering in the math classwork and homework.

Social Studies

Studies centers around the study of the United States; the history of early America and colonial life; Revolutionary War; and up to the Civil War. The students learn new vocabulary and make projects to deepen their understanding. The projects of the Wax Museum for the Civil War and the model of a Native American village are highlights.

Science

Science focuses on the physical sciences of matter, motion and machines; the human body with the nervous system and the anatomy of the 5 senses; earth science with meteorology, sun, stars, moon and its phases, tides and Earth; and life sciences with oceanography, ornithology, entomology and mammals. Each exciting unit is taught through discovery, inquiry and the scientific method. Hands on experiments are performed in class.

Reading

Reading instruction centers around novels in Literature and Inquiry Circles. Within these units, writing responses, close reading techniques, and comprehension projects help students focus on fiction and nonfiction strategies including determining importance and synthesizing. Guided Reading mini-lessons allow students to learn skills such as rereading for meaning and self-correcting for fluency.

Writing/Grammar

Writing Workshop is used daily in the fifth-grade writing block. Writing Workshop consists of mini-lessons to teach writing techniques based on the Six Traits of Writing such as organization, word choice, and a variety of figurative language and grammar skills such as sentence variety and punctuation. Following each mini-lesson is 20-25 minutes of individual writing time that students use to create masterpieces of various types including persuasive, research, and narrative. Each writing period ends with Share Time where students get the opportunity to share and receive feedback from their peers. The goal of Writing Workshop is for each student to grow as a writer throughout the school year.

Field Trips

• Space Center in Woodstock • The Midway Village Museum • Ski Trip • Musical Production

Clubs/Activities

• Chess Club • Lego Club • Young Rembrandts • Choir • K-Kids • Student Council • Trivia Time • Computer Color Club • Basketball • Soccer (co-ed) • Jr Crew Football • Wrestling • Cross Country • Track • Volleyball (Girls) • Cheerleading (Girls) • Crusader Connection • Crossing Guards • Chapel Helpers • Chapel Song Leaders • Musical Production

Extended Care

This program allows students to be in a safe environment while providing opportunities for activities above and beyond the regular school day. Before Care runs from 6:30-7:45am and After Care is 3:15-5:30pm.



ARTS

Art (Grades K-5)

Our program educates students in the elements and principles of art to give the students a background for creating individual works. Artists, cultures, and self-expression are incorporated into lessons for a well-rounded experience. Students are encouraged to explore their God-given talents.

Drama (Grades PS-5)

In drama class, students learn how to tell stories through acting, tableau, puppets, human video, music and many other forms. Each grade presents at least one program throughout the year and helps lead chapel at least once a year. An emphasis is placed on sharing our faith and the story of Jesus through our presentations. We always seek to give Him glory!

Foreign Language (Grades PS-5)

Spanish and French are taught using total physical response (TPR) methods and comprehensible input (CI) from preschool through fifth grade. Students learn to move to commands, songs and motions are used to learn nouns and other concepts so that movement aids in the learning and retention of the language. Learning Spanish and French through natural acquisition methods makes the classes stress-free and fun!

Library (Grades PS-5)

All students attend library once a week. During library, students partake in a variety of activities that both foster a love of reading as well as work on basic library skills. Sample library times include author studies, read-alouds, book discussions and reader's theater performances. Older grades also produce monthly book commercials for the younger students. We may also settle in around the "campfire" and read a story, turn off the lights for a "flashlight fun" read, or enjoy a story (and hot chocolate) at our library café. In addition, we offer a Chat & Chew lunchtime book group. Our library also contains an area dedicated to Guided Reading level books where students can find their right fit book. We strive to curate our collection with both the best classic and new releases in an effort to make all of our students life-long readers.

P.E. (Grades PS-5)

Students will learn the importance of teamwork, sportsmanship, and that working together with a good attitude are necessary in day to day life. Through skill building exercises, hand-eye coordination, spatial awareness, team and individual activities along with simple games, students will grow cognitively and physically.



Technology (Grades K-5)

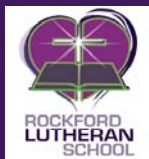
Technology is included to meet the developmental needs of each student. All classrooms contain a smart board, projector and computers for students to use daily. Each class visits the lab, housing 24 computers, twice a week for instruction. iPads are available for classes to use throughout the school day. Units of study include keyboarding, internet safety, and knowledge of Microsoft programs, such as Word, Publisher, Power Point, Excel, and Paint.

Orchestra (Grades 3-5)

Orchestra is an elective subject, which offers an opportunity for personal growth and enrichment through the study of a stringed instrument. We offer lessons on Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass and Harp. This program is structured to provide young people with motivation, a positive attitude and commitment to success in an atmosphere of discovery and encouragement. Students do not have to be "talented" to succeed in this program and anyone who is willing to learn and put time into it will find success. Those who participate in orchestra will have the opportunity to perform a number of times during the year, including Chapel, community concerts and performances.

Band (Grades 3-5)

Music is a God-given talent and a basic key part to a child's education. Each student will attain a positive attitude to music and work toward a better understanding of music. Through singing, playing, moving, reading and improvising, students will learn about the elements of music, which include melody, rhythm, texture, form and tone color.



ACTIVITIES & CLUBS

Alternative after school opportunities are available to students where they can choose from a variety of clubs and activities to participate in and register for throughout the year.

After School Clubs and Activities

Art & Literacy
PK3 thru PK4

Homework Help
3rd Grade thru 5th Grade

Student Council
3rd Grade thru 5th Grade

Book Worms
2nd Grade and 3rd Grade

Hand Chime Choir
1st Grade thru 5th Grade

Trivia Time
4th Grade thru 5th Grade

Chess
1st Grade thru 5th Grade

K-Kids
3rd Grade thru 5th Grade

Young Rembrandt's
Kindergarten thru 5th Grade

Choir
1st Grade thru 5th Grade

Lego Club
Kindergarten thru 5th Grade

Computer Color Club
Kindergarten thru 5th Grade

Origami
2nd Grade thru 5th Grade

Crusader Connection
5th Grade

Science Club
4th Grade thru 5th Grade





ACADEMIC SUPPORT

In the Resource Room a full time special education teacher provides individual and small group instruction for students in grades kindergarten-5 using grade level curriculum with modifications/ accommodations as needed. Collaboration between the special education teacher and classroom teachers takes place to encourage consistency in reaching the goals and objectives set for each student. Academic support is provided within the classroom setting and also within the Resource Room according to individual need, IEP, and/or 504 Plan.



SEARCH and TEACH

SEARCH is an early identification testing instrument used with 5 and 6 year olds that is designed to survey perceptual and neuropsychological skills basic for learning. The teacher scans all kindergarten and new first grade students in late September. Each student's SEARCH score is a profile of individual strengths and weaknesses and an indicator for vulnerability to educational failure. TEACH is an intervention program that is offered to students who demonstrate weaknesses uncovered by SEARCH. TEACH is organized into 55 multidisciplinary learning activities designed to address individual needs.

NILD

NILD (National Institute for Learning Development) Educational Therapy is an individualized intervention offered for students in grades 2-5. The goal of NILD Educational Therapy is to help students develop tools for independent learning in the classroom and in life. Therapy sessions use interactive language and dynamic intervention to develop core academic skills and higher order processing. Therapy is designed for individual students who have been identified with learning difficulties. The sessions are generally scheduled after school at an additional cost. The Special Education teacher is a trained Educational Therapist.



ASSISTANCE

It is the intention of Rockford Lutheran School that young people establish a foundation for their lives as a result of their daily encounters with Christ. It is our firm belief that financial need should not prevent a student from experiencing that daily encounter. In recognition of the fiscal conditions in our region and the impact tuition can have on a budget, we have established a program of tuition assistance.

Rockford Lutheran School utilizes TADS (TADS.com) as a third party needs assessment service. This service establishes a “need factor” for each applicant.

Special circumstances may be submitted with the application to make the school aware of influences that are not reflected in the formal filing process.

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Rockford Lutheran School admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin in the administration of its educational policies, admission policy, tuition assistance policy and athletic and other school administered programs.

Frequently Asked Questions

School has already started; can I still apply for assistance?

Yes, either call the school office at 815-877-9551 or log on to TADS.com

What do I do if I have questions about completing the application?

All questions may be directed to TADS. You may contact them via phone at 800-477-8237 or e-mail at www.TADS.com

Why use a 3rd party assessment service?

They provide a comprehensive assessment through a confidential process and will support you in the application process.

Is this a grant or loan?

Since there is no repayment, it's considered a grant. There are volunteer hours involved.

How many volunteer hours are required?

The number of hours a family would complete is dependent upon how many children attend RLS.

What information is needed to determine whether we qualify?

It's based on your whole financial picture, not just income.

If I'm granted assistance one year, do I automatically qualify for the following year?

A new application must be submitted each year.

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