



# Discover WESTLAKE



Kindergarten Program



# welcome to kindergarten

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Our kindergarten program offers a **safe, loving environment where students engage in hands-on activities focused on preparing them to read, write, solve problems and think critically.**

The teacher consistently integrates faith and learning as students study a wide variety of high-interest topics. Students create art, experience music, and develop large motor skills throughout the school year.



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At the same time, they learn about sharing God's love and treating others with kindness. We strive to meet the different academic, spiritual, social and physical needs of each individual kindergarten student.

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We offer both **full-day and half-day** schedule options. Both options include all the core academics and instruction. Students who stay for the afternoon are given developmentally appropriate options for enrichment and engaging play-based learning. All of our students play outside every day, weather permitting. Full-day students are given extra time to play outdoors.

# mrs. culbertson

**KINDERGARTEN TEACHER (AM)**

This is my fifth year at Westlake and my 22nd year of teaching. I am enjoying teaching Kindergarten after several years in elementary classrooms.

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education and enjoy making music part of our day. Kindergarten students learn important social, emotional, problem-solving, and study skills that will prepare them for first grade and beyond.

I enjoy knitting and quilting in my spare time. A Saturday afternoon will often find my husband and me hiking a Lake County Trail.



# mrs. penza

**KINDERGARTEN ENRICHMENT (PM)**



So much learning happens in students' day-to-day routines. I'm thankful to be a part of Westlake so I can teach how Christ is a part of everyday life!

After living in Massachusetts for over 10 years, my husband, four daughters and I moved back to our Midwest roots last summer. God grew a passion for Christian Education while I taught 2nd grade in MA; and He is continuing that passion here at Westlake.

I love to yard sale or thrift shop with an iced coffee in hand.

# morning schedule

As students arrive, they put away their belongings in individual cubbies, then proceed to their tables for an activity. In our **Morning Meeting**, we start our day with prayer, then do our calendar activities. We make the journey to 100 days of school a very big deal! Being thankful for the day is a natural progression in our **Bible Lessons**. Our theme is Building our Lives on the Truth of God's Word.

Children have a natural love for stories. Our **Language** program systematically helps the children develop their reading, writing, and speaking skills through various topics and themes.

Our **Math** program helps the children develop a strong foundation for problem-solving and algebraic thinking. **Art, Science, and Social Studies are integrated into weekly themes** that correspond to our **Language** stories, special holidays, or seasons.



8:00-8:20	<i>Arrival</i>
8:20-8:40	<i>Morning Meetings</i>
8:40-9:10	<i>Bible</i>
9:10-10:00	<i>Language Arts</i>
10:00-10:15	<i>Snack</i>
10:15-10:30	<i>Outdoor Play</i>
10:30-11:00	<i>Math</i>
11:00-11:20	<i>Theme Activity</i>
11:20-11:30	<i>Half Day Departure</i>

Our Kindergarten program is half-day (8:20 - 11:30 am) of academic instruction, which is developmentally appropriate for kindergartners.

Some kids are ready for a full day with **Enrichment** (11:30 - 3:10pm), which gives the students opportunities for unstructured playtime and more time to develop relationships with their classmates.

# afternoon schedule

Kindergarten students who stay for full-day enjoy lunch (brought from home) with their classmates. **Lunch Time** provides additional time for building relationships and practicing social skills while enjoying a nutritious lunch from home. Lunch is followed by bathroom breaks, stories and songs.

A large portion of the afternoon is set aside for active play, quiet rest, and enrichment fun.

Children participate in **Outdoor Play** every day, weather permitting. While they run and play, children are practicing gross motor skills and learning social skills. Students who stay for the afternoon are also given developmentally appropriate options for **Enrichment** and engaging play-based learning. They are given more opportunities to develop collaborative 21st century skills and build relationships with their peers. Before departing for the day, **Story Time** includes additional fun and learning about the week's learning theme.

11:30 - 12:00	<i>Lunch</i>
12:00 - 12:30	<i>Restroom/Story</i>
12:30 - 1:15	<i>Outdoor Play</i>
1:15 - 1:45	<i>Rest Time</i>
1:45 - 2:45	<i>Enrichment Fun</i>
2:45 - 3:10	<i>Story Time</i>
3:10	<i>Departure</i>



# before & after care

➤ [WESTLAKECHRISTIAN.ORG/EXTENDED CARE](https://WESTLAKECHRISTIAN.ORG/EXTENDED CARE)

Students who are not picked up at 3:10 will enjoy additional **Outdoor Play**, followed by an **Afternoon Snack** and indoor **Free Play and Enrichment** activities. Homework supervision is also provided for older students.

40 Minutes	<i>Outdoor Play</i>
15 Minutes	<i>Snack Time</i>
4:15-6:00 PM	<i>Free Play, Enrichment, Homework, Pick-Up</i>

WCA Preschool through 6th grade students may use Before and After Care on an “as needed” drop-in basis, provided space is available. You must register once per school year if you plan to use drop-in care. This can be done at the beginning of the school year or at any time, if the need arises. If you are planning to have your child drop-in for extended care, advance notification is appreciated. Please call the office at (847) 548-6209.

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*Please Note: Before and After School Care is not available for ½ days, teacher in-service days, holidays, or spring and Christmas vacations.*

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Annual enrollment in WCA Before and After School Care is required and based on a first come/first serve basis.

We offer Before Care from 7:00-7:50 am, and After Care from 3:10-6:00 pm.

To learn more about Extended Care at Westlake Christian Academy, including drop-in and annual rates, please visit

➤ [WESTLAKECHRISTIAN.ORG/EXTENDED CARE](https://WESTLAKECHRISTIAN.ORG/EXTENDED CARE)

# tuition & fees

➔ [WESTLAKECHRISTIAN.ORG/TUITION](https://www.westlakechristian.org/tuition)

KINDERGARTEN	ANNUAL TUITION	VARIABLE TUITION RANGE
Half Day (8:20-11:30)*	\$5,500	\$3,200-\$5,500
Full Day (8:20-3:10)	\$7,200	\$4,200-\$7,200

\*Every Friday is a Late Start (9:00a - 12:00p or 9:00a - 3:10p)

Tuition prices are annual amounts. Monthly payment plans are available. A one-time enrollment fee of \$175 is required for new students. *Kindergarten students must turn 5 by September 1.*

## variable tuition

➔ [WESTLAKECHRISTIAN.ORG/VARIABLE-TUITION](https://www.westlakechristian.org/variable-tuition)

To help families with the cost of education, WCA offers a Variable Tuition program. We match your tuition rate to your family's unique financial position. This program is optional for each family and requires a separate application through FACTS Financial Aid.

Variable Tuition is available for Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Please see our website or contact our school office for more information on how to apply for Variable Tuition.



# screenings & medical

➤ [WESTLAKECHRISTIAN.ORG/MEDICAL-DENTAL-REQUIREMENTS](https://WESTLAKECHRISTIAN.ORG/MEDICAL-DENTAL-REQUIREMENTS)

Kindergarten students **must turn 5 on or before September 1st**. We provide kindergarten screening for all students entering our kindergarten program. This allows us to plan for the best school year possible. Screenings are scheduled in April or May.

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## state of illinois medical exam requirements

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Prior to the first day of school, documentation of completed medical exams must be provided to the school office. See below.

**Health Exams** (including immunization records) are required for all new students and students entering Kindergarten. *Parents must complete and sign the parent portion of the exam (at the top) before submitting to the office.*

**Dental Exams** are required for students entering Kindergarten.

**Vision Exams** are required for students entering Kindergarten.

Your healthcare provider will likely have the required exam forms provided by the state of Illinois. If they do not, however, forms are available in the school office.



# uniforms

[WESTLAKECHRISTIAN.ORG/UNIFORMS](https://www.westlakechristian.org/uniforms)

Westlake Christian Academy requires uniforms for several reasons. Our desire is to help students develop the habit of dressing professionally, to build unity and minimize competition, and to allow students and teachers to focus on academics and spiritual growth rather than appearances. Westlake has elected to have a uniform dress code that provides some variety. The full outline of our dress code can be found on our website.



## Short-sleeve or Long-sleeve Shirts with a Collar

**White, Light Blue, Royal Blue, Navy\***  
*Examples: polos (cotton or athletic mesh), button down shirts, turtlenecks*

## Fleece with Collar (No Hood)

**Navy\***  
*Examples: full-zip or quarter-zip pullover*

## Tops

### Sweatshirt with WCA Logo\*\*

*Examples: pullover hoodie, full-zip hoodie, crewneck*

### Sweaters

**White, Navy\***  
*Examples: crewneck, v-neck, cardigan, vest*

\*Solid color, no visible brand logo, WCA logo optional (available from Land's End)  
\*\*Available from the WCA Spirit Store twice a year or Land's End year round

## Bottoms

### Skirts or Jumpers

**Navy, Khaki, or Hunter/Classic Plaid\*\*\***  
*Knee length or longer  
Elementary girls must wear shorts or leggings under skirts/jumpers at all times to allow for active play*



### Pants

**Navy or Khaki**  
*Neat fitting,  
not cargo style*

### Leggings

**Solid Navy or White ONLY**  
*May only be worn under  
knee-length skirts and jumpers*



### Shorts or Skorts

**Navy or Khaki**  
*Mid-thigh or minimum 7" inseam,  
not cargo style*



\*\*\*Available only from Land's End

# frequently asked questions

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## 1 Will my child have a snack each day?

Yes! We will eat a snack each day at 10:00 am. Each child should bring their own nutritious snack from home. Please send only one food item as the students only have about 10 minutes to eat their snack. No Peanut Products Please.

Students are also encouraged to bring their own water bottle to and from school each day.

## 2 What is the flow for Drop Off & Pick Up Times?

Morning Drop Off is from 8:00-8:20. School begins promptly at 8:20. Half-Day Kindergarten ends at 11:30 and our Enrichment class ends at 3:10. Every Friday is a late-start at 9:00 AM. Half-Day pick-up on Fridays is at 12:00 PM.

Timeliness is a character trait we're expecting from our Kindergarten students. They will be given a tardy slip if they are late to class (not fully prepared and sitting in their seat by 8:20). Please help them develop this skill by arriving promptly each day.

## 3 How will the teacher communicate with me?

Your child will bring their own folder back and forth to school each day. This folder may have special notes or things from that day of school. If you need to send something to school, please put it in that folder. This system helps children develop responsibility and prepares them for homework in the future.

Each Friday your child will bring home a special folder with all of their work from the week. The folder will also have a Kindergarten Newsletter and other important notes as necessary.

You are always free to email the teacher, Mrs. Culbertson, or call the office at any time.

4 Can my child bring in a treat to school for their birthday?  
Or participate in holiday fun?

Yes, we love to celebrate milestones with our students and birthdays are a big deal! Students are welcome to bring treats to school to celebrate their birthdays. Please send a store-bought treat or a trinket for your child to share. If it's possible to bring an allergy-conscious treat, that's always a win! We'll send the treats home due to COVID-19.

We will have classroom parties to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentine's Day, and Easter. Parents will be given an opportunity to sign up to help with parties. All food that is served must be store-bought.

5 Will my child be able to play outside for recess?

We know that getting fresh air, using gross motor skills, and learning how to be creative outside are integral parts of a child's development. We are committed to getting our students outside as much as possible. In the event of inclement weather, we utilize our gymnasium for recess. Our half-day students get a 15 minute recess in the morning, and if they stay for our Enrichment program in the afternoon, they get an additional 45 minutes.

6 Will there be a bathroom break throughout the day?

Kindergarten has its own restroom inside the classroom exclusively for its students! We do have breaks throughout the day to remind our students to take a potty-break.

7 Will my child be able to go on any field trips?

We have historically planned to go on two field trips every year with our class. Due to COVID-19, those trips have had to be canceled. If the restrictions change, we hope to go on trips next year. We always appreciate parent chaperones on field trips. If you are interested in helping, you will have the opportunity to sign up to chaperone prior to each scheduled trip.

# enrollment process

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## Discover Westlake

To learn more about a Christ-centered education at Westlake, we invite you to contact us for more information, schedule a tour, or attend an open house.

[WESTLAKECHRISTIAN.ORG/DISCOVER](https://www.westlakechristian.org/discover)



## Apply Online

The admissions application is online. You will create a login and submit your application and documents through FACTS Family Portal.

[WESTLAKECHRISTIAN.ORG/APPLY](https://www.westlakechristian.org/apply)



## Family Interview

Once your admissions application is submitted online and all required forms and recommendations are received, you will be contacted to schedule a family interview with our principal, Mrs. Laura DeReus.



## Financial Commitment

Upon notification of acceptance, you will receive a financial agreement form that contains your tuition amount. If you applied for Variable Tuition, this form will be held by the school until the Variable Tuition process is complete and an award has been made.



## Online Enrollment

Online enrollment is the final step. You will receive an email with instructions. The online enrollment packet and registration fee, along with the signed financial agreement form, must be submitted in order to finalize enrollment at Westlake.



## Welcome to Westlake!

After completing your online enrollment, please watch for a Welcome Mailing. You will also start receiving "What's Up @ Westlake" and "Principal's Pulse" email communications. New Family Orientation will be held in August before school starts.

[WESTLAKECHRISTIAN.ORG/WELCOME](https://www.westlakechristian.org/welcome)



**WESTLAKE**  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

275 S. LAKE ST. | GRAYSLAKE, IL 60030