

Cresset Christian Academy
A Lower School Program of Distinction

Cresset Kids (Preschool)

Children range in age from infants to age four.

Hours of operation are 7:30 am-5:30 pm, with academic teaching time each day after 8:30 am.

Cresset Kids receive a Cresset Kids t-shirt and canvas bag upon enrollment.

Lunch and two snacks are provided daily, served in a family-style setting.

All teachers hold NC child care credentials. 75% of the Preschool teachers have earned at least 9 hours of Early Childhood Education beyond their credentials. The Preschool is a 4 star program.

Teachers partner with parents to encourage the development of their young children, academically, socially, and spiritually.

Varied curriculum uses both centers and teacher-directed activities. Publishers include Bright Beginnings, A Beka, ACSI, Wee Learn. Visits from the librarian and the Spanish teacher are part of preschool curriculum. Children attend music class with the elementary music teacher. They also learn sign language and have PE time. Cresset's curriculum is tied to achievement goals for each age level. Three evaluations a year help parents understand the growth their child is achieving.

Activities include special on-site events, as well as field trips. Preschool children participate on stage in the academy Christmas and spring programs.

Chapel is held each Thursday for preschool children, a time of singing to the Lord, prayer, and Bible lessons.

Cresset preschool goals are to provide a rich learning environment, incorporating music, drama, Bible stories, math, art, social skills, verbal skills—in a variety of settings, inside and outdoors.

An optional summer camp increases the preschool year to include 8 weeks of summer.

Elementary School (K5-Grade 5)

All elementary teachers are certified through Cresset's accrediting organization:

Association of Christian Schools International. Beyond their academic credentials, each teacher cares that each child learns and enjoys learning.

The elementary curriculum is phonics-based, emphasizing drill and practice, designed to build the basic framework of skills in preparation, and practice of, higher-level critical thinking requirements needed in middle and high school. The truths of the Bible permeate all courses and activities. Published material used includes ACSI and A Beka, among others, both Christian and secular.

Core curriculum is enhanced by physical education, art, Spanish, library, computer skills, and music. Music incorporates class instruction in chorus, recorders (4th grade), and hand bells (5th grade). Students may also receive instruction in band, and private violin, guitar, or piano lessons, as well as drama. Elementary students are on stage for at least two musical productions a year; opportunities for additional drama participation are available by audition.

To help children keep physically fit, Grade 4 and 5 children may participate in coed volleyball and basketball intramurals. Grades 2 and 3 children may join the Ball Handlers Club. An annual optional running program encourages fitness.

Elementary school Chapel programs are an opportunity for teachers, students, and guests to praise God and learn more about how to please Him. Students learn the dynamics and etiquette of formal worship at a level they can appreciate.

Among academic contests challenging those students with special talents are the Spelling Bee, Math Olympics, Speech Contests, and Creative Writing.

Additional training opportunities are available through our WINGS program for special services, including tutoring, academic therapy, and enrichment.

Parents are encouraged to be active participants in their child's education, assisting with field trips, class enrichment activities, and social events. Teachers communicate with parents via weekly newsletters, conferences, e-mail, and our EdLine grade-reporting system for Grade 3 and above.

All elementary classes during the year participate in field trips related to their curriculum. Grade 5 students conclude their elementary years with a major trip to Washington, D.C., with parents encouraged to travel with the class.

An afterschool program extends supervision until 5:30. This includes a study time for older elementary students, a snack, and outside play time.

Enriching opportunities are available in 8 weeks of summer camp.