

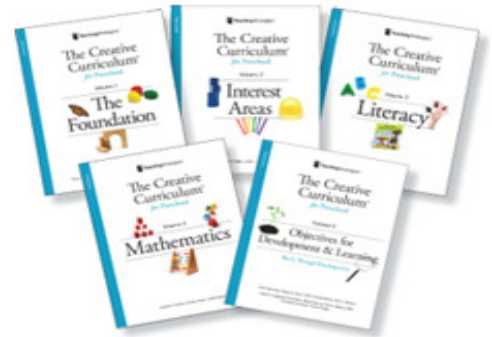


The Creative Curriculum® for Preschoolers

In addition to *Little Lambs* and *Voyages* Bible-based curriculum, we will be using “*The Creative Curriculum® System for Preschool*.” This is a research-based system that combines curriculum, assessment, professional development, and family connection resources. It is approved by the State of Michigan for meeting the necessary guidelines in all aspects of preschool learning and development.

Creative Curriculum® addresses 10 areas of development and 38 objectives for learning that help teachers ensure that they are focusing on what is most important each and every day. These areas of development include:

- Social-Emotional
- Physical
- Language
- Cognitive
- Literacy
- Math
- Science and Technology
- Social Studies
- The Arts
- English Language Acquisition (Bilingual Students)



CC summarizes the latest theory and most up-to-date research about children's development and learning

If you would like more information, please contact the director, Gail Lager.

Welcome to New Staff

We are happy to welcome back Melissa VanderMeeden as our Young 5s teacher. She brings a delightful sense of energy and excitement to her classroom. Melissa has a Bachelor of Arts degree in English/Elementary Education from WMU. She has many years of experience working with children such as a first grade teacher, young 5s teacher, a literacy paraprofessional in several grades with an emphasis on BK and Kindergarten classrooms.

We are also fortunate to have two Western Michigan University interns in the classrooms this fall. Chelsey Powell will be mentored by 3s and 4s teacher Courtney Markham and Caitlyn Clark will be mentored by Grasshopper teacher Jenny Johnson.

Hilltop Action League (HAL) Meetings

The Hilltop Action League is our equivalent of the elementary school PTO. We meet the second Monday of each month at 7pm — meetings last about an hour. This is a great forum for parents and staff to exchange ideas in areas such as curriculum, preschool policy, special events, fundraising, and promotions. It is also a great way to get to know other preschool parents and staff. We hope to see you there!

Information Station

Please take a few minutes at drop-or pick-up to see what is posted at the Information Station where we keep the sign in/out sheets. Information is posted to keep you informed about curriculum and snacks for the month. We post signups for fundraising, class parties, and special events, even happenings around Kalamazoo/Portage. Take a minute to stay in the know.

Family Fall Fest: Save Date

Mark Saturday, October 15, 4-7pm on your calendar for the annual Family Fall Fest. You are invited to a potluck with crafts, games, bouncer and more. Meet other families and get to know teachers better. The whole family is welcome.



Making a Difference for Students through Fundraising



WMU Sweeping We are extremely fortunate to have a coveted spot to fundraise through volunteering our time sweeping after sporting events

at Read Field House on the campus of WMU. We receive \$200 per cleaning for easy-as-pie work. We have three dates after volleyball events this fall. We ask that each family do their part and sign up to sweep at least one time.

Sat, Oct 8 8:30-9:30pm

Sat, Oct 22 8:30-9:30pm

Thurs, Nov 10 8:30-9:30pm

Signup at the Information Station. This is so much better than selling candy bars!

A Letter from the Director: Gail Lager

What a fun and exciting first week of preschool we've had. I spent time in all the classrooms watching your children exploring, playing and learning what preschool is all about — having fun! Please remember we welcome you to visit your child's classroom at any time whether you are volunteering your time or to just see what your child is up to at preschool. Feel free to call, email or stop in the office. I teach in the mornings but I am available in the afternoons. Again, welcome to Hilltop, we are so glad you're here.

office Hours: 11:30am-3:30pm / glager@aol.com

Campbells Labels for Education



A simple way to help the pre-school earn free products is by clipping the UPC label

from eligible products. A list of eligible products and collection sheets are in in your Family Handbook folder. Drop off collection sheets or labels in a baggie at the collection bin outside the office.

Couldn't be easier!

Meijer Community Rewards



By completing the MCR application in your family handbook or going online to: www.meijer.com/rewards, you are on your way to helping Hilltop receive donated dollars from Meijer. You'll need Hilltop's school code which is 616142. A card will be mailed to your home. Scan it every time you shop at Meijer and a percentage of the dollar amount of your order will be donated to the pre-school to use for new equipment and supplies for your child.

Administrative News: April Alexopoulos







Welcome to Hilltop new and returning families! Don't hesitate to phone or email me with any questions you may have. I can usually respond immediately. Also, tuition is due on the 1st of the month unless you have made other arrangements with me. There is a 10-day grace period. And, please let us know if your child will not be at school due to illness or if you will be picking him/her up early or late.

office hours: 9:00am-3:30pm
april@hilltoppreschool.org

Scholastic Book Club

Hilltop participates in Scholastic Book Clubs which is a wonderful resource for you to get good quality books for your child at a very low price. The preschool receives coupons for free books each time you order. This allows us to expand our classroom and lending library collections. You should have received the first Scholastic booklets last weeks with a letter explaining how the program works and the code to use when ordering online. Contact Gail Lager if you have questions about ordering books or ordering online.

SEPTEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6  School Begins	7	8	9	10
11 Hazel Bryan's B-day 	12 7pm HAL Mtg	13	14	15 YB Field Trip 	16 OB & RB Field Trips 	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 Isabella Greene's B-day 	26 Scholastic Book Orders Due 	27	28	29	30	

Lending Library:

Students will check out books each week in class with their teachers. The limit is three books which must be returned in one week. Parent resource books will be added within the next month.

Hilltop Action League (HAL):

September 12 @ 7pm
Learn more about what is going on at Hilltop and take an active part in their education. All are welcome!

Upcoming October Dates:

- 10 HAL Meeting, 7pm
- 12 OB & RB school pics
- 13 YB school pics
- 15 Family Fall Fest 4-7pm
- 26 Zion Sauerkraut Supper
- 27 YB Halloween Party
- 31 OB & RB Halloween Parties