



Holy Cross Stars Academy

Where Every Child Shines

WELCOME!

Greek Orthodox Community of Whitestone, Inc.

12-03 150th Street Whitestone, NY 11357

Our Program

- Holy Cross Stars Academy runs under guidelines from NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) - Bureau of Child Care
- We will continue to operate classes for two and three-year-old students (2021, 2020) and will be expanding to a four-year-old class (2019) this September
- Indoor and outdoor areas for gross motor development
- Research-based curriculum
- Infusion of Greek culture and language
- Small group ratio
- Certified staff



Staff

Educational Director (ED) -supervises staff and oversees training, develops curriculum, state certified in Early Childhood Education

Administrative Assistant – supports director, billing, student medical and immunization records



- **Group Teacher** – plans activities, supervises children and assesses student learning, BA in early childhood education, Greek speaking preferred
- **Assistant Teacher** – assists group teacher, supports small group reinforcement, helps with toileting, Greek speaking preferred

2022 – 2023 School Year Staff

Mrs. Cathy Helfrich Educational Director
catherine.helfrich@hcgos.org

Ms. Joanne Kyriacou Assistant
joanne.kyriacou@hcgos.org

Ms. Konstantina Parthenis 3-Year-Old Teacher
konstantina.parthenis@hcgos.org

Ms. Anna Kambouras 3-Year-Old Assistant
anna.kambouras@hcgos.org

Mrs. Stephanie Drakopoulos 2-Year-Old Teacher
stephanie.drakopoulos@hcgos.org

Mrs. Francesca McMoore 2-Year-Old Assistant
francesca.mcmoore@hcgos.org

Mrs. Ellen Saittis Floater Assistant
ellen.saittis@hcgos.org

Mrs. Jeanine Prassos Substitute Teacher





Stars Academy Philosophy

- Children learn best through play and exploration
- Teacher facilitated learning
- Purposeful learning environment
- Social/emotional, physical, cognitive and language development
- Parents as partners



New York State PreK Standards

Five Domains

1. **Approaches to Learning** – how children become involved in learning and acquiring knowledge
2. **Physical Development and Health** – enables children to engage in daily activities
3. **Social and Emotional Development** – emotional competence and ability to form positive relationships that make children's experience in the home, school and larger community more meaningful
4. **Communication, Language and Literacy** – how children understand, create and communicate meaning
5. **Cognition and Knowledge of the World** – what children need to know and understand about the world and how they apply what they know

Required Documentation

(Due at time of enrollment)

- Birth Certificate
- Record of Immunizations
- Recent Physical Examination

The following immunizations are required for all children in Stars Academy:

- DTaP 4 doses
- Polio 3 doses
- MMR 1 dose
- HepB 3 doses
- Varicella 1 dose
- Hib 1 - 4 doses
- PCV 1 - 4 doses
- Influenza 1 dose between July 1st and December 31st, 2023
- Lead Screening
- Anemia Screening





Greek Culture

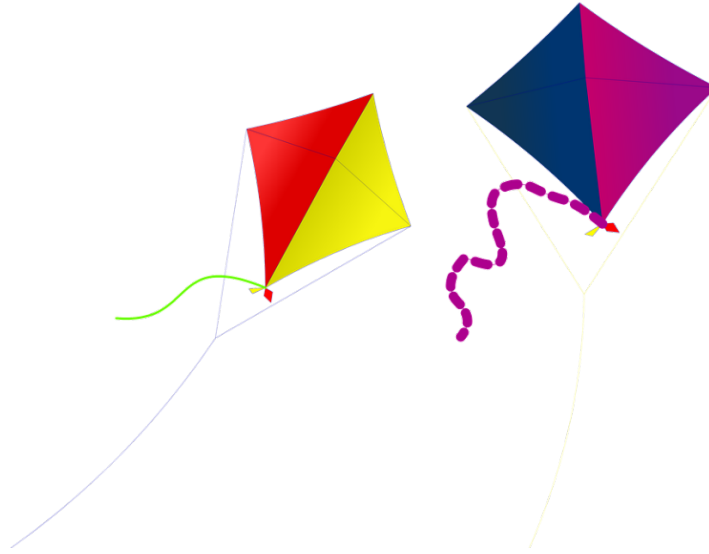
The Greek language is infused into the curriculum.

Daily lessons and activities will include Greek words, songs and activities.

Greek holidays will be introduced, explained and celebrated through music, art and movement.

Morning prayer and prayers before snacks and lunch are part of the program.

Children will recite classic Greek nursery rhymes.



Creative Curriculum

2-Year-Old Children

- Strong emphasis on routines and meaningful experiences that meet children's strengths, interests and needs
- Theme based curriculum and investigations – rocks, seeds, brushes, containers, paper, clothes
- Incorporates *Highlights Hello*, stories, poems, rhymes, as a daily read aloud and as a tool for conversation
- Opportunities for scaffolded instruction to meet individual needs
- At home learning guides





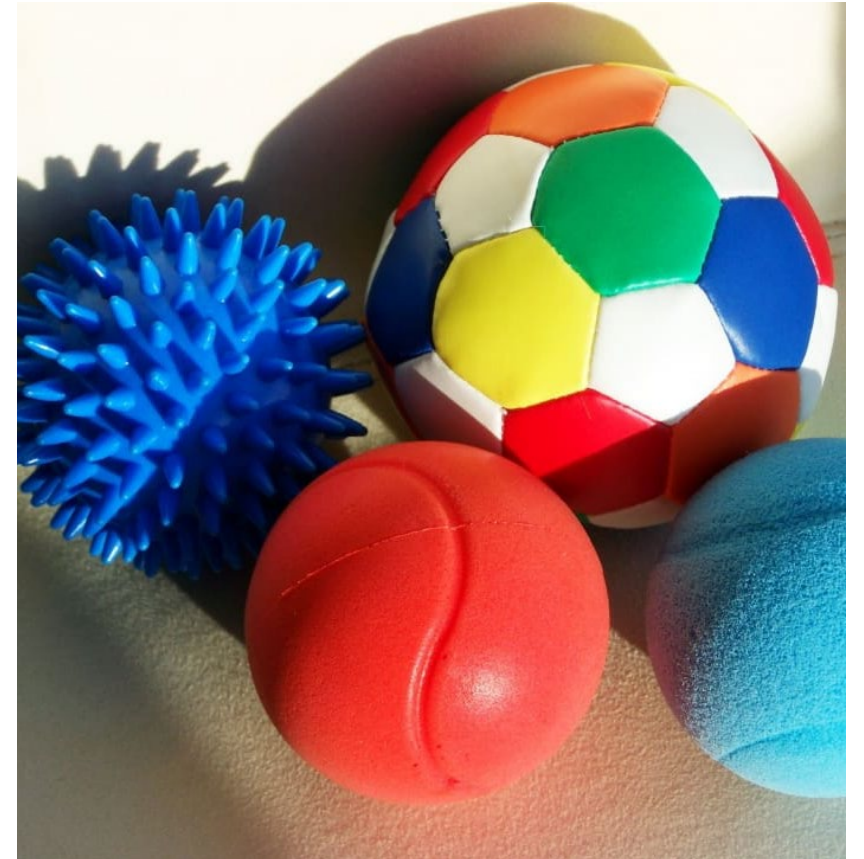
Schedule for the Day 2-Year-Old Class 8:30 – 11:00

- 8:30 – 8:45 Arrival routines, fine motor centers
- 8:45 – 9:15 Circle Time – Attendance, weather, theme lesson, music
- 9:15 – 9:45 Indoor or outdoor recess
- 9:45 – 10:10 Washing hands, snacks
- 10:10 – 10:30 Centers, dramatic play, blocks
- 10:30 – 10:50 Fine motor activity
- 10:50 – 11:00 Closing activities, dismissal



Creative Curriculum - 3's and 4's

- Encourages learning through meaningful and purposeful play with opportunities for investigation, exploration and discovery
- Supports child development and learning in literacy, math, science, social studies and arts
- Social/emotional, cognitive and physical development embedded throughout
- Theme based curriculum – buildings, clothing, balls, wheels, water, light, exercise, reduce-recycle-reuse
- Daily read-a-louds, digital library, differentiated small group instruction, assessment
- Parent component and resources



Instructional Highlights

- ?? Question of the day ??
- Mighty Minutes – transition
- Large group activities
- Choice time
- Read aloud
- Small group activity enrichment and reinforcement
- Large group closure





Schedule for the Day: 3-year-old class

- 8:30 - 8:50 Arrival Routines, fine motor centers
- 8:50 - 9:20 Circle Time- Attendance, Calendar, Weather, Theme based "Question of the day"
- 9:20 - 9:45 Math readiness
- 9:45 - 10:00 Music and movement
- 10:00 - 10:20 Toileting, wash hands, snacks
- 10:20 - 11:00 Gross motor activities, handwashing
- 11:00 - 11:30 Fine motor activities, science
- 11:30 - 12:00 Lunch
- 12:00 - 1:00 Rest, quiet activities, daily read-a-louds
- 1:00 - 1:30 Centers, dramatic play
- 1:30 - 1:50 Theme based activities
- 1:50 - 2:10 Small group instruction
- 2:10 - 2:20 Closing circle
- 2:20 - 2:30 Dismissal Activities

Schedule for the Day: 4-year-old class

- 8:30 - 8:50 Arrival Routines, fine motor centers
- 8:50 - 9:20 Circle Time- Attendance, Calendar, Weather, theme based "Question of the day"
- 9:20 - 9:45 Math readiness
- 9:45 - 10:00 Music and movement
- 10:00 - 10:25 Fine motor activities, science
- 10:30 - 10:50 Toileting, Handwashing, snack
- 10:50 - 11:45 Gross Motor activities
- 11:45 - 12:10 Lunch
- 12:10 - 1:10 Rest, quiet activities
- 1:10 - 1:30 Centers, dramatic play
- 1:30 - 1:50 Theme based activities
- 1:50 - 2:10 Small group instruction
- 2:10 - 2:20 Closing circle
- 2:20 - 2:30 Dismissal Activities



Parent Involvement

- Letters to parents when introducing new theme
- Weekly newsletter highlighting center activities and books read during the week
- Monthly Calendar
- Communication with staff through ClassDOJO
- Access to digital library for 3 and 4-year-old programs
- At home learning guides
- Opportunities for workshops
- Parent conferences
- Parent/Child Activities



I'm in Preschool

I am not built to sit still,
keep my hands to myself,
take turns, be patient, stand
in line or keep quiet.

I need motion,
I need novelty,
I need adventure,
and I need to engage the
world with my whole body

Let Me Play

trust me, I'm learning

Author unknown

