



ROYCEMORE

Early Childhood Guide

Engage MORE

Achieve MORE

Become MORE



Our Mission

To inspire and nurture excellence and prepare each student for success in higher education and in a dynamic and complex world.

Our Vision

Roycemore School will sustain our legacy of outstanding college preparatory education within our nurturing community. We remain committed to enhanced opportunities for student learning as we develop new centers of academic excellence, increase our engagement with our local community and develop long range fiscal plans to sustain our school for future generations.

Starting with Early Childhood, students are introduced to the 7 habits of highly effective people through various activities and teachings. By developing a strong sense of personal accountability, good attitudes and tools for moving forward, Roycemore is establishing a solid ground of moral and intellectual responsibility.

Our Core Values

Scholarship.

Integrity.

Community.

Respect.

Compassion.

COVID-19 and Early Childhood

Please note that various offerings of our Early Childhood programming might be affected by the COVID-19 pandemic including, but not limited to, field trips, overnight trips, performance opportunities, athletics, and more. A detailed Health and Safety plan can be found on our website and is updated regularly as the conditions of the pandemic change. For specific questions regarding Early Childhood, please feel free to contact the Division Head directly.

Welcome to Roycemore's Early Childhood Program!

Children in the Early Childhood Program at Roycemore learn through play, so they're having fun and learning. At Roycemore, students are learning the foundational skills of reading, writing, math, social studies, and science through play and hands-on activities. Our intentional instruction and approach is teaching through our theme-based curriculum. Students learn to think critically, develop social-emotional awareness, and become part of their classroom community. Our engaging themes consider the student's interests and build upon those for responsive learning. Centers are multidisciplinary and incorporate and overlap math, science, literacy, social studies, fine and gross motor skills, drama, art, and sensory experiences. Students work collaboratively to complete projects as part of a team, bringing the projects to life and allowing the children to make sense of all they are learning. Our school features large, bright classrooms, a dedicated gross motor play area, a full-size gymnasium, and indoor parking for easy drop-off and pick-up.

The connection between home and school is an essential part of the Early Childhood experience. We encourage parents to park in our garage and walk their children to their classrooms, giving them the opportunity to talk to the teacher every day and develop a real partnership with them for their children. Every teacher also has a blog or website which is updated every week, to inform families of the learning and growth that took place.

We believe that each child is special and unique, and it is our goal to meet their individual needs - physically, socially, intellectually, and emotionally. We present learning concepts to children in a fun and meaningful way during this extraordinary period of growth.

An important part of the week are the specials students go to that enrich what they are working on in the classroom. Our children have physical education, French, art, music, and library.

Knowing that during the preschool years, many children start to give up their naps, we run both a nap room and a non-nap room. This is at the parents' discretion. In the non-nap room, children rest for a while, but then are allowed to get up and engage in fun activities that range from free choice to science experiments. This also allows the children who are napping, not to be disturbed.

At Roycemore we understand the needs of all learners. This starts in our early childhood program, where all students are encouraged to reach their full potential. For example, children may be divided into small groups, where each child is being challenged in the way that is right for them. There is also a Student Success Team, which is available to offer assistance through differentiated programs.

Pre-Kindergarten (Age 3 & 4)

In Pre-K we incorporate thematic units in our curriculum while focusing on teaching to each individual student's academic needs. We have so much fun exploring themes that the students don't realize they are actually learning! Some of our themes include: All About Me, spiders, pumpkins, friendship, and polar bears. With small class sizes, we are able to focus on student's individual and unique skill sets. Differentiating lessons and activities allows us to enhance each child's learning experience. Our focus is on both academic and social growth throughout the school day.

Our typical day consists of free choice, morning meeting, at least one extracurricular class, snack, recess, centers, circle time, and lunch. During free choice, the children are able to choose what games, activities, and centers they want to explore. This is a great opportunity for the children to have a choice in their learning. At this time they are playing with their friends and learning how to problem-solve. Many of the popular options during free choice are the dramatic play area and large blocks/legos on the rug. Also during free choice the children "sign-in" and practice writing their names using the program, Handwriting Without Tears.

During morning meeting we discuss the daily schedule, classroom jobs, weather, and calendar. We also sing songs and read a story. Circle time is the perfect chance to share stories and take turns being good listeners. This is also our time to practice Zoo-phonics, a program that helps children associate individual letter sounds with both an animal and an action. In our centers, we work on math, literacy, and fine motor skills. Our centers are structured in a way to make math and literacy fun. Some examples include: fishing for letters, going on a letter hunt, making play dough cookies, or building rocket ships using manipulatives. We strive to make Pre-K fun and engaging in order to help create an early love of learning.



The Pre-Kindergarten Day

Pre-Kindergarten is a five-day or three-day-a-week program that starts at 8:45 a.m. and runs until 11:45 a.m., with an option to extend the day until 1:00, 3:30, or 6:00 for an additional fee. For families who choose the extended day options, children will eat lunch at 11:45 a.m. and enjoy recess, nap time, and activities in the afternoon. From 7:30 a.m. until the beginning of school, there is a designated room with activities for Early Childhood and Lower School students arriving early, supervised by the Early Childhood assistants.

Pre-Kindergarten is taught by an experienced, certified Early Childhood education teacher and is supported by assistants with Early Childhood backgrounds. Pre-Kindergarten students must be 3 years old by September 1.

Social-Emotional Development

Our teachers foster children's social interactions with peers to provide them with opportunities to build a variety of social skills such as cooperation, sharing, taking turns, and respect for others. Through role play activities and group lessons, students learn how to solve classroom problems appropriately and independently. These skills are often practiced during various play times throughout the day.

*Children learn by
doing, not by sitting
on the sidelines.*

Science and Social Studies

Our Pre-Kindergarten program is organized around a number of different themes or units of study. These themes generally last two to three weeks and help blend science and social studies concepts into the curriculum. This is an opportunity for parents to come into the classroom to share their own expertise in a certain area. We also plan a number of field trips to help students learn more about these topics first-hand.

Early Writing, Reading, and Mathematics

Pre-Kindergarten students begin writing during the first weeks of school. Using the Handwriting Without Tears program and small pencils, they learn proper pencil grip and proper formation of uppercase and lowercase letters. They also form letters using a variety of materials like clay, sandpaper, and buttons.

Students participate in small and large group learning with a focus on the alphabet and letter sounds through games, songs, rhymes, and movement. We utilize the Zoo-phonics program, which associates each letter sound with an animal character, movement, and rhyme. This allows children with different learning styles to understand phonics.

Number sense and concrete math skills are introduced with hands-on manipulatives and games. Patterns, number recognition, counting, and sorting are emphasized in each school day. Teachers continually monitor and assess children to make sure that they are learning at their ideal academic level.

Extracurricular Opportunities

Children have daily opportunities for music, physical activity, and art. Students have formal music instruction twice a week with the music teacher, as well as informal classroom instruction. This includes exploration with instruments, body movement, and learning musical terms such as rhythm, beat, and tone.

Art is taught every day within the Pre-K classroom. A variety of materials are used to help develop creativity and imagination, muscle control, color concepts, release for feelings, and an increase in self-awareness. We also integrate art throughout other content areas to ensure that students have ample opportunities for expression.

Twice a week, Pre-K students have an opportunity to work on gross motor development in the gymnasium. Physical education instruction guides the children in movement activities such as tumbling, ball techniques, and travel patterns. Use of the playground and the Gross Motor Room are also part of the daily schedule.

Students are introduced to French with fun, age-appropriate activities. They also go to the library to hear stories and check out books to bring home every week.

Lunch and Snacks

For Early Childhood students who stay past 11:45 am, hot lunch is a paid option by HandCut Foods. Students eat in the dining hall where they are served a vegetable, choice of two entrees, sandwich, milk, water, and fruit. They also receive a mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack, if staying past 3:45pm.


Communication and Reporting Student Progress

A healthy home-school connection is vital to a successful Pre-Kindergarten year. Each week, parents receive an email newsletter and access to the classroom website. This provides a summary of the week's activities as well as upcoming school/classroom events. Pictures of the children participating in activities, field trips, and special events are also posted. The Early Childhood & Lower School Division Head sends out a weekly newsletter to inform parents of what is happening in Early Childhood and Lower School as whole .

Parent-teacher conferences are held twice a year, in November and February. During these conferences, parents and teachers work together to establish goals for the child and to discuss social emotional development and academic progress. Teachers can always be reached in person before or after school, by phone, or by email, and are happy to set up individual conferences throughout the year.

Sample Daily Schedule for Pre-Kindergarten

A daily schedule is important to establish a comfortable routine for our students. To accommodate the needs of students, our schedule may be adjusted during the year. However, a typical day may look something like this:



8:30 Free Play
9:10 Morning Meeting
9:30 Snack
9:50 Centers
10:10 Recess or Gross Motor Room
10:30 Small Groups
10:50 Extracurricular Class
11:10 Circle Time
11:45 Lunch or Dismissal
12:15 Recess (outside, weather permitting)
1:00 Story Time
1:30 Nap or Non-Nap Room (Parent Discretion)
2:30 Afternoon Enrichment Activity
3:30 Dismissal

Junior Kindergarten (Age 4 & 5)

The Junior Kindergarten Day

Junior Kindergarten is a five-day-a-week program that starts at 8:45 a.m. and runs until 11:45 a.m., with an option to extend the day until 1:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m., or 6:00 p.m. for an additional fee. For families who choose the extended day option, children will eat lunch at 11:45 a.m. Academic activities are introduced in the morning and are integrated with enrichment activities in the afternoon. From 7:30 a.m. until the beginning of school, there is a designated room with supervised activities for Early Childhood and Lower School students arriving early.

The first weeks of school are “All About Me” where the students make life-size self-portraits of themselves, complete a “Star of the Week” poster to present to the class, and complete many activities to learn about what makes us similar and unique! Some other themes include Johnny Appleseed/Apples where we will learn about this interesting historic character, make our own applesauce in class, and taste test many different colors and types of apples, all while connecting with our friends who share the same preferences. The students love the unit, “Bats”, where they learn that bats find their prey by using echolocation. They learn through hands-on activities and project-based learning. This is one of the myriad ways our intentional teaching through play introduces children to the rich curriculum for building critical foundations.

Junior Kindergarten is taught by an experienced certified Early Childhood Education teacher and is supported by assistants with education backgrounds. Junior Kindergarten students must be 4 years old by September 1.

Reading, Writing, and Mathematics

Students participate in a variety of activities to help them build their reading and writing skills, including letter sounds, rhyming words, syllables, and learning to break words into individual sounds. During reading groups, those children who are ready to read, are placed in a group with other children at the same reading level. We use the B.O.B. book series and Raz-Kids guided reading series. Other children play letter and phonics games, so everyone is appropriately challenged.

JK students focus on handwriting skills in their daily sign-in book. Using the Handwriting Without Tears program, they master writing their names and move on to other words and sentence structure. They complete journal pages throughout the year where they dictate stories, sounding out words with assistance or writing on their own using developmental spelling.

Each morning, students help read and write the morning message. To help them read and write, students use and practice the Zoo-phonics program also used in PreKindergarten, which associates individual letter sounds with both an animal and an action. They study patterns of weather and make daily observations. Children actively learn the days of the week, months of the year, and number recognition.

For math, students use manipulatives to learn about geometric shapes, sorting, patterns, numbers, measurement, and addition and subtraction. The class works together to gather information to complete pictographs and bar graphs. Small group time allows teachers to focus on each child's developmental level.

Guided groups of four to six children work on language arts, math, journals, fine motor/ art and are heterogeneous so the children are able to work with others at mixed levels. Children rotate through the groups throughout the week. Guided reading groups are formed and assessed throughout the year so the children can work with other children at similar reading levels.

Science and Social Studies

Our JK curriculum is organized around many units of study that typically range from one to three weeks long. These units blend science and social science together along with math and language arts activities. Students are given the chance to experience first-hand learning through field experiences and parent visits into the classroom where members of our community may share their own expertise in different areas.

Social-Emotional Development

Our teachers and administrators help to foster children's social interactions with peers to provide building opportunities for social skills such as cooperation, sharing, taking turns, problem-solving, respect for others, and appreciation and acceptance of individual differences. In addition, they encourage children to think independently, to understand school rules and procedures, to value the opinions of others, and to follow directions.

Extracurricular Opportunities

Students have daily opportunities for music, movement, physical activity, and art. Students have formal music instruction twice a week with the music teacher, as well as informal classroom instruction. Music includes use of instruments, exploration of movement, rhythm, and singing songs together. Art is taught within the JK classroom every day. A variety of materials are used both independently and in groups. They help develop creativity and imagination, muscle control, color concepts, release for feelings and an increase in self awareness, and reading and writing readiness.

They have a weekly art class with the Lower School art teacher. Three times a week, JK students work on gross motor development in the gymnasium. A physical education instructor guides the children in activities such as tumbling, movement, ball techniques, gymnastics, body awareness, and cooperative play. Appropriate activities, such as freeze dance and movement games are a part of the classroom activities. Every day, weather permitting, free play on the playground or in the Gross Motor Room is a part of the children's schedule.

The children of JK are introduced to regular French immersion twice each week, to practice listening and speaking with our French teacher. They visit the library weekly to check out books and hear stories selected by the school Librarian, specifically for their class.

Integrating Technology

Roycemore School believes that technology is an integral educational tool that is fundamental to the learning process. We aim for devices to be seamlessly integrated and invisible in the learning environment. Computer devices are introduced in various ways in Early Childhood, particularly through a classroom set of iPads. Students use educational apps that are relevant to topics they are learning about in class, and that allow them to create and collaborate. In addition, each classroom has a projection and sound system. Teachers work regularly with our Director of Curriculum and Innovation to integrate technology meaningfully into the classroom.

Lunch and Snacks

For Early Childhood students who stay past 11:45 am, hot lunch is a paid option by HandCut Foods. Students eat in the dining hall where they are served a vegetable, choice of two entrees, sandwich, milk, water, and fruit. They also receive a mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack, if staying past 3:45pm.

Communications and Reporting Student Progress

A weekly blog is posted online each week, giving a summary of the current week's activities with a calendar of upcoming events and pictures of the children participating in activities, field trips, and special events. Parent-teacher conferences are held in November and February. During these conferences, the parents and the teacher work together to establish goals for their child and to discuss social-emotional development and academic progress. Individual conferences can be scheduled with the teacher before or after school. Teachers can be reached in person before school at dropoff and after school at pick-up, by telephone, and by email. The Early Childhood & Lower School Division Head also sends out a weekly newsletter to inform parents of what is happening in Early Childhood and Lower School as whole .

Sample Daily Schedule for Junior Kindergarten

8:30 Free Choice
8:45 Morning Meeting
9:15 Gym or Music
9:30 Snack
10:00 Recess
10:30 Small Groups
11:00 Circle Time
11:45 Lunch or Dismissal
12:15 Recess
1:00 Circle Time
1:30 Quiet Time/ Nap Time
2:30 Theme Based Activities and Free Play
3:30 Dismissal



Junior Kindergarten (Age 4 & 5)

Kindergarten (Age 5)

Our Kindergarten program is taught by experienced and certified teachers with experienced assistant teachers. Our full-day program runs from 8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with an option to stay at school until 6:00 p.m. for an additional fee. Starting at 7:30 a.m., for no extra cost, Early Childhood and Lower School students arriving early may go to a designated room and participate in supervised activities.

Morning Meeting

We start each day with a morning meeting where we review the daily schedule, read the morning message, answer the "Question of the Day," assign weekly leadership roles, and practice phonemic awareness. Morning meeting is also a time to come together as a class and discuss social skills and work through our character education program: The Leader in Me, which is a program based on Steven Covey's Seven Habits. This program continues throughout the Lower School and encourages all students to act as leaders using the seven habits as tools to achieve this goal. Morning Meeting is a safe place to share ideas, work on problem-solving skills and discuss classroom events.

Reading's Workshop

The overall goal of our reading program in Kindergarten is for students to become confident, proficient readers who LOVE books! Kindergarten students are surrounded by literature in the classroom. Books are read daily through mini-lessons and teacher-led activities. Students learn to review story elements, work independently, and complete assigned small-group activities to receive phonics instruction.

Phonics and phonemic awareness are an important part of our reading program. We offer instruction in phonics using a combination of Heggerty Curriculum and Wilson Foundations. Guided reading is conducted in small groups to ensure that each child receives what they need to be successful. We use the Lucy Calkins curriculum which is referred to as Reading and Writing Workshop. Teachers model and teach the skills and strategies that proficient readers use. Students are taught that these strategies can be applied to many types of reading and therefore, students have the opportunity to self-select books and read a wide variety of text.

Writing

Manuscript handwriting is taught and practiced in Kindergarten using Foundations. The proper writing techniques are taught in whole group instruction and accompanied by verbal prompts that help the writer when forming letters.

Math and Science

Roycemore uses the Illustrative Mathematics program to encourage natural exploration of numbers, patterns, addition, subtraction, probability, measurement, graphing, and estimation. Through the children's involvement in small and whole-group activities, a firm understanding of mathematical concepts is developed. The IM program uses many hands-on games that can be differentiated for all learners, and the program provides a solid foundation for elementary mathematics.

Science is integrated into the curriculum through independent discovery as well as small and whole-group activities. Students are provided with opportunities for learning in physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and astronomy. Activities and displays in the room help students develop a sense of awareness, observation and discrimination skills, concepts through first-hand experience, and respect for the environment. They learn to care for their own bodies as well as plants and animals.

Social Studies

The purpose of social studies in Kindergarten is to help students take new ideas and relate these to their own world and experiences. Through the study of important events, people, holidays, cultures, and our Flat Stanley project, students will develop a sense of self, family and community.

Fine Arts

Drama is incorporated into all areas of study and provides opportunities for social and communication skills development, comprehension, increase in understanding of specific academic concepts, memorization of short stories or poems, as well as language and problem-solving. Children have daily opportunities for music, movement, physical activity, and art. Students have formal music instruction twice a week with the music teacher, as well as informal classroom instruction. Music includes the use of instruments, exploration of movement, rhythm, and singing songs together. Formal art instruction takes place three times a week but is incorporated in the classroom daily. A variety of materials are used to develop creativity and imagination, muscle control, color concepts, release for feelings and an increase in self-awareness.

French and Library

Kindergarten students receive French immersion instruction two times a week with the French teacher. They also enjoy weekly library visits where the school librarian introduces them to new stories and genres, plus they get to check out books to bring home and share with their families.

Integrating Technology

Students have the opportunity to use iPads during small group time in the classroom. Educational games supporting literacy and math, as well as art programs, are available. We incorporate technology into our instruction daily, using a computer-based projection system. We have a Director of Curriculum and Innovation on staff who provides resources and ideas for appropriate ways to bring meaningful technology into the classroom.

Physical Education and Recess

Kindergarten students have PE instruction five times a week, guiding the children in activities such as movement, ball techniques, gymnastics, body awareness, and cooperative and competitive play. The children also go outside for recess for 45-60 minutes every day that weather permits.

Lunch and Snacks

For Early Childhood students who stay past 11:45 am, hot lunch is a paid option by HandCut Foods. Students eat in the dining hall where they are served a vegetable, choice of two entrees, sandwich, milk, water, and fruit. They also receive a mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack.

Communication and Reporting Student Progress

A blog is posted each week, giving a summary of the current week's activities with a calendar about upcoming events and pictures of the children participating in activities, field trips, and special events. Parent-teacher conferences are held in November and February. During these conferences, the parents and the teacher work together to establish goals for their child and discuss social-emotional development and academic progress. Individual conferences can be scheduled with the teacher before or after school. Teachers can be reached in person before or after school, by phone, and email. The EC & LS Division Head also sends out a weekly newsletter to inform parents of what is happening in EC and LS as whole .

Sample Daily Schedule for Kindergarten

8:30 Free Choice	12:15 Afternoon Recess
9:15 Morning Meeting	1:00 Specials
9:45 Snack	1:30 Math
10:00 Specials	2:00 Reader's Workshop
10:30 Foundations	2:30 Free Choice
11:00 Morning Recess	3:00 STEAM
11:45 Lunch	3:30 Dismissal



We look forward to getting to know you!

Come for a Visit or Tour

Register online for an upcoming Admissions Morning or Open House at roycemoreschool.org/campustour.

Ask Questions

If you have any questions about the admissions process or tuition assistance through our Sliding Scale Program, our Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, Angela Peters Murphy, is happy to help. Angela can be reached at 847-866-6055 or via email at amurphy@roycemoreschool.org.

Start an Online Application

Visit roycemoreschool.org/createanaccount to begin the online application process. Log in to your account and select Create A New Student Application for your child. You will have the flexibility to log in and out of your account and access your open application as you complete it.

Roycemore School seeks to enroll students who have the ability and desire to prepare for successful performance in college. We do not discriminate on the basis of gender, race, color, creed, gender preference or national or ethnic origin in the administration of our admissions, financial aid and educational policies.



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