



Preschool Options

What class options are available?

Learning environments are based on age, not on a child's skills. Within each class, teachers will support and challenge a child where they are developmentally. Zeeland Christian Preschool offers classes that are 2-day, 3-day, and 4-day options.

Child must be 3 or 4 by Sept 1st of the school year enrolled

Threeschool - A play-based learning experience designed specifically for three-year-olds and young four-year-olds. Our goal for threeschool is for students to learn how to "do school" so that they are well prepared to learn more in-depth content and skills in preschool.

Preschool - A kindergarten readiness program for four-year-olds, teaching both academic and social skills. Teachers work with children from a one-size-fits-one perspective, meeting them where they are developmentally.

Drenthe Site - Since 2005, we have held preschool classes in the education building behind Drenthe CRC. Families who live in the communities surrounding Drenthe find this site to be a great Zeeland Christian Preschool option for their family.

Creation Ridge - A ZCS threeschool and preschool experience in an outdoor classroom and nature-based environment. Starting in the fall of 2020, classes are held on the 155-acre Ridge Point Community Church site. Classes are offered in both English and Spanish.

How do Creation Ridge classes look different than other ZCS classes?

- Classes are outside for at least 90 minutes each day in all weather, except extreme conditions.
- There are required outdoor clothing items families are required to purchase.
- Classes daily take hikes outside of the main classroom space.

What types of things will my child learn at Zeeland Christian Preschool?

- How to pray and worship with friends
- Letters, numbers, colors, shapes
- Name recognition and writing
- Taking turns and sharing
- Developing independence

Preschool truths about God:

God made everyone
 God loves everyone
 God sent Jesus
 God is always with us
 God hears our prayers
 God can do anything
 God sent Jesus to save us
 God is mighty and strong

2021-2022 Preschool Schedule

Online Registration: zcspreschool.eventbrite.com opens **January 28**

Morning classes run 8:45-11:30 AM
 Afternoon classes run 12:30-3:15 PM

Threeschool Classes - Children must be 3 by Sept. 1, 2021

Central Ave. - English

Session 1: Monday/Wednesday/Friday AM
 Session 2: Tuesday/Thursday AM

Creation Ridge English

Session A: Tuesday/Thursday AM
 Session B: Monday/Wednesday/Friday AM

Spanish Immersion

Session C: Tuesday/Thursday AM

Four-year Old Preschool Classes - Children must be 4 by Sept. 1, 2021

Central Ave.

English

Session 3: Monday/Wednesday/Friday AM
 Session 4: Monday/Wednesday/Friday PM
 Session 5: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday AM

*Session 6: Monday-Thursday AM, plus the option to add one or more afternoons, up to 4 full days

Spanish Immersion

*Session 7: Monday-Thursday AM, plus the option to add one or more afternoons, up to 4 full days

**Session 6 and 7: All students attend M-Th mornings. Parents may choose to add 1-4 afternoons for their child, and the specific day(s) is the parents' choice. Classes will run as 4-full-day classes with the same teacher and assistant all day.*

***If Session 7 fills, we will consider opening a M/W/F AM Spanish immersion class at Central Ave. Please email registration@zcs.org if you would like to express interest in this class option.*

Mandarin Immersion

Session 8: Monday/Wednesday/Friday PM

Drenthe - English

Session 9: Monday/Wednesday/Friday AM

Creation Ridge English

Session D: Monday/Wednesday/Friday AM
 Session E: Monday/Wednesday/Friday PM

Spanish Immersion

Session F: Monday/Wednesday/Friday AM

All children enrolled in Zeeland Christian Preschool must be toilet trained and independent in the bathroom. No pull-ups are allowed. Our staff will coach children in the bathroom but not physically assist them. Exceptions are made for children who have a specific plan with our support services staff.



Creation Ridge Explorers *NEW for 2021-22

Would your child love the outdoor experience at Creation Ridge but not as a typical preschool class? Consider enrolling your child in one afternoon a week at Creation Ridge. This multi-age class of 3-5-year-olds will gather with a team of teachers to hike; gather for devotions, prayer, and singing; read a great book; explore God's creation; and play on the natural playscape. Explorers classes do not take the place of a threeschool or preschool class, as the teachers will not be doing assessments, progress reports, or conferences. Short weekly newsletters will give parents an idea of what kids are learning while exploring. Oakiwear will be provided on site so parents do not need to purchase this on their own. We are excited to share Creation Ridge with more kids and families next year through Explorers!

Explorers 1: Mondays, 1:00-3:00 PM

Explorers 2: Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 PM

Young 5's/Kindergarten

Young Fives

Must be 5 by December 1, 2021

Mornings

All students enrolled in Young Fives attend class Monday thru Friday, from 8:40-11:50 AM. Classes, which are offered in English and Spanish, follow the K-8 calendar from August - June.

Afternoons

Young Fives students have the option to stay at school for any afternoons; afternoon pick-up time is 3:25 PM. Students from both English and Spanish classes combine for the afternoon in a class taught in English. Parents may choose 1-5 afternoons for their child's schedule, but the day(s) chosen must be consistent each week.

Kindergarten

Must be 5 by September 1, 2021

Full-time Kindergarten

Students attend kindergarten from 8:40 AM-3:25 PM, Monday through Friday, all year long.

Transitional Kindergarten

All Transitional Kindergarten students attend school M-F from 8:40-11:50AM all year. Parents who choose transitional kindergarten set a part-time school schedule for their child, increasing to full days during the year.

Additional afternoons may only be added at these three times during the school year:

- All Transitional students will begin to attend class on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons starting the last week of October.
- Starting the third week of January, all students will attend class on Wednesday afternoons giving them three full days of school.
- All Transitional students will attend class on Monday afternoons starting after Spring Break bringing them up to four full days at school. Some parents may want to add Friday afternoons but that is not required.

All families are charged the full-time tuition rate, with refunds issued through SMART in January and June for the child's part-time schedule. For parents who have 2 or more children in Y5-12th grade, the sliding scale will apply to the family's tuition; a child's transitional kindergarten schedule will not impact tuition payments.

Kindergarten Readiness Testing

Readiness Testing is done in May, by parent or preschool teacher request, for students with summer birthdays planning to attend ZCS for the upcoming school year. Additionally, any students who did not attend preschool at ZCS will be assessed. Staff work in conjunction with preschool teachers to assess readiness for Kindergarten, offering recommendations to parents.



Paths to Kindergarten

This is the traditional path that many families have chosen for their children.



Threeschool is a great opportunity for children to learn how to "do school" before they begin the Kindergarten Readiness structure of Preschool. Our teachers have found that children who complete Threeschool are very well prepared for Preschool.



This is a good option for children who have summer birthdays. If you think your child will benefit from a year of Young Fives (5 mornings a week), you could give your child a year of Preschool before beginning Young Fives.



If your child has a fall birthday but you are not ready to start them in Young Fives, start your child in Threeschool and then work with the classroom teacher to determine if Preschool or Young Fives is the best option for your child for the next year.



This option includes three years of schooling before Kindergarten, but it may be a great option for a child with a summer birthday who enters Threeschool as a young three-year-old. Even after the year of Preschool is finished, Young Fives is an option to give the "gift of a year" to a child who still needs time to grow and develop skills before entering Kindergarten.



If your child has had good educational experiences outside of a school setting, he/she may do well with a year of Young Fives and then Kindergarten.



There are lots of paths that parents choose for their child's journey to kindergarten. Parents make choices based on their child's birth date, time at home vs. time at preschool/childcare, family schedules, and more. There isn't a right or wrong answer on what's best for your child.

The state of Michigan requires that a child turns five by September 1 of the year he/she enters kindergarten. That means that all children should be five, turning six, during his/her kindergarten year. (Some children with late summer birthdays start kindergarten as six-year-olds.)