



*WHOLE-CHILD EDUCATION
THAT INSPIRES
a Passion for Learning in
The Early Years & Beyond*

INFANT-PRESCHOOL | 6 WEEKS - 5 YEARS OLD
A Guide for Parents

WHY COLUMBIA ACADEMY?



Whether you have an infant or a preschooler, you're undoubtedly amazed by how much your child grows and changes each day. Finding the right school during the early years can maximize your child's development and set the stage for a successful academic journey.

At Columbia Academy, our goal is to provide a strong foundation for future learning to each child who enters our programs. To do this successfully, we commit to:

Parent Communication: Keeping parents informed and engaged in their child's learning process is an essential part of the Columbia Academy experience. Your child's teachers will communicate daily, collaborating with you to support their development.

Diversity & Inclusion: Columbia Academy is a diverse learning environment centered on mutual respect and a shared pursuit of excellence. Children develop strong values as they are immersed in a close-knit community where they are nurtured and celebrated.

Safety and Quality: Your child's safety is our top priority. All Columbia Academy staff are background-checked and meet high standards. Our facilities are designed for maximum security, with locked doors, PIN access, and a stringent drop-off and pick-up process.

Open-Door Policy: Whether you're visiting to breastfeed your infant or bringing treats for your toddler's birthday, we welcome parent involvement in our school day. Your child's teachers will share opportunities to join in events, activities, and traditions.

Academic Excellence: Our carefully designed curriculum focuses on intentional, responsive care and implements research-based objectives for development and learning, a strong focus on routines, and individualized attention. We start laying the foundation for academic success early through developmentally appropriate activities. Brain-based learning with an emphasis on social-emotional development is woven into academics, motivating children to attain higher levels of cognition and interest.

An Emphasis on Fun: You may have heard the saying, "play is the work of the child," and we couldn't agree more. Our state-of-the-art playgrounds, indoor recreation facilities, and intentionally designed classrooms allow students to learn in a way that feels like fun!

We invite you to see for yourself why families choose Columbia Academy by [scheduling a tour](#). We look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

Katie Yanich

Katie Yanich
Director of Preschool Operations

INFANT AND TODDLER PROGRAM

6 WEEKS-TWO YEARS

A nurturing atmosphere where our youngest learners thrive



The Infant and Toddler Program at Columbia Academy is designed to make the most of this stage of rapid development through meaningful opportunities for exploration and play. We partner closely with parents to provide a sense of stability through structured routines, communicating daily to keep you involved in your little one's learning.

Responsive Care

We provide a high level of individualized attention, ensuring each child is responded to quickly and engaged through play. Infant rooms have a 1:3 ratio with a maximum of six students. Toddler rooms also have a 1:3 ratio with a maximum of nine students.

Consistent Caregivers

Families love that infants and toddlers remain with the same caregivers for the first two years of life, even as they progress to new rooms based on their stage of development. This allows teachers to truly get to know their students, building confidence and trust.

Individualized Lesson Plans

No two children learn in the same way or at the same pace. Our Individualized Lesson Plans allow us to meet each child where they are, preparing them for their next milestones.

Creative Curriculum

We implement a researched based curriculum that provides plenty of opportunities for sensory play and hands-on learning. As infants move toward toddlerhood, they enter new opportunity-filled environments with more room for movement, discovery, and creativity.



"We came to you in crisis with our son looking for a new school family. We were frantically figuring out how we would juggle life and get him into a good program with loving, supporting teachers and staff. All this is to say; we could not have done life without Columbia Academy. Thank you will never be enough for all you have done for our family." Elizabeth S., -Columbia Academy Parent

A HEALTHY BALANCE OF *structured routine* AND *individualized care*

Infants follow a highly personalized schedule. We work closely with parents to ensure our caregivers follow the eating, playing, and sleeping rhythm that works best for their family.

Toddlers follow a more structured schedule as they prepare for preschool*, but there is still room for variance to meet each child's unique needs.

**Please see pages 6-7 for a sample schedule from one of our classrooms that will give you an inside look at our typical school day in preschool. As your child grows, we will begin introducing a schedule that closely matches this flow of events, allowing for a seamless transition.*



K-PREP 2

AGES 2-3

A joyful environment that inspires a love for learning

Attitudes about school are developed early on. At Columbia Academy, we make learning fun so students remain excited about new experiences in and out of the classroom. Our K-Prep 2 program builds confidence as students try new things, take risks, and enthusiastically embrace the opportunities before them each day. Structured activities lay the foundation for kindergarten readiness skills that will be developed further in our K-Prep 3 and K-Prep 4 programs.

1:6 ratio, 12 children maximum

Active Learning

Using an active learning approach, children are introduced to language, literacy, mathematics, and other core academic subjects. They also enjoy specials such as Spanish, music, the arts, and recreational physical education.

Hands-On Projects

From cooking inventive dishes to conducting science experiments, students love using their minds and hands to create. Monthly investigations tie numerous lessons back to one overarching theme.

Social-Emotional Learning

Our Peacemaking Curriculum emphasizes skills such as identifying feelings, self-regulation, relationship-building, and conflict resolution. Teachers implement Responsive Classroom techniques, which brings together academic and social learning in an organic way.

Strong Communication

K-Prep 2 teachers send daily and weekly updates to keep families engaged in the learning process. You can see your preschooler's learning in action as teachers share photos and videos securely through our parent communication app.

“My son had been struggling with adjusting to daycare for months. He cried every day at dropoff. However, shortly after transferring to Columbia Academy, he stopped crying at dropoff. He has been so happy since and learning so much. We are grateful for all the love and care from everyone at Columbia Academy, especially Ms. Allison.”

Columbia Academy Parent





K-PREP 3 & 4

AGES 3-5

Building a strong foundation for your child's future success

1:10 ratio, 24 children maximum per class

TWO UNIQUE PROGRAMS THAT MEET STUDENTS WHERE THEY ARE:

K-PREP 3

(for three- and four-year-olds)

A stimulating play-based program that focuses on language development, socio-emotional skills, and growing independence.

K-PREP 4

(for four- and five-year-olds)

A structured academic program where students are equipped with the tools they need for a successful transition to transitional kindergarten or kindergarten.

Academic Excellence: Students build kindergarten readiness skills in the core subject areas of language, literacy, mathematics, science, and more through engaging, hands-on activities. Weekly specials (Spanish, music, the arts, and physical education) provide a well-rounded experience.

A Meaningful Curriculum: Our curriculum fosters an authentic love for learning. From our Handwriting Without Tears program that creates a zeal for writing and storytelling, to our Virtue of the Month tradition that emphasizes character traits, students are inspired as their skills and abilities grow.

Growing Independence: From our daily Morning Meeting which fosters a strong sense of community to our Peacemaking curriculum which promotes emotional regulation and problem solving, your child will build the social-emotional skills required for success in school and life.

Parent Involvement: Families are encouraged to remain engaged in the learning process. Teachers publish lesson plans, provide weekly progress reports, and share photos and videos securely through our parent app.

Schedule Options

Full-Day

For parents who need all-day care, our full-day program keeps students in a safe and consistent environment from 7 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Academic Day

For those seeking a traditional school day, our academic schedule runs from 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Half-Day

Our half-day program runs from 9 a.m. - 12 noon and is ideal for students who are stepping into their first classroom experience.



“We have been a part of Columbia Academy for the past six years and have always had positive experiences, from infant class to summer camp at the elementary school. We love the diverse and unique curriculum and how much our kids grow and learn from their nurturing staff. From field trips and classroom experiences to potty training and learning social/emotional skills, Columbia Academy has provided so much support to help our kids develop skills and grow independence.”

Farra D., -Columbia Academy Parent

WONDERING WHAT YOUR PRESCHOOLER’S DAY WILL LOOK LIKE AT *Columbia Academy?*

The following is a sample schedule from one of our classrooms.

Arrival and Centers

Students are warmly welcomed by their teachers and begin the day by visiting one of our learning centers designed to spark curiosity.

Snack & Independent Reading

Students fuel up for the day with a healthy snack and explore a book of their choosing.

Morning Circle Time

We kick off our academic day with a whole-class gathering, a review of daily activities, and character lessons.

Self-Directed Exploration

Students are given space to communicate what interests them and may utilize a variety of hands-on learning tools to explore, create, and learn.

Weekly Specials

Enrichment classes include P.E., the arts, language and literacy, and more. Large Group Activity Guided by teachers, the whole class engages in a project-based learning activity that fosters skills across several core subject areas.

Handwriting

As students build their fine motor skills, we introduce the Handwriting Without Tears curriculum, which uses multisensory techniques and excites students about their growing abilities.

Outdoor Play Time

outdoors is so important for young learners. Columbia Academy has invested in high-quality, safe playground equipment to help our students build gross motor and social skills.

Lunch

Lunchtime is about much more than eating. This is an opportunity for students to grow in independence, work on their manners, and build vital social-emotional skills.

Peacemaking

In the spirit of providing a whole-child approach to education, our peacemaking curriculum emphasizes respect, empathy, and problem-solving skills.

Story Time

A love of reading is fostered through engaging story times, where students hear their teachers read aloud and gradually begin to read independently.

Nap/Rest

Students may sleep or rest quietly, allowing their brains and bodies to recharge for exciting afternoon activities.

Snack

An afternoon snack provides energy for students to jump back into learning and fun.

Afternoon Activity

Afternoon Activity A themed activity reinforces core academic concepts and allows students to work together in small groups, working on skills such as collaboration and communication.

Outdoor Play

Students head outside for more fresh air, sunshine, and exercise as they enjoy free play on the playgrounds or a group game.

Music & Movement

A favorite time of day, students are exposed to various musical genres as they sing, dance, and explore common instruments.

Self-Directed Exploration

Students explore the learning centers of their choice at the end of the day as teachers help everyone prepare for dismissal.



WHICH CAMPUS IS *Right* FOR YOU?

Each of our campuses offers the same, quality learning environment. We know that choosing the right school for your child is a big decision. That's why we invite you to come explore our classrooms and facilities, meet some of our staff, and see firsthand why families choose Columbia Academy for their preschoolers.

Schedule your tour today. →



QUESTIONS FOR OUR ADMISSIONS TEAM?

Contact us at:

410.312.5233 | preschooladmissions@columbiaacademy.com

FOUR CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

PRESCHOOL AT KENDALL RIDGE

6000 University Blvd.
Ellicott City, MD 21043

410.203.9608

PRESCHOOL AT KINGS CONTRIVANCE

10380 Old Columbia Rd.
Columbia, MD 21046

410.312.9790

PRESCHOOL AT MAPLE LAWN

7425 Maple Lawn Blvd.
Fulton, MD 20759

301.604.1940

PRESCHOOL AT THUNDER HILL

9210 Route 108
Columbia, MD 21045

410.992.0484



ColumbiaAcademy.com