

IDLEWILD CHILDREN'S CENTER SCHOOL AGE PROGRAM

Idlewild Children's Center / 901-725-7941
Idlewild Presbyterian Church (USA)
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HISTORY

The School Age Program began over 17 years ago as an extended day for our kindergarten. A summer camp for all elementary grades was added in the summer of 1987. During this time our preschool was growing and as our preschoolers graduated and left to attend a variety of elementary schools the need for an after school program became evident. We started small with one van and picked up children from one or two schools. As our population grew we were able to add vans and extend our services to more schools including two middle schools which added 7th and 8th graders to our mix. Our choice was to limit our school year program to around 75 students in order to maintain the family like atmosphere upon which our program was built. Our summer camp program has grown to serve around 125 children each year.

AFTER SCHOOL

Our after school program serves 75 children from five schools including our own kindergarten. Our students are divided into three groups according to grade levels and spend their afternoons working on art projects, reading, playing in centers or engaged in gross motor activities in our gym or on the playground. A snack is served upon arrival in the afternoon and students have the opportunity to receive help with school assignments if they wish. Our Idlewild Presbyterian kindergarten students are picked up from their classrooms. They are served lunch and have a rest time before beginning their afternoon activities. Our first grade and up students are given choices in the afternoon. There is an activity area where they may play games, use computers, read, talk, do crafts projects or just "chill." A study room is available for the students to do homework or study if they wish. Several days each week the gym is available for games of basketball, kickball, etc. The students also spend time outside on our playground when the weather permits. Additionally students may register for enrichment classes including gymnastics and Spanish.

SUMMER CAMP

During the summer our program serves around 125 students. The students are divided into five age appropriate camp groups. The YOUNGEST GROUPS are made up of children who will attend 5 year old kindergarten and 1st grade in the fall. In lieu of field trips, these groups are offered on-campus enrichment programs and special events such as a petting zoo and magic shows. They have outside water play days each week. The OLDER GROUPS go on weekly field trips and have recreational swimming one day each week. The oldest students do some community service work, including delivering meals to shut ins. When students are at the Center activities include art projects, cooking, pottery, drama and reading clubs. Computers are available for

