

ABOUT APPLE HILL PRESCHOOL

GENERAL INFORMATION

Apple Hill Preschool is the highly respected, intimate, private preschool dedicated to providing supreme excellence in Early Childhood Education. Students are masterfully enriched through exciting academic, creative, physical, and social experiences. Every child has the right to enter modern Kindergarten confidently prepared to achieve success. Outstanding teachers, through unique, well-planned activities, lovingly educate each Apple Hill Preschool student toward this goal.

The Staff of Apple Hill Preschool is our finest and most important resource. The Director and teachers hold Bachelor and/or Masters Degrees in Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, or other specialty related fields. Strong teaching experience, a positive attitude, a loving nature, creative technique, and a progressive teaching philosophy are also required.

All relevant developmental and readiness areas are addressed within the context of entertaining, age appropriate, monthly themes. These themes are in the content areas of science, social studies, and language arts. The Instructional Theme Unit Approach addresses not only the obvious reading and math readiness concepts but also gives children a much broader knowledge of self and environment. Future learning is much more easily related to, understood, and retained. This approach, when combined with developmental and academic readiness, is the most enjoyable, effective method of Early Childhood Education.

Apple Hill Preschool admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities accorded or made available at the school.

Apple Hill Preschool classes begin in August. The year will conclude in May. Whenever logical, the school will follow the Rockwood School District Holiday schedule.

OUR FACILITY

Apple Hill was designed and built exclusively to create the perfect preschool environment.



Each of the seven classrooms is age appropriately equipped and has an attached child height sink and kiddie commode.



Observation windows are strategically placed for parent viewing.



In keeping with today's technological requirements, Apple Hill has a state of the art computer center.



The unique gymnasium provides for large motor activities when weather prohibits the use of the outdoor play areas.



Students develop large motor skills on our large deck and dual playgrounds, overlooking beautiful Lake Chesterfield.



CLASS OVERVIEWS

***Kids' Day Out (KDO)**

Age 24 months upon entry. Open Enrollment.

Maximum Teacher-Child Ratio and Class Size is 1:5

Maximum Class Size 2:10

This high quality school experience is available only at Apple Hill! The excellent teacher to child ratio is unprecedented. Children attend school with their own age group.

The purpose of this happy, busy day is to impart expert enrichment of socialization aptitude, self-confidence, independence, creativity, and both fine and gross motor development, while experientially expanding the maturation of cognitive advancement.

Each school day an imaginative theme is presented; usually literature based. The stories, arts and crafts, manipulative activities, readiness skills, and music support this theme. Children also have the use of our outdoor playground and youth centered gymnasium.

All arts and crafts supplies are included; no hidden fees or lists. Snack is provided for the child by their parent (nut free).

Please provide a large backpack, complete change of clothing, and all necessary "diapering" supplies. Of course, bathroom independence, although encouraged, is not required.

CLASS OVERVIEWS CONTINUED

***Two to Three Year Old Preschool – “The Threes”**

Age 2 before August 1st: (Kindergarten in three years)

Maximum Teacher-Child Ratio is 1:6.

Maximum Class Size 2:12

The one word that best describes the awareness of the typical two-three year old is "self." As the child becomes familiar with peers, teachers, classroom, and school the concept of "self" will expand. Group play will replace parallel play. Sharing and following directions, although difficult, will result in positive social interactions. Experimentation through various art and music mediums will build the basis for expression and appreciation. Fundamental academic principles will be presented for those children who are receptive. The Three Year Old Class will build pride by the expansion of the child's social, environmental, academic, and creative understanding. Letter sounds, an abstract concept, will always be incorporated, allowing children who are "ready" to obtain this skill. Spanish will be introduced and taught. The Threes' classrooms are equipped with a child-size bathroom which each child will be encouraged to use. Bathroom independence is requested but not required.

*Cognitive concepts emphasized include - using and understanding numbers 1-10, number and letter recognition, phonics using both upper and lower case letters, shapes, sequencing, classification, matching, recall, reading, math, and science comprehension, name recognition and formation, analysis, observation, experimentation, following multiple directives, rhyming and vocabulary, questioning, and expressive language.

CLASS OVERVIEWS CONTINUED

***Three to Four Year Old Preschool – “The Fours”**

Age 3 before August 1st: (Kindergarten in two years)

Maximum Teacher-Child Ratio and Class Size is 1:10

Your child is so grown-up! The social, physical, and cognitive changes are remarkable during the child's fourth year of life. Yet, each child seems to develop at different strides. Great flexibility will be offered this rapidly altering year. The reading and math readiness skills underlining creative projects and activities may be eagerly grasped by some children while others have no interest. Spanish will be taught. As the year progresses patterns of learning will develop through repetition and encouragement. Listening and cooperation skills will be emphasized. Respect for others will be learned by way of social interaction. Energy will be channeled into developmentally productive physical activities. Strong pride will grow through positive achievement. When these goals are obtained, computers will be introduced. Each enthusiastic three-four year old will be gently motivated to progress to their fullest potential. Complete bathroom independence is required.

* Cognitive concepts emphasized include - using numbers 1-31, writing numbers 1-10, number and letter recognition, spacial relations, phonics using both upper and lower case letters, writing both upper and lower case letters, shapes, sequencing, classification, matching, recall, reading, math, science, and social studies comprehension and application, name recognition and formation, analysis, observation, experimentation, patterning, story narration, prediction, following multiple directives, rhyming and vocabulary, questioning, and expressive language.

CLASS OVERVIEWS CONTINUED

***Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K)**

Entering Kindergarten the following Fall

Maximum Teacher-Child Ratio and Class Size is 1:12

These classes will comfortably prepare your child for Kindergarten through excellence in early childhood experiences. Instruction will take place within the framework of activities, projects, and games. Children will become confidently familiar with letter recognition and formation. Spanish will be taught. At this level, Math is intriguing and immediately rewarding to children. Theme units enhance group participation and cooperation while intertwining many curriculum facets. Children will be encouraged to explore, discover, and invent. Each child will be allowed to excel at their own pace, insuring prideful achievement. Computers will be utilized to enrich readiness concepts. Pre-Kindergarten will be excitingly stimulating intellectually and creatively; always mindful of the goals ahead. We are very pleased to offer your child this excellent Kindergarten preparation!

The FOUR DAY and FIVE DAY PROGRAMS are recommended for most children. The condensed THREE DAY PROGRAM is offered for children who are more comfortable with less organized time.

*Cognitive concepts emphasized include - using numbers 1-100, writing numbers, number recognition, counting by 2s, 5s, 10s, measurement, weight, addition, subtraction, sets, phonics using both upper and lower case letters, writing both upper and lower case letters, matching upper case with lower case letters, shapes, sequencing, spacial relations, patterning, classification, matching, recall, observation, experimentation, name recognition and formation, analysis, following multiple directives, story narration, prediction, reading, math, science, and social studies comprehension and application, rhyming, sight words, word families, words, expressive language, vocabulary, dictation, questioning, and interpretation.

OPTIONAL SERVICES

***Enrichment Workshops**

Enrichment Workshops will be offered on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:45-2:45 for the Two-to-Three-Year-Old, Three-to-Four-Year-Old, and Pre-Kindergarten students at designated times throughout the school year. All three class levels will be combined for the optional workshops and students must be completely bathroom independent to attend. The Enrichment Workshops will allow the students to focus on a new topic each week related to science, art, books and authors, music, history, holidays and customs, drama, physical education, etc. Students may **ONLY** attend a workshop on an afternoon they **DO NOT** have a regularly scheduled class. For example, a student attending classes on Monday, Wednesday and Friday can attend a workshop offered on a Thursday afternoon. Students are invited to attend Lunch Bunch from 12:15-12:45 prior to attending a workshop.

***Breakfast Bunch**

Breakfast Bunch will be offered from 8:15am-9:30am. Registration in advance for Breakfast Bunch is required. Students may bring a nut-free breakfast if they choose.

***Lunch Bunch**

AM Classes: 12:15-1:30

PM Classes: 12:15-12:45

Children enrolled in the Preschool classes and who are completely bathroom independent are welcome to stay later (AM classes) or come earlier (PM classes) for lunch and play. This service is offered each school day except on the first Monday of each month and on school party days.

APPLE HILL FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

***Siblings**

Our students' brothers and sisters are welcome to attend all room parties, Conferences, and the Apple Hill Carnival. This is our way of making it easy for parents to attend events at Apple Hill.

***Kid For A Day**

Preschool and Pre-Kindergarten parents may choose a day/days to attend school with their child and participate as an Apple Hill student. Wear comfortable clothes and shoes. Sign-up for these very special days through your classroom teacher.

***Room Moms and Dads**

Parents may sign-up for one or more holiday parties. They, with the other volunteer parents, will plan games and activities, supply treats, and execute all aspects of the event. Working parents may participate by sending in an adult friend or relative, treats, activities, or favors. Each teacher will assign a parent to coordinate arrangements. Planning or working meetings may be held at the school, if space is available, by making arrangements through the school office.

***Teachers' Aides**

As the name implies, these parents, occasionally and optionally, may help the teacher in whatever capacity she wishes. This could include class assistance with computers, special cooking and craft projects, story dictation, cutting or labeling, and so on.

***Sharing Special Talents, Professions, and Experiences**

Many parents have talents that, when shared with the children can be very exciting and enlightening. Many occupations, when thoughtfully shared with the children, are most interesting. Experiences such as: travel, entertainment, and family customs give children broader understanding. Please contact your teacher or the Director in order to participate in this enrichment program.

***Family Involvement and Special Events**

Parents are always welcome at Apple Hill! We want Apple Hill to be an extension of your home. As a matter of fact, our parents are always dropping in to visit, chat, help, or observe. We know that the more you see at our wonderful school, the more you will love it. Our belief is that when you observe our amazing classes and brilliant teachers, it will inspire you with excellent ideas to assimilate at home.

APPLE HILL SPECIAL EVENTS AND SERVICES

ORIENTATION

Parent and child attend an abbreviated first day of school together. It is an exciting time for your child to meet their teacher(s) and classmates and explore their classroom.

DADDY DAY

This is a special time for Dads and our Apple Hill students.

ROOM PARTIES

Halloween, Winter Holiday, and Valentine's Day Room Parties will be planned and run by parents for all classes. Siblings may attend.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUBS

Apple Hill will offer *Preschool Level* for the Three Year Old, Four Year Old, and Pre-Kindergarten Classes; and the *Kindergarten/First Level* for all Pre-Kindergartners. These are excellent books at great prices. Please make checks payable to Apple Hill Preschool.

SCHOOL PICTURES

School Pictures (class and individual) are taken in the fall for a fee and are optional.

CONFERENCES

Conferences are held in the fall and spring. Students and siblings may be in attendance, under parent supervision.

THANKSGIVING FEAST

All students and staff gather together to enjoy snack time.

GRANDPARENTS' DAYS

Grandparents are invited to watch the opening singing during this special week.

MOMMY DAYS

The children love you and want to show it. There will be treats and songs. This event is for all Apple Hill children and their Moms.

CARNIVAL

The Carnival is an all school event to celebrate the conclusion of a successful school year. There will be game booths, arts and crafts, face painting, pony rides, and refreshments. Child Admission Bracelets are available at a minimal cost. The Carnival is for our students, their siblings, and guests.