

PRESS RELEASE



Castles And Knights Accelerate the Learning Process For IDS-CC's Youngest Students

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Tampa, Fla.

Once upon a time, there was a knight in shining armor, a beautiful princess, and a fire-breathing dragon....

If you want to engage the mind and imagination of a five-year old child, what better way to begin a lesson?

"Kindergarten age children love fairy tales," said Independent Day School-Corbett Campus (IDS-CC) kindergarten teacher Cindy Brown. "As soon as you say, 'Once upon a time,' you've grabbed their attention, which is why they love learning about medieval times."

Teaching in thematic units in the early primary grades enables the teachers "to flow from one unit of study to another with a valuable purpose," according to kindergarten teacher Roberta Lipschutz.

While a variety of units are studied during the year, kindergarten teacher Jean Harrison says the medieval unit is exciting because it covers every learning style and appeals to both genders.

Lessons involve comparing and contrasting to reinforce what life was like during a different place and time with life today. Based on the Florida benchmark for history that focuses on understanding the contributions of different societies, the IDS-CC pre-k and kindergarten teachers integrate lessons in every subject area, highlighting each of the brain-based multiple intelligences to teach to every type of learner.

For example, a science lesson about magnets followed a discussion about the metal armor worn by knights. Plastic "jewels" worn by royalty were used for graphing during math. Collaboration and social skills, as well as math and history were emphasized during the unit's highlight – the construction of cardboard castles in each classroom, complete with handcrafted class crests, torches, tapestries, ribbons, flags, and drawbridges.

"And, of course, we write about everything we do," said Brown.

"Dressing up as royalty, pretending to be dragons and giants, and incorporating Big Books help us bring the past to the future and make the curriculum relevant to children of this young age," said Harrison. "It's also the perfect unit to get students excited about school and learning."

Founded in 1968, Independent Day School-Corbett Campus is a fully accredited independent school located in northwest Hillsborough County educating students from Pre-K through 8th grade. A 2004 National Department of Education Blue Ribbon Award school, IDS-CC features superior academic programs, small class size, and leading edge fine arts, sports and technology programs. IDS-CC balances a nurturing learning environment with high standards and expectations. For more information about IDS visit www.idsyas.com.

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