



# ACADEMICS - PRESCHOOL

## 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

Preschool 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.



## Program Offerings

Rockford Lutheran School offers four regular options for Preschool:

- 3 mornings (8:15-11:30 am / Mon., Wed., Fri.)
- 3 full days (8:15am-2:50 pm / Mon., Wed., Fri.)
- 5 mornings (8:15-11:30am / Mon.-Fri.)
- 5 full days (8:15am-2:50pm / Mon.-Fri.)

## Cognitive Development

Students develop and test hypotheses during hands on mathematics and science activities. Through center and small group play students develop letter knowledge, number sense, and language skills.

## Motor Development

Gross-motor activities are provided daily through recess and PE time. Students develop spatial awareness, balancing, hand-eye coordination while strengthening muscles.

## Specials

Students in preschool will receive Spanish, French, PE, Drama, Music, and Library.

## Spiritual Development

One in Christ Curriculum allows the students to hear a Bible story a week starting with the Old Testament. They sing songs, listen to God's word, create art projects, and share in God's love.

## Social/Emotional Development

Students develop appropriate problem-solving skills. They learn to work out conflict through language and dramatic play. They learn to have positive self-image and cooperate with adults as well as other peers.

## Thematic Units

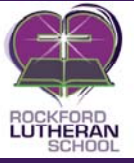
Major topics of study are integrated into all subject areas and taught simultaneously to provide a more thorough understanding of the material. Creative hands-on centers that build on the units of study are used along with special guests that are invited into the classroom to share experiences that enhance thematic units. The Mother Goose Time Curriculum is a three-year cycle to ensure that students get a wide variety of themes during their time spent here.

## Field Trips

Field Trips are used to enhance monthly thematic units. A combination of off-site and on-site experiences allow students to develop community awareness.

## Extended Care

Extended Care is an extension of the learning that goes on within the classrooms. Students continue to develop social/emotional, cognitive, and motor development.



# 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**  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade thru 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**K-Kids**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade thru 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Young Rembrandt's**  
Kindergarten thru 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

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# 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](http://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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