

# Kindergarten

## Daniel Island Academy



*"The transition from preschool to Kindergarten, and then to first grade, is a challenging time for young children. We are especially suited to work with a child whose birthday is near the cut-off date for other Kindergarten programs. We offer the flexibility to meet the needs of each child and create an individual learning plan. My goal is to help each family make the best decision for the educational and emotional development of their child."*

Kerry Nowosielski  
School Director

### Preparing Your Child for Elementary School and Beyond

The Kindergarten Program at Daniel Island Academy is built upon three standards:

- A child-centered curriculum that educates the 'whole child' with attention to the intellectual, physical, and social/emotional development of each child
- An environment rich in direct experiences that are meaningful to the child upon which knowledge, skills, and positive attitudes toward schooling are achieved
- One-on-one instruction with a low child-to-teacher ratio, coupled with a small class size

### Classroom Size

Our Kindergarten Program offers a **9:1 child-to-teacher ratio** with an overall classroom enrollment limited to 18 students. This supports our child-centered curriculum and high standard for teacher interaction with each child. A limit on classroom enrollment is essential to creating a productive environment for all students in which more time is spent on instruction than behavior management.

### Play Based Learning

Our view is that play is fundamental to children's learning, growth, and development, enabling them to develop and clarify concepts, roles, and ideas by testing and evaluating them through the use of open-ended materials and role-enactment. Play further enables children to develop fine and gross motor skills, to learn to share with others, to learn to see others' points of view, and to be in control of their thoughts and feelings.

**Fun Fact** Each classroom is named for a sea creature. Our Kindergarten Class is designated as *The Sea Turtles*, with a sea turtle also featured in our school logo.

### Our Kindergarten Curriculum

Our curriculum was developed through extensive study of programs of excellence specially designed for Kindergarten students. In addition to meeting the *South Carolina Academic Standards* for mathematics, English language arts, science, and social studies for Kindergarten, our curriculum includes foreign language, music, creative arts, and language components, as follows:

**Everyday Mathematics** is a research-based PreK-6 curriculum that builds mathematical knowledge from the basics to higher-order thinking and critical problem solving. Children gain strong math skills through hands-on activities instead of relying on worksheets and rote memorization.

**Lucy Calkins' Writers Workshop** for Kindergarten provides fun and easy to follow lessons for children to learn early writing skills.

**Rigby-Literacy By Design** materials are utilized to teach vocabulary, comprehension, fluency, phonemic awareness, and phoneme segmentation.

**Expresate' (Spanish)** is taught by a native speaking Spanish teacher in a total immersion format in conjunction with normal school activities, such as play, stories, songs, games, and arts & crafts. Two 45-minute sessions are held weekly.

**Handwriting - D'Nealian** is a style of writing and teaching cursive and print (block) handwriting for English (and perhaps other languages written with the Latin alphabet). It was designed to ease the learning of cursive and print handwriting.

**Music Class** is a creative extension of the daily learning environment. Children learn classroom lessons in many ways and music is a proven medium through which they acquire early math and reading skills.

**Miss Becky's Literacy Adventure** is taught weekly by the school's Librarian. Each session is interwoven with the classroom's lesson plan, and includes storytime, music and movement, and dramatic play for learning and understanding books and stories.



**Daniel Island Academy**  
Serving Children Ages 1-6 Years  
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## Science and Social Studies

Science and social studies are taught through experience and exploration in and outside of the classroom.

**Field Trips** are an important part of our science and social studies curriculum to enhance the learning experience, teach children about the world around them, and provide for stimulating classroom discussions. Recent excursions have included: Daniel Island Fire Station, Palmetto Park, Discovery Ice Cream, Etiwan Park, Center Park, and a performance of *Ferdinand the Bull* at the Sottile in Historic Charleston.

## Nutrition

We teach children the importance of building strong minds and bodies through proper nutrition. This is a central component of every classroom throughout the school. Our full time chef prepares all snacks and lunches to the highest nutrition standard and assists teachers with classroom cooking projects.

**Gardens** - Each class plants and maintains their own garden throughout the year with harvested produce prepared for a special treat or used in cooking projects.

## Physical Education

The progression of gross and fine motor skills is a critical part of each child's development. The school's playground and multi-purpose room are equipped to provide a fun and challenging environment for all skill levels.

## Technology in the Classroom

Technology is an important tool used in today's classroom to aid with instruction. Most school programs will also use computers in standardized testing, so it is important to ensure that each child is knowledgeable in using computer-based programs.

Our classroom utilizes a SmartBoard® with internet access daily for morning news review, math applications, literacy, and for science and social studies research and information. Additionally, computer stations are located in the classroom to support instruction and enhance learning.

## Rewards and Reinforcement

The class has a Kindness Jar (marble jar). The children can earn marbles for the class every time the teacher sees a random act of kindness. Once the jar is full the students will be able to choose a special activity, such as a picnic, walk to the park, or PJ day. Paper smiley faces are sent home each day indicating that your child had a great day.

## Enrichment Programs

Supplemental Enrichment Programs, such as dance, science, music, art, and tumbling are offered outside of the regular classroom. These programs encourage children to explore their interests and develop new skills.

Your child's teacher and school staff are available to help plan an Enrichment Program schedule that will benefit your child's continued development and interests.

Please request an *Enrichment Brochure* for a current class schedule or visit our website to download a copy.

## Daily Schedule

Our Kindergarten instructional day is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Before and after school care is included at no additional cost, limited to a maximum of 10 hours daily. Included in our fee-simple tuition are two snacks and lunch daily, school supplies, field trips, and early morning and afterschool care (up to 10 total hours for care and instruction).

### Before School Care

6:30 - 8:00 Breakfast, Multipurpose Room

### Regular Class Schedule\*

8:00 - 8:20 Calendar/Morning Meeting  
8:20 - 8:45 Large Group Reading  
8:45 - 9:30 Guided Reading/Work Stations  
9:30 - 9:45 Snack  
9:45 - 10:30 Math  
10:30 - 11:15 Handwriting/Writers Workshop  
11:15 - 11:45 Recess  
11:45 - 12:30 Lunch  
12:30 - 1:00 Rest & Relaxation  
1:00 - 1:30 Science/Social Studies  
1:30 - 2:15 Art/Music/Library/Spanish  
2:15 - 3:00 Application Centers

### After School Care

3:30 - 4:00 Recess  
4:00 - 5:00 Self Selected Activities  
5:00 - 5:30 Music & Movement/Multipurpose Room  
5:30 - 6:00 Table Activities

\*Schedule subject to change.

**Reference Point** was created by Daniel Island Academy to provide a **developmental** tracking system of screening and observation tools to monitor your child's **cognitive, language, physical, social, and emotional** milestones.

A **confidential** portfolio is managed by an on-staff professional and includes

- Fall Readiness Check and Review
- Fall Curriculum Conference
- Spring Curriculum Conference
- Open Family Conferences, if needed
- Individualized Programs & Specialized Intervention, if needed

For more information on Reference Point and other programs at Daniel Island Academy, please visit our website or call to schedule a tour.

*"Our goal is to respond to the needs of children as developing, thinking individuals by focusing on the process of learning."*

Kerry Nowosielski  
School Director