

Welcome to Capriccio Arts Powered Pre-school in 2022

Thank you for your interest in our school – a creative, fun-filled home environment designed with the cognitive, emotional, physical, social and artistic development of boys and girls aged 2 – 6 years in mind.

The Italian word *Capriccio* has the following meaning:

- ♪ A lively piece of music, short and free in form;
- ♪ A painting or work of art representing a fantasy or a mixture of real and imaginary features.

Both the above interpretations have bearing on our approach to early childhood development, designed to make the absolute most of the profound benefits of early exposure to the arts:

- ♪ We encourage children to develop a passion for the arts in the fleeting early years of life, while giving them the advantage of acquiring skills that will help them excel in other areas such as mathematics, languages, and science later in life. The expressive needs and individual developmental abilities of our children are always taken into account.
- ♪ We maintain an effective balance between right- and left brain stimulation.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

“Logic will get you from A to B. Imagination will take you everywhere.” – Albert Einstein

At *Capriccio Private School*, we are passionate about the *power of art education* in all its forms, namely music, dance, drama and visual art.

- ♪ We believe in art as a powerful means of learning, a premise we like to describe as *arts-driven learning*. The various forms of art have an infinite capacity to affect brain and body and act as a unifying force, a vehicle by which important cognitive, physical, emotional and social skills can be developed and integrated in young children.
- ♪ We believe that children possess an innate property for appreciation and enjoyment of the arts – a deep desire to express themselves through art, which need to be fulfilled in order for them to progress, self-actualize and foster healthy self-esteem.
- ♪ We believe that arts education is essential and profound to developing well-balanced and healthy communities.

We are a registered, Montessori and Reggio Emilia inspired **ECD Independent School offering Grade R** (Western Cape Education Department Reg. no. 13/1/4/H2379), focused on following the individual child, recognizing his/her ability to direct his/her own learning in a carefully prepared learning environment and enabling our learners to develop at their own pace, following their own natural rhythm. The traditional Montessori areas of learning, namely practical life, education of the senses, literacy, numeracy & arithmetic, knowledge & understanding of the world,

creativity, and outdoor learning, are integrated in our methodology and materials. We offer a loving home environment, in keeping with Maria Montessori's "Casa dei Bambini" concept.

Elements of *Waldorf education* are also integrated, as we recognize that the pre-schooler is stimulated and nurtured through creative play and imitation. The inner experiences of awe and wonder are awakened amidst a daily structure of ritual and rhythm. Teachers are caring guides who endeavour to expose the children to that which is truthful, good and beautiful.

Encouraging the sensible integration of technology whilst guiding our children toward a balanced lifestyle that nurtures healthy physical development and overall wellness, are further important aspects addressed in our approach.

Capriccio! Arts Powered Pre-school provides a loving, fun-filled, all-round creative environment for little ones aged 2 - 6 years, functioning from within our Christian ethos, fostering family values, an affinity for the arts and creative thinking from a young age, allowing each child the freedom to flourish at their own pace and develop their own unique potential.

"I believe that creativity will be the currency of the 21st century."

- Gerald Gordon, Ph.D., President/CEO, Fairfax County (Virginia) Economic Development Authority

OUR CURRICULUM:

Our unique, well-researched curriculum sets the stage for emerging symbolic and creative thinking, advanced literacy and numeracy skills, and the ability to listen attentively. It is based on findings by acclaimed authors of works pertaining to child psychology, early childhood education, neurology and brain development, our own practical experience of more than 20 years in performing arts youth development and education and ongoing early childhood development research.

Our school week makes provision for elements and materials of the Montessori and mainstream methods to be combined with our Waldorf inspired creative development programmes, all of which form part of our curriculum (*and are included in our school fees*), delivered within the context of our current theme.

1. MONTESSORI-INSPIRED CONTENT:

- ✓ **Practical Life:** Activities aimed at helping children develop skills which may assist them to become independent, including manipulative skills, care for the environment, self-care and courtesy.
- ✓ **Education of the Senses:** Materials and activities focusing on a specific sensory aspect such as visual perception, taste, smell, sound, texture, shape, weight or temperature.
- ✓ **Language & Literacy:** Activities to support emerging literacy include reading, story-telling and exposure to materials promoting writing and reading skills.
- ✓ **Numeracy & Arithmetic:** Materials and activities introducing the mathematical concepts of matching, pairing, sorting and sequencing, as well as estimation, symmetry and one-to-one correspondence, promoting logical systematic work.
- ✓ **Knowledge & Understanding of the World:** Materials and activities introducing children to geography, history, nature and culture studies.

2. SPECIALIST CREATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES:

- ♪ *OKeyDoKids*: Our music programme encompasses elements of music and sound and is delivered during a weekly group session, incorporating percussion instruments and singing, kindling a love for music, verse and literature.
- ♪ *DemiDance*: Our dance and creative movement programme, drawing inspiration from various genres of dance, is delivered during a weekly age relevant session and nurtures a love for dance, movement and rhythm.
- ♪ *ArtXpress*: Our visual arts programme focuses on the creative journey. It aims to promote innovation, creative self-expression and a study of contemporary and historical artists. It is presented in dedicated age appropriate group sessions giving the young artist an opportunity to take creative risks and learn from the journey.
- ♪ *Plot 'n Play*: Our Musical Theatre programme, presented weekly, focuses on basic theatre and performance skills, building a strong foundation for clear and confident speech and fostering confidence and imagination in the young child.
- ♪ *Sportz Inc*: Our sports programme, aimed at introducing children to the fundamentals of sport, is presented weekly in age relevant group sessions, aiding the development of sport skills and emphasizing the importance of fitness and regular exercise, by means of a variety of fun activities.
- ♪ *Cookin' Clues*: Inspiring young little chefs to cultivate a passion for creativity in the kitchen, healthy eating and good lifestyle habits.
- ♪ *Little Green Heart*: Our "going green" programme instills love and respect in our children for nature, plants, animals, the environment and our planet.
- ♪ *XperiWorld*: Our science and technology programme that encourages analytical thinking and early development of design and problem-solving skills.
- ♪ *KiddoBytes (Grade R & older)*: Our Computer Applications Technology programme encompasses the introduction of practical techniques to integrate the efficient use and application of computer hardware and software.
- ♪ *U & Me*: Our U & Me programme is designed to develop a proficient intrinsic and interpersonal skill set that grounds young children spiritually as well as mentally, enabling them to master the challenges of everyday life, building positive self-esteem, raising emotional intelligence (EQ) and promoting intuitive and competent communication.

We offer daily opportunities (weather permitting) for outdoor play - at which time our jungle gym, monkey bars, trampoline, outdoor toys and open lawn are enjoyed by the children.

During our daily Classroom Play & Learn sessions, we encourage little ones to engage in educational activities in class, making use of a wide variety of didactic materials.

In terms of school readiness, we view the 3 – 6 year old window as a continuous cycle in which school readiness is developed. We offer a unique WCED registered Grade R curriculum that is arts-driven and CAPS aligned via use of curriculum resources and child-friendly class activities; on completion of which our learners receive a beautiful diploma.

DAILY SCHEDULE:

Our school is open on weekdays (Monday to Friday) from **7h30 - 16h50**. (A waiting class arrangement can be made with the principal for drop-off at 7h20, should your child need to arrive earlier.) Grade R's arrive by 8h00; Senior Pre-schoolers arrive by 8h15 and Junior Pre-schoolers arrive by 8h30. Home-time is staggered for our different groups- **Collection times: 12h15 (Pre-school Juniors), 12h30 (Pre-school Seniors), 13h00 (Grade R)**. *Afternoon care* ends at **16h45**.

EXTRA-MURAL ACTIVITIES:

We offer a selection of optional extra-mural lessons in the afternoons. Further information available on request.

CALENDAR:

Our annual calendar is based on four school terms as advised towards the end of the previous school year. Though our school (including aftercare) is closed during the school holidays and on public holidays, we offer an optional holiday club at a nominal fee during a portion of the school holidays. School closes earlier on the last day of term (no aftercare).

SNACKS & LUNCH:

Children have breakfast at home before coming to school and bring their own healthy snacks and lunch to school, as well as a clean bottle filled with fresh water daily. Provision needs to be made for a mid-morning snack and light lunch; aftercare children bring additional healthy snacks for the afternoon.

PARENT COMMUNICATION & FEEDBACK REPORTS:

We place a high premium on synergy between the school and home environment as conducive to the well-being of each of our little ones. We communicate with parents via email, ChildCloud communicator and WhatsApp from time to time and encourage all to stay in tune with the latest school news and activities by following us on social media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/caprischools/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ArtsPowered>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/caprischools/>

We are not in favour of exposing children to strict evaluation / assessment procedures at a young age, but do provide two parent feedback reports up to Grade RR during the course of the year, i.e. mid-year and end-of-year. Grade R learners receive quarterly reports.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Non-refundable, once-off enrolment fee payable upon notification of successful application: R4,500 per learner.

Fees are calculated annually based on four school terms and subject to annual escalation.

- *2022 School fees:* R48,000 per annum payable monthly in advance in 12 instalments of R4,000 each (Jan to Dec) kindly due on the 1st day of each month.
- *2020 Afternoon care fees:*
 - a. 5-days per week option: R18,000 per annum payable monthly in advance in 12 monthly instalments of R1,500 each (January to December), kindly due on the first day of each month.
 - b. 3-days per week option: R15,600 per annum payable monthly in advance in 12 monthly instalments of R1,300 each (January to December), kindly due on the first day of each month.

Annual educational supplies fee for 2022: R2,000 payable upon enrolment (covers class stationery, art & sensory materials, books and other educational supplies; excludes hygiene supplies to be provided per learner).

For more information, feel free to contact us via email or telephonically.

Assuring you of our best attention at all times and looking forward to sharing a wonderful adventure with you and your little one.

Kind regards,

Elbe Webber (managing owner)



Tel: (021) 551-7008

Email: info@caprischools.co.za

Website: www.caprischools.co.za