

COMING IN THE FALL OF 2025 A NEW EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS
IN GRADES K-2

ACADEMIC PLUS ACADEMY (A Stars School Initiatives Production)

Academic Plus Academy (APA) fosters an environment that welcomes students, families, and school staff to become part of the academic, spiritual, social, emotional and physical enrichment of children in a caring school community.

VISION: Beginning at the early developmental age, we instill in children a love for learning and recognition of the need for spiritual growth and development.

MISSION: To develop strong minds that produce strong, effective leaders.

APA LEARNING PERSPECTIVES: We believe the building blocks for a successful educational experience must have as its foundation a love and care for those we serve. Our curriculum encompasses Christian principles that align with scriptures and engage students in knowledge-and-skill-building learning experiences that develop critical thinking and communication skills. Building on this foundation, APA attends to children's social-emotional learning throughout the school day and when possible, integrates African perspectives and histories into learning experiences throughout the year.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE: APA fosters a caring, student-centered learning environment that values and validates students as they share their ideas, experiences, and learn with each other through independent and collaborative work. Students are also encouraged to embody a spirit of service and offer peer support, such as the buddy system or comforting a classmate who's upset.

FAMILY EXPERIENCE: APA welcomes and encourages family involvement. Through communications and actions that are grounded in Christian principles, parents know their children are cared for and lovingly guided to learn. APA invites parents and families to be in dialogue with teachers, administrators, and each other, and to share their needs, desires, and experiences related to their children's academic, social-emotional, and cultural learning.

TEACHER EXPERIENCE: Teachers at APA share the school philosophy of providing a Christian-based foundation of love and care as they guide students' academic, social-emotional, and cultural learning. APA teachers encourage open dialogue where students ask and answer questions as they listen and learn from their teachers and classmates.

Social-Emotional Learning: Instruction includes opportunities for students to develop skills, attitudes, and behaviors that help them understand and manage emotions. Through collaboration, discussion, planning expression, and reflection activities, teachers strive to build intrinsic

motivation in their students and guide them to develop competencies in the areas of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making.

Culturally Responsive Learning: Instruction connects to students' every day, cultural, or community-based experiences and perspectives that offer insight into their identities, histories, and understanding of the world around them. In addition, students' diverse ways of knowing, doing, and sensemaking are valued and validated.

Personalized Learning: Instruction is customized to students' strengths, needs, interests, and abilities. Informed by diagnostic and formative assessments, APA teachers differentiate instructional resources and learning activities to scaffold or extend students' learning as they progress toward, meet, or exceed grade-level standards. APA's small learning environment enables teachers to instruct in multi-grade learning groups based on students' progress or mastery of standards in different subject areas.

APA Curricular Materials for K-2 Academic Subjects: APA teaching and learning builds on Abeka, a set of comprehensive, quality curriculum and materials written from a Christian perspective. Abeka implements a "spiral learning approach that begins with the basics, progressing to deeper understanding at age-appropriate times.

The Georgia Standards for Excellence (GSE) are also written to support spiral learning. To ensure APA's instructional alignment with the GSE, a curricular analysis was conducted to determine which standards the Abeka curriculum addresses and what supplemental planning, resources, or instructional design is needed to deliver standards-based learning. Also, recommendations are also provided to support APA's inquiry-based learning, social-emotional, and culturally responsive learning.