

*Costa Kindergarten is a special place where the loving God and loving others is interwoven throughout our day.*

*Our rules are simple:*

- 1. Be safe*
- 2. Love God.*
- 3. Love each other.*

*Children learn best through experiences, so many activities include real objects and opportunities- such as picking apples, caring for monarchs throughout their life cycles, growing plants, and hatching chicks.*

*Our curriculum meets/exceeds common core standards while promoting growth in the whole child through well researched instructional strategies and learning centers where students also develop social skills.*

*Students will learn over 60 words by sight as well as gain a firm grasp of numerous word families. Well researched instructional strategies such as Fountas and Pinnell leveled books, visual phonics, Heggerty Phonemic Awareness, and Phonics instruction, and independent word work are plugged into a modified Daily 5 set up, which enables small group instruction targeting varying needs of students.*

*Math instruction follows the Sadlier curriculum which is also delivered in small groups. Student learning centers include a variety of manipulatives to engage and support students in their learning.*

*Play centers are also a part of our curriculum, allowing for social development, artistic expression, and creative problem solving through a construction area, barn yard, puzzle center, writing center, book area, and dramatic play area.*

*Noon recess is almost always outdoors on our very large playground.*

*Students also experience direct instruction from PE, Art, and Music teachers.*

*Religion class is daily and focuses on knowing that we are loved by God.*

*Respect for others and self is valued.*

*Conflicts are solved through acknowledging other people's feelings as well as our own. We ask for forgiveness then return right back to playing, working, and learning together in a loving, warm, and happy environment. Home and school communication is vital, as parents are viewed as partners on the journey of learning.*

Hello! My name is Mrs. Angela Zellmann, and I teach kindergarten at Costa. Next year will be my 9th year at Costa and 32nd year of professional teaching. I am a ROWVA girl, graduated from Northeast MO State University (Truman University now) with a BS in Elementary Education, and later took graduate classes to attain an early childhood certificate. My public school experience includes Williamsfield and Sherrard school districts.

My husband and I have journeyed through almost 38 years of marriage. We lost a child, but are blessed to have 2 grown children and 3 grandchildren! We live in the country where we enjoy nature and enjoy time with family and friends. Our faith is core to our daily life. Getting to share that faith with young children is my great privilege.

I am blessed to have a kindergarten aide, Mrs. Palmgren, who brightens each day with joy as she lovingly helps our days go smoothly in kindergarten!



Starting kindergarten can be an exciting and anxious time for families! There are many factors to consider when determining if your child is ready for kindergarten, including maturity, motor skills, attention span and age. Sometimes the BEST gift we can give a child is the gift of time to mature.

Kindergarten expectations have changed a lot over the years. A key factor in your child's success is his or her readiness for structured learning. By the end of Costa kindergarten, students need to be reading level D books (see examples), writing sentences, counting to 100, skip counting, using ordinals, and computing addition and subtraction problems. Math and language skills overlap as we learn to compare and describe attributes and amounts. IF your child meets age requirements, consider the kindergarten readiness skills below:

**Self help:**

- use bathroom independently
- Zip coat
- take shoes off and on
- button/fasten pants
- recognize first and last name

**Fine motor:**

- manipulate a pencil/crayon with pointer finger and thumb
- Write first name
- Use scissors correctly
- Draw and color pictures
- Trace lines and shapes

**Social skills:**

- complete 2 step directions independently
- complete short tasks without adult help
- control emotions without tantrums
- sit still to listen to someone read 5-10 minutes
- Play a game and accept losing
- Able to wait turn
- Awareness of others

**Academic skills**

- Count to 20
- ID numbers 0-10
- Sing ABCs
- Identify some letters (out of order)