



# PARENT Info PACKET



*ROOTED IN CHRIST. READY FOR TOMORROW.*



CHARLOTTE, NC  
[theoakscharlotte.org](http://theoakscharlotte.org)





# Hello!

We're so glad you're interested in learning more about Oaks Christian School – a novel, Christ-centered learning community for students in kindergarten through grade five. Choosing a school for your child is one of the most important decisions you'll ever make on their behalf. We know how important it is for parents to get this right, especially in the formative years when so much growth takes place. Please keep reading to learn about our unique educational model and the exciting opportunities available for your student at Oaks Christian.

Our vision is to nurture, develop, and educate the whole child – mind, body, heart, and soul. It is our mission to accomplish this and promote a love of learning through a distinctive program that includes experiential learning environments, a Christ-centered worldview, community service partnerships, and a convenient year-round calendar.

Families today have many frustrations with the traditional classroom model. Whether it is large classes that don't allow for individualized attention, or disengaged students who view school as nothing more than busywork or a means to an end, we get it. Every student deserves the chance to develop an authentic passion for learning, and it is essential to set the stage for a lifelong love of learning from the start.

Our unique mission is specifically accomplished through small classes, where our teachers have the opportunity to know students personally, and our students benefit from the highly relational atmosphere. Our commitment to delivering experiential learning allows us to captivate young minds with hands-on projects that bring learning to life, and most importantly, our Christ-centered community and approach to teaching allow each child to know their identity and worth in the Lord. Watching students mature in their faith and their approach to life as they advance academically, as well as serve others in our community, is a blessing to faculty as well as families.

In the pages ahead, you'll learn more about our year-round schedule, our intentionally planned school days, and our commitment to letting kids be kids without the burdens of excessive homework, the overuse of technology, or unnecessary expectations. We hope you'll be encouraged to hear that students can excel academically without sacrificing their childhood.

We love sharing what makes our program unique, but nothing compares to coming on campus and seeing our learning community in action. We invite you to take the next step and attend an open house or schedule a personal tour. It would be our privilege to show you around and answer your questions.

I look forward to meeting your family,

Erica Stroup  
Principal



# DIFFERENT *by* DESIGN

Every child deserves a chance to be educated in the way he or she was designed to learn. At Oaks Christian, we have created a unique model that addresses the whole child - body, mind, heart, and soul. Our primary goal is to foster in each child an authentic love for learning. When students leave our campus, they are equipped to do so much more than memorize facts and pass tests. They are confident in their abilities to think for themselves, create with their own two hands, and use their God-given skills to impact the world.

## — We accomplish this by: —

### **Embracing experiential learning**

Students learn best when they learn by doing. Hands-on projects and an emphasis on subject to subject integration allow students to connect concepts to the real world, retain information more fully, and experience gratification in the learning process. Our experiential learning model allows us to engage all three learning styles (auditory, visual, and kinesthetic).

### **Avoiding screen dependence**

21st-century learning is all about innovation and creativity. Unfortunately, screen dependency can hinder these skills, especially for young students. Screen-free education in the elementary years has proven social and psychological benefits, and allows students to become critical thinkers and persistent learners.

### **Assigning little to no homework**

When students are at school all day and come home to hours of homework, they miss out on opportunities for social and emotional development. Free time to play, socialization with family and friends, and adequate rest are essential for young learners. We make sure your kids get to be kids, and any assigned homework is intentionally light, relevant and practical.

### **Shortening the school day**

We're all about honoring and redeeming childhood. Our schedule is 8:30 a.m.-2:40 p.m., which is about 1.5 hours shorter than the traditional school day. This provides more time for students to be outdoors, spend time with family, and learn through play.

### **Offering a year-round schedule**

Research shows that when students attend school year-round, they enjoy a better rhythm in their lives, avoid regression commonly referred to as the "summer slide," and remain energized throughout the school year. Students at Oaks Christian enjoy short breaks every few weeks, an extended Christmas break, and a one month break in July.

### **Allowing teachers to shine in their areas of expertise**

Unlike other elementary schools where one teacher provides instruction across all core subject areas, students at Oaks Christian rotate through different learning environments. This enhances student engagement and allows teachers to focus on a subject they love and dive more deeply into their content with passion and enthusiasm.

### **Intentionally mentoring every student**

At Oaks Christian, each student is paired with a Homeroom Shepherd (HRS), a faculty member dedicated to the holistic development of each student. The HRS advocates for students, knows how each child learns, and understands their strengths and weaknesses. Each HRS works closely with the teachers to help meet the individual education needs of the students.

### **Being Christ-centered**

At Oaks Christian, children experience the joy of discovering God's Truth in all subject areas. God and the Bible are not merely relegated to a lesson plan, but rather, are the lens in which they view the world.

# WHY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION?

Being a Christian school means more to us than offering a Bible class or a worship hour. It's about a commitment to nurture the whole child. From kindergarten through fifth grade, students at Oaks Christian School will build a foundation for life and learning. During these formative years, we seek to set a strong foundation by infusing Biblical truth into every subject area, equipping students to answer life's most important questions and imparting the following Christian character values and concepts:

## Wisdom

We strive to equip students to think for themselves and make sound decisions through a biblical worldview.

## Diligence

We encourage our students to serve God with excellence and complete all tasks to the best of their ability.

## Integrity

We encourage our students to be honest and do the right thing even when no one is watching.

## Service

We encourage our students to use their tangible skills to bless and care for others with a willing heart.

## Kindness

We strive to demonstrate a genuine love towards others even when they are not kind in return.

## Respect

We encourage our students to be respectful with their speech, behavior, and attitudes and to honor the dignity of all people.





# A STRONG START: KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten sets the stage for your child's educational journey. During this ever-important year, students experience rapid growth – academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. Their natural curiosity and drive makes it a prime time to maximize their learning through age-appropriate, hands-on projects. Students may feel like they're playing, but we know they're building a foundation for lifelong learning.

**“** I love to see how my son jumps out of the car each morning with joy! Better yet, whereas most students come home tired from school, he gets back in the car just fueled and ready to tell me what he did that day, still with such immense joy! Instead of having real homework, he gets to teach his younger sister about force, or whatever he's learned that day, showing her experiments. As a mom, my spirit soars seeing how excited he is about his school experience.

-Parent of a Kindergarten student



## CORE SUBJECT AREAS:

READING | WRITING | MATH | SOCIAL STUDIES | SCIENCE



## ENRICHMENT CLASSES:

ART | MUSIC | P.E.



## A Day in the Life

Wondering what your child's day will look like in kindergarten? Here's a sample schedule from one of our teachers:

### BEFORE MORNING CLASSES: *The Gathering*

The Gathering is a time to learn about God and His word. Students sing songs, discuss the Bible, and learn about the basic tenets of the Christian faith.

### MORNING CLASSES: *Core Subjects*

Reading, Writing, and Math encompass three of the core subject areas. Each hour-long class actively engages students in purposeful and intentional play and experiential learning that includes critical thinking, problem solving, and hands-on student-centered activities. You will often find students working with manipulatives on the floor or in flexible seating while learning.

### LUNCH:

Students eat lunch together and enjoy visiting with their friends.

### AFTERNOON CLASSES: *Core and Enrichment Classes*

Social Studies and Science classes are interactive and engaging. Students can often be found conducting science experiments or learning and experiencing different cultures through dramatic play. Enrichment classes serve to add depth to the already robust learning of the day.

# THE VALUE of CONTINUITY in ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

In grades 1-5, students dive deeper into the core subject areas and discover their unique passions through special subjects and extracurricular activities. Mastering this wide variety of skills requires continuity. At Oaks Christian School, students have the same teachers for three consecutive years per subject area, and move seamlessly from one grade to the next.

These teachers collaborate closely to ensure they are helping students make valuable connections and build upon what they've already learned. With small class sizes, they have the opportunity to invest in each child's unique educational journey, knowing their learning styles and meeting them where they are each day.

Our teachers are living curriculum. They choose the best tools and resources based on their subject expertise and apply them to the specific learning framework of each group of students.



## 80/20 HANDS-ON LEARNING:

80% of class time is spent on teacher-initiated/lead engaging, hands-on activities. Only 20% is teacher-directed/instruction.



## HOLISTIC EDUCATION:

Our approach honors each child's unique identity and emphasizes academic, physical, emotional, and spiritual growth.

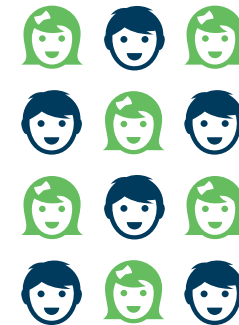


## COMMUNITY SERVICE:

Eight Fridays per year, students get to participate in projects focused on serving our neighbors throughout the Charlotte community.

Average  
class size:

# 12



## Plans are in progress

to offer the following  
after-school  
extracurricular activities:

**SOCCER**  
**RUNNING CLUB**  
**LACROSSE**  
**ART**  
**MUSIC**  
**STEM**

# “

*The feeling of this school is so welcoming and warm. We love that Christ is a part of our daughter's everyday; the Bible is woven into everything they're learning here. It's not just an afterthought.*

*Whether you're looking for a kindergarten program or an older grade, one of the greatest things about Oaks Christian is the year-round schedule. There is no lull, but they get a breather every few weeks to just be a kid!*

- Oaks Christian  
parent

# ADMISSIONS & FAQs



## The Admissions Process: Five Simple Steps

- 1 Attend an Open House Event or Schedule a Personal Tour**  
Open house events are hosted once a month on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. During this time, families can learn more about Oaks Christian, explore our facilities, and have questions answered. If this time is not convenient, feel free to contact us to set up a personal tour! We can't wait to meet your family!
- 2 Submit Your Application**  
Ready to apply? Complete the online application and submit your \$90 application fee. Please email [Amy Philipp](#) in admissions to let her know that you've applied so we can be sure your application comes through our portal.
- 3 Complete and Submit Educational Testing and Required Forms**  
Schedule your child's testing with an educational psychologist (more info on our website), have your physician complete the medical form, and ask your child's teacher to complete the recommendation form.
- 4 Schedule Your Student Visit**  
Once we receive your application, we will reach out to you to schedule your child's visit. For rising kindergarten students, the visit is approximately two hours and includes fun assessment activities and a snack with our kindergarten class. Students in grades 1-5 will have a full-day visit and will experience classroom life at Oaks Christian School.
- 5 Admissions Decision/ Enrollment**  
When all the steps in the admissions process have been completed, the admissions committee will make an admissions decision, and you will be contacted. Upon acceptance, you will receive a formal letter with information about how to register and set up a tuition payment plan.

## FAQ

### How old must my child be to attend?

Kindergarten applicants should be five years old by August 1 of the academic year in which they plan to start school.

### Are you open to families from other faiths?

Certainly! While we are a Christian school, we welcome families from all backgrounds and traditions. We believe the Christian character values we aim to teach are universally appreciated by families of different faiths.

### My child has an IEP. Can she attend Oaks Christian?

It is our mission to serve every student with excellence. Currently, we are not set up to meet the needs of students with specific, diagnosed learning differences. We understand that no two students are the same, and we would be glad to answer your questions.

### Is transportation available?

Oaks Christian does not offer transportation at this time; however, many of our families carpool.





We'd love to have the opportunity  
to show you our school! ➡

**CONTACT US:**

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**COME VISIT!**

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