University Primary School

Mission and Philosophy

The mission of UPS is to provide a site for the College of Education to demonstrate, observe, study, and teach best practices in early childhood and gifted education. In this way, UPS is a site for research and development, and teacher education, while providing a service to families in the community with young children.

Student Population

University Primary School is an early childhood gifted education program which serves children ages 3-7. Children must be 3 by July 1 for the preschool program and 5 by September 1 to be considered for kindergarten enrollment. Each classroom enrolls approximately 25 children, and is staffed with a head teacher, an assistant teacher, as well as student interns. The school is supported by tuition and fees, private donations, and fundraising events.

Although all children might thrive in the UPS environment, children who exhibit the following characteristics are most likely to do well:

1. Show wide-ranging curiosity.
2. Learn most things easily and rapidly.
4. Use advanced vocabulary and sentence structure.
5. Show imagination.
6. Demonstrate appropriate self-reliance.
7. Demonstrate talent in one or more areas.

University Primary School

Preschool

- Ages 3 & 4
- 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- Monday - Friday

Kindergarten

1st Grade

- Ages 5 & 6
- 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Monday - Friday

Director

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Accredited by NAEYC’s National Academy of Early Childhood Programs
**Instructional Approach**

The early childhood program adopted by UPS is based on principles of practice derived from the best available knowledge of how children grow, develop, and learn. These principles are generally accepted by the early childhood profession as appropriate to the age groups served. The basic assumption derived from developmental research is that in the early years, children learn best from active rather than passive experiences and from being in interactive rather than receptive roles in the learning context.

**Curriculum**

The curriculum is child-sensitive and responsive to individual patterns of growth, development, learning, and interests. Children have regular and frequent opportunities to work in informal groups on challenging tasks, and to make decisions and choices.

**Parent Involvement**

Parent involvement contributes to the success of the program. Parents can be involved in their child’s education in a variety of ways, including observing their child, volunteering in the classroom and serving as mentors to new parents. Informational meetings and social gatherings are additional opportunities for parents to become involved. Parents also can serve on a Community Advisory Board for the program.

**Application Process**

Interested families are required to make an appointment for a site visit before completing the application. Application fee waivers are available for families who qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program. Request for tuition and fee waivers must be completed with the application. To make an appointment or for more information, please contact the school.