

## Grade Level Introduction: Kindergarten 2019-2020



### **Mrs. Amber Sibley**

#### **Credentials:**

- B.S. in Elementary Education from the University of Phoenix.
- M.A. in Early Childhood Education from Northern Arizona University
- Reading Endorsement from Northern Arizona University

#### **Certification:**

- Arizona State Certified
- A.C.S.I. Certified

#### **Years of Experience:**

- Eight years total (Kindergarten)
- Six years at Casas Christian School

#### **Teacher Contact Information**

**Email:** [ambers@casaschristianschool.com](mailto:ambers@casaschristianschool.com)

**Classroom Voicemail:** 878-1315

**Instagram:** casaskinder

### **Mrs. Melissa Becker**

#### **Credentials**

- M.A. in Early Childhood Education from Grand Canyon University.
- Psychology Degree from St. Cloud University

#### **Years of Experience:**

- First year at Casas Christian School

#### **Teacher Contact Information**

**Email:** [melissab@casaschristianschool.com](mailto:melissab@casaschristianschool.com)

**Classroom Voicemail:** 878-1314

## **Grade Level Description**

Kindergarten is a world of excitement where the joy of learning is evident every day. Students will learn about the community outside of their own family by working in small groups, whole group and individually. We treat each child as a gift from the Lord and understand that each child's needs vary depending on the gifts God gave him or her. Our goal is to help develop the whole child spiritually, emotionally and academically.

Differentiation, instruction catered to each child's readiness level, is implemented throughout the day. Whole group instruction of literacy, math, Bible,

social studies and science concepts uses a variety of movement activities, visuals, songs, technology, and creative projects. Small group math and literacy instruction includes enrichment learning centers, hands-on manipulatives, collaborative learning experiences, and targeted reading instruction. Individual, one-on-one instruction focuses on each child's specific reading level. Reading and writing are primary components of Kindergarten at CCS and chief components of individual instruction that enables each child to receive the level of instruction that he or she specifically needs.

Children are introduced to high-quality literature and well-known authors and taught story elements, specific reading strategies, and comprehension skills.

Social Studies and Science are also introduced with an overview of major events and people such as Thanksgiving and Martin Luther King Jr., and the study of families, communities, insects, plants, desert animals, weather, and Christmas around the world. Of course, Christmas and Easter are significant celebrations honored in Kindergarten with a focus on Christ.

Although Bible is an independent subject, biblical concepts are introduced and demonstrated daily through teacher-child interactions, communication with others, discipline, art projects and are biblically integrated throughout each subject. Kindergarten-age children begin to move from thinking of only themselves to thinking of others. This is taught from Scripture as they work through problem-solving with their peers. This is the beginning of guiding the children to a biblical worldview, that is, seeking answers from biblical truth.

In addition, each week the students visit the school library and check out a book for the week, have reading buddies with an upper-grade student and attend a Chapel service where an age-appropriate message is presented.

With the new and wonderfully exciting activities happening in Kindergarten, a rest time is much needed. After lunch the students will take a 20-minute break and rest on a towel or blanket in the classroom. This downtime is important to rest their little minds to get ready for more stimulating projects, activities or special classes in the afternoon such as art, music, P.E., Spanish, and technology.

## **Grade Level Resources**

**Bible:** Purposeful Design

**Reading/Language Arts/Writing:**

McGraw-Hill Wonders

**Math:** Saxon**Science:** Pearson Interactive Science**Social Studies:** Harcourt**Special Events & Field Trips**

In Kindergarten, we have field trips throughout the year to places like Howard's Orchard during apple picking season, the Botanical Gardens to observe the butterfly life cycle, Fry's grocery store to support our money unit, Golder Ranch Fire District for fire safety, the Children's Museum for hands-on science exploration, the Oro Valley Library during our fairy-tale study, and to Sabino Canyon to learn about the geology and eco-systems of the desert. During Christmas, we visit a retirement home to deliver hand-made cards and sing Christmas carols to the residents as part of our "Serving Others" project.

In our classrooms, we have many hands-on art projects and activities. In addition to holiday crafts and decorations, we have a pancake pajama party for letter P, celebrate the 100th day of school, honor Dr. Seuss' Birthday with green eggs and ham, watch butterflies emerge from their cocoons, and grow plants in the classroom. Research and inquiry projects include in-depth studies of insects, community helpers, desert animals and habitats, and fairy-tales. We commemorate our growth and learning at the end of the year with a Kindergarten Celebration! Kindergarten at CCS is not only a place of learning but also fascination and enjoyment for a kindergartener.

**Serving Others Projects**

During Christmas, we visit a retirement home to deliver hand-made cards, serve cookies and juice, and sing Christmas carols to the residents as part of our "Serving Others" project. In January, our kindergarten class helps "Feed My Starving Children," a non-profit organization that coordinates the packaging and distribution of food to people in developing nations. Kindergarten children hand-pack special meal bags that are used to help feed hungry children around the world!