

# KIDS' ZONE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Providing a Lifetime of Learning, Leadership, and Spiritual Growth



**K**ids' Zone Christian Academy in Jarrell, Texas, a thriving institution offering certified elementary education for kindergarten through fourth grade, is growing again in response to an emergent demand. The school is set to expand its program and premises, moving to a new location, and enhancing its curriculum to provide the full elementary experience for junior kindergarten through fifth grade.

Kids' Zone owner and general manager Whitney Hicks says, "Our goal is to blend all the benefits of a public setting within a more intimate environment. We have been planning this for 3-4 years, and the need for a private school with a Christian aspect and smaller class settings in the community is evident."

The academy, currently housed in a two-story building with five classrooms at 104 Copper Lane, has seen steady growth over the years. Initially, there were 35 students, but this number surged to 62 last year and is projected to rise to 102 this coming school year. Whitney says construction is ongoing but students will have everything they need, including a fully equipped playground ready for the first day of school August 16.

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**AS KIDS' ZONE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY GROWS, SO DOES ITS COMMITMENT TO INSTILL LOVE, RESPECT, AND A THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE IN EVERY STUDENT, FULFILLING ITS MISSION TO SPREAD THE LIGHT OF CHRIST AND PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE CHILDREN ARE LOVED FIRST, AND THEN EDUCATED.**

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## **A SCHOOL WITH A VISION**

The new campus will feature a 16,000-square-foot, regulation-sized gym, and a 10-classroom complex. These modern facilities, designed with a vintage aesthetic, will continue to host programs like PE, Spanish, music, and art, supplemented by a robust Bible curriculum. Whitney adds their long-term goal is to continue building and add a permanent building and possibly a standard track with all the amenities. "It is a work in progress," she says. "But the 4.5 acres near Double Creek Elementary has given us the freedom to build and dream, and we are looking forward to providing after-school childcare for JISD students as well. We are thankful to have a wonderful working relationship with Superintendent Dr. Hicks and we love to be a part of working for the greater good of all children."

### EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES

This move also creates opportunities for collaboration with other schools in the region. With accreditation from the National Association of Private Schools, students can now participate in local sporting events. In addition, the school will incorporate a science lab and a computer lab and there are plans for a library in the permanent structure to come, reflecting the school's focus on holistic education.

Moreover, the expansion will mean new employment opportunities for teachers, assistants, cafeteria workers, and coaches. Plus, as a community-centric institution, Kids' Zone Christian Academy will make its full-sized gym available for local events and clubs.

### MAINTAINING QUALITY, NURTURING BONDS

Whitney emphasizes, "The focus remains on individual attention, ensuring that no child feels like 'just a number'." As many parents expressed a desire to keep their children at Kids' Zone, we felt the need to add the fourth and fifth grades. Our mantra is simple - we love them first, then we educate them. We see ourselves as a home-schooling hub within a certified environment, providing a safe and comfortable setting for learning." So, despite their growth, Whitney is determined to preserve its intimate and nurturing environment and teachers will continue to know each student one-on-one, catering to their specific needs.



### BRIDGING PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

As it always has been, Kids' Zone's expansion is a testament to founder Donna Brown's love for teaching. "My mom was a master teacher and loved the kids," Whitney shares. "As I venture beyond nurturing and supporting our kiddos into areas like building codes and the relative strengths of different re-bar types—things I never imagined I would become immersed in—I know she is proud of my growth too, and I feel closer to her. This expansion helps fulfill my mission of spreading the love of Christ, and I am excited to see where this journey takes us."

With a trusted management team and a head of school who personally handles each parent inquiry and enrollment, Kids' Zone Christian Academy is ready for this expansion. Everyone is awaiting the new school year with great excitement and fervor and, while confident in their execution and progress, Whitney asks simply that the community join her in praying for a successful year.



*"My son was already pleased with how Kids' Zone functions as a school and he is excited to have even more opportunity available to him. It is such a blessing, and we are so excited for him because I know he's just going to thrive. Adding these new areas and programs will just make him that much more excited to go to school every day. It's a blessing for me that he enjoys being there."*

~ Camy Reynolds

Classes have a maximum of 16 students, but some spaces remain. To learn more about enrollment or arrange a personal tour of the school, scan the code, or contact Ashley Sigafoos, Head of School.

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*by Ann Marie Kennon  
photos courtesy Kids' Zone*