

Chicago Friends School Curriculum Overview

Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 2

Chicago Friends School is committed to a developmentally-appropriate approach to teaching young children as recommended by national education organizations such as NAEYC.* Just as children’s domains of development are interrelated, so too is our curriculum. We recognize the importance of providing a comprehensive, content-rich curriculum that will give children the background knowledge and experiences to pursue their dreams.

At CFS children discover, explore and learn through play both in the classroom and at recess. Teachers utilize project-based learning within the context of a rich play and learning environment. Both child-led and teacher-led experiences are important to children’s development and learning.

The Chicago Friends School curriculum is designed to fulfill the school’s unique Quaker mission. Quaker testimonies (simplicity, community, equality, integrity, peace, and service) are woven into all aspects of school life and curriculum. A Quaker education provides a values-based learning environment. At CFS children learn to reflect, question, and seek. Children are encouraged to recognize, discuss and appreciate diversity, and to be active citizens and advocates for social justice.

**PK
K
1
2**

Service, Stewardship and Field Trips	Language Arts	Mathematics	Social Studies
Service learning opportunities strengthen children’s relationship with the wider community, build self-esteem and connect curriculum to action in the world, reflecting the Quaker tradition of putting one’s beliefs into action. Ecological education fosters respect and reverence for the natural world.	Language Arts include reading, writing, speaking and listening. Daily experiences, activities and projects incorporate all the language arts. CFS is committed to a developmentally-appropriate approach to language arts development. Teachers support and guide each child’s early attempts to become a reader and writer, resulting in children who feel competent.	Mathematics is real-life problem solving. It is not isolated skills and procedures. It is related to other subjects like science, art and music. Mathematics is everywhere.	Social Studies provide an ideal integration with Quaker principles. Children learn to see their selves in relation to the world and be active citizens. Through celebrations and activities, children learn to recognize and appreciate diversity. Themes are explored with children through literature, music, art, play, activities and projects.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce / reuse / recycle ▪ Care of school garden ▪ Composting ▪ Field trips to local farms, city gardens, markets, parks ▪ Service projects ▪ Community outreach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Read aloud ▪ Rhymes, songs, poetry ▪ Exposure to a variety of genres ▪ Pre-reading & reading skills ▪ Phonics, phonemic awareness ▪ Sound/symbol correspondence ▪ Sight word development ▪ Fluency ▪ Decoding strategies ▪ Developmental spelling ▪ Handwriting ▪ Writer’s workshop ▪ Write in a variety of formats ▪ Listening and speaking skills ▪ Increased expression and comprehension skills ▪ Make connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patterns ▪ Number concepts ▪ Graphing ▪ Estimation ▪ Geometric figures ▪ Place value ▪ Problem solving strategies ▪ Measurement ▪ Surveys, calendars ▪ Odd/even; skip counting ▪ Time concepts ▪ Coin study & money notation ▪ Addition and subtraction ▪ Operational symbols ▪ Fractions ▪ Pre-algebra ▪ Writing about math 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Classroom community ▪ Communication ▪ Rights, roles & responsibilities ▪ Identity and families ▪ Cultural aspects of holidays ▪ Current events ▪ Peace studies ▪ Farmer’s market ▪ Service projects ▪ US geography, continents, countries ▪ Time lines ▪ Biographies ▪ Map skills ▪ Meeting for Worship ▪ Queries ▪ Intro to decision making process

*NAEYC: National Association for the Education of Young Children

	Science	Visual and Performing Arts	Physical Education
	The goal of science at CFS is to preserve children’s natural wonder and to educate children to experience the richness and excitement of the natural world, use appropriate scientific processes, engage intelligently in discourse about science, and prepare them for the 21 st Century. Quaker testimonies influence the curriculum with a focus on stewardship of the Earth and its resources.	Children actively engage in the arts through authentic, hands-on, cooperative experiences. Children attend weekly visual arts and music classes. The arts are also integrated with other subjects.	The goal of our physical education program is to help children experience and come to know the benefits derived from regular physical activity. Through exposure to a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, children gain benefits in health and in enjoyment of and outlook on life.
PK K 1 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Multisensory and hands on experiments ▪ Introduction to inquiry and scientific process ▪ Observation, description, questioning, reflection ▪ Data collection ▪ Sorting, graphing ▪ Prediction skills ▪ Plant parts/needs ▪ Native plants ▪ Garden science, compost, worm bin ▪ Life cycles ▪ Rock composition ▪ Use of tools ▪ Science notebooks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Joyful singing ▪ Compose and improvise ▪ Play classroom instruments ▪ Feeling the group pulse ▪ Creative mapping (pre-notation) ▪ Movement and dance ▪ Perform plays ▪ Development of inner hearing ▪ Exposure to a wide variety of music ▪ Design, paint, sew, sculpt, draw ▪ Use a variety of media ▪ Learn the role of the arts in culture ▪ Exploration & reflection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motor skills ▪ Coordination ▪ Balance ▪ Flexibility ▪ Agility and endurance ▪ Rhythm ▪ Individual and group play ▪ Movement (yoga, dance) ▪ Non-competitive games ▪ Sports ▪ Sportsmanship, respect, teamwork ▪ Tumbling ▪ Nutrition



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