



# Birchwood School

Potential is a Gift  
Excellence is a Habit

## Kindergarten Fact Sheet

### Program

Birchwood's Kindergarten program comprises a unique combination of a challenging, dynamic curriculum with developmentally appropriate instruction in order to contribute to the development of each child's potential. We lift the curriculum ceiling so that children may grow according to their own trajectory within or beyond traditional kindergarten standards. In order to accommodate the diverse talents in our kindergarten, we provide a 5:1 student teacher ratio during literacy and mathematics instruction times in order to align instruction closely with individual needs through pedagogy and materials which match their developmental skill levels. Rich opportunities for community and curiosity abound throughout the kindergarten day as children engage with their peers in the wonders of the natural world, communities at home and around the world. Children explore the world through art, music and technology as well. Spanish and Chinese language instruction are also included in the daily routine.

### Our Kindergarten Team

Our Kindergarten staff engages the program and the children as a team. While there are two homerooms, the children receive the benefit of the wisdom, experience, and relationship with two exceptional teachers. Two experienced teachers also serve as full-time aides to our team.

*Mrs. Ester Chen's* experience includes developing a dual-language, early elementary program for English and Chinese. Mrs. Chen holds a Master's Degree in Early Childhood Education.

*Mrs. Casey Hallett* contributes experience in kindergarten instruction and leadership to our team. Mrs. Hallett holds a B.A. in Early Childhood Education.

Our Director of Early Childhood, *Dr. Christine Neider*, has a Doctorate Degree in Curriculum Studies from The University of Pittsburgh and a Master's Degree from Columbia University. Dr. Neider's experience includes teaching preschool through grade ten as well as teaching in undergraduate and graduate programs of education. In addition, her professional experience includes administration of in-school programs and overseeing teachers' professional development.

### School Day and Calendar

Currently, the school day hours are 8:30 A.M. - 3:15 P.M. with doors opening at 8:00 A.M. and dismissal at 3:15 P.M. Birchwood's yearly calendar is planned each year to correlate closely with that of local school districts and other CCIS\* schools. Calendars come out in the Spring of the prior year, with final revisions in August of the current year.

### Entrance Requirements

Children must be 5 years of age by September 30  
Preschool teacher recommendation form  
Copy of medical records and any psychological testing results to date  
Vision and hearing screening  
School visit

### Accreditation and Affiliations

Birchwood School is fully accredited with the State of Ohio's Operating Standards for Nonpublic Schools.  
Birchwood School is a member of:  
The Cleveland Council of Independent Schools\*  
The Ohio Association of Independent Schools  
The Independent Schools Association of the Central States  
The National Association of Independent Schools

### Tuition and Fees 2016-2017

\$8,700      \$450