Elachee Nature Academy

Kindergarten–1st Grade Class

2020-2021 APPLICATION PACKET

www.ElacheeNatureAcademy.org
Dear Families,

Thank you for your interest in Elachee Nature Academy’s 2020-2021 Kindergarten-1st Grade (K-1) program. Parents choose this innovative program to thoroughly prepare their young children for continued academic success.

At Elachee Nature Academy, we believe in educating the whole child. Our certified educators give children the chance to find their place in the real world, at their own pace.

Our combined Kindergarten-1st Grade program features a specially designed, standards-based method of experiential learning which invites children to engage in creative discovery and reflection, with instruction predominantly taking place in an enriched natural setting.

Elachee Nature Academy is accredited through AdvancED and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. This private, tuition-based school is managed and operated by Elachee Nature Science Center in Gainesville, GA. The Nature Center is a premier regional environmental education resource with a legacy of providing quality programming for children, adults and families since 1979.

We invite you to schedule a tour of our facility and explore for yourself Elachee Nature Academy’s innovative and nurturing learning environment.

Sincerely,

Director of Schools

Elachee Nature Academy
Our Mission
Elachee Nature Academy’s mission is to provide educational experiences in the classroom and in outdoor settings that will encourage a child’s natural curiosity, inquisitiveness, affection and respect for the natural world.

Growing Up Naturally

Educational Philosophy
The Elachee Nature Academy K-1 program curriculum is specifically designed to incorporate all of the Georgia educational standards while utilizing Elachee’s natural settings and multiple outdoor classroom areas.

Some of the many teaching strategies we integrate include:

• Providing a supportive, safe learning environment to encourage discovery and experimentation
• Offering sensory opportunities with live animals, natural objects, artifacts, trail games, outdoor exploration and creative arts activities
• Stimulating cognitive growth and problem-solving skills through hands-on activities, games and discovery learning in nature
• Developing physical motor skills through active learning and play
• Cultivating social skills and positive self-image through group interactions and cooperative learning
• Nurturing self-expression, creativity and reflection
• Instilling respect and appreciation for the natural world

Curriculum
Our unique Nature Academy curriculum delivers sound, standards-based hands-on instruction while respecting children’s need to learn while doing. It incorporates academics with exploration and discovery in north Georgia’s most beautiful outdoor classroom to successfully promote physical, social, emotional and intellectual growth. We also provide STEAM-based enrichment opportunities for our students utilizing Elachee Nature Science Center staff for specific programming and certified art educators to further enhance our ‘hands-on’ style of programming.
Parent Involvement

Parent involvement is critical to the development of young children in the Elachee Nature Academy program.

The Nature Academy parent responsibilities include:

- Attending Parent Orientation, held in late July without students or siblings present, to meet the staff and learn what to expect for the coming year.
- Being available for two (2) parent/teacher conferences (scheduled in October and April).
- Doing your part to stay current with class events and schedules by reading e-newsletters and bulletins sent home with your child.
- Participating as volunteers on Elachee Nature Science Center’s annual Flights of Fancy Benefit & Auction host committee and/or as volunteers for Elachee’s seasonal public programs such as Raptor Fest, Trillium Trek Trail Run & Walk and Snake Day.

Elachee Membership

As a bonus your child’s Elachee Nature Academy tuition includes one (1) Elachee Nature Science Center Annual Membership (per family) effective August 1st of the academic enrollment year. Visit elachee.org/join to see benefits of membership.
The Elachee Nature Academy school year begins in early August and ends in late-May. We follow Hall County Schools’ academic calendar. School hours are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Elachee Nature Academy: K-1 Enrollment Process

TOUR
- Schedule a tour of the Elachee Nature Academy (ENA) facilities and participate in an informational interview with the Elachee Nature Academy Director of Schools.

APPLY
- Complete the ENA K-1 Enrollment Application and submit along with the non-refundable $75 Enrollment Application fee (per student).

UPON ACCEPTANCE to ELACHEE’S K-1 CLASS
- Once you receive a letter of acceptance, for ENA to hold your child’s place in the K-1 program you must pay the non-refundable $250 enrollment deposit when submitting your completed/signed enrollment contract. The enrollment deposit will be applied to your child’s May tuition payment.
- Submit the following documents:
  - Birth Certificate
  - Immunization form
  - Kindergarten applicants: (if currently attending a Day Care or Preschool) School Transcript Release Form, Preschool Assessment form and copies of any special services, psychological reports or IEPs
  - 1st Grade applicants: School Transcript Release form and Teacher Recommendation form
  - Family Information form
- Attend Parent Orientation Night held the last week of July (Parents Only).
- Attend Open House Night for parents and students that takes place right before school starts.

Elachee Nature Academy (ENA) admits qualified students of any race, color, national or ethnic origins to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded and made available to students at ENA. ENA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its education policies, admissions policies, financial aid program and other administered programs. Disabled students (or disabled family of member of applicants) requiring any type of accommodation during the application process or otherwise are encouraged to identify themselves and indicate what type of accommodation is needed.
K-1 Tuition Payment Schedule

Tuition may be paid monthly or in one lump sum by August 3, 2020. Monthly tuition payments start the first day of the school year, with subsequent payments due on the 1st day of each month.

See the tuition fee schedule below. Pay by check (payable to Elachee Nature Science Center referencing your student’s invoice number), cash or online using the secure 2020-2021 ENA tuition and extended care payment portals (https://www.elachee.org/nature-academy/for-parents/).

Optional Extended Care
Elachee Nature Academy is pleased to offer extended care hours in the mornings before class and after the instructional day has concluded. Due to limited space in this optional program, families must make extended care arrangements month-to-month with the Director of Schools. Fees must be paid in full by the 1st day of the month for contracted extended care services.

Late Fees: A $5 late charge will be applied after the 5:15 p.m. pick up time for the first minute, then $1 per subsequent minute until the student is signed out. The late fee will be applied to the extended care invoice.

Elachee Nature Academy
2020-2021 K-1 Class Tuition (per student)

$7,700 K-1 Annual Tuition*
*Payable as a lump sum by August 3, 2020 or Payable as $770 per month, due the first day of school in August, then due the 1st of each month, September through May.

Optional Per Student Extended Care Rates:
• $140 per Month for Mornings Only (7:15-8:30 a.m.)
• $200 per Month for Afternoons Only (3:15-5:15 p.m.)
• $340 per Month for Both Mornings and Afternoons
• $20 Emergency Daily Extended Care (paid day of approved drop-in)
Elachee Nature Academy is fully licensed through:

Bright from the Start
Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Elachee Nature Academy is accredited by:
ENA Kindergarten-1st Grade: Enrollment Application
Academic Year 2020-2021
Complete one (1) application per student.

Complete application in its entirety to expedite consideration for admission to the ENA K-1 Class.

PLEASE NOTE: Elachee Nature Academy requires a non-refundable $75 Enrollment Application fee to process this enrollment application. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

STUDENT INFORMATION Please print legibly and complete in full.

<p>| Student Name:__________________________________________________________ |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRST</th>
<th>MIDDLE</th>
<th>LAST</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female</th>
<th>Date of Birth: <em><strong><strong>-</strong></strong></em>-______</th>
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<tr>
<th>My child is applying for: ☐ Kindergarten ☐ 1st Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐ Currently Enrolled ENA Student ☐ Sibling of Current/Former ENA Student ☐ New Student</td>
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<tr>
<th>Last School or Preschool Attended: ____________________________</th>
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<tr>
<th>My child will also need Extended Care: ☐ AM (7:15-8:30) ☐ PM (3:15-5:15) ☐ Both</th>
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FAMILY INFORMATION Please print legibly and complete in full.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mother’s Name: ____________________________</th>
<th>Primary Phone:</th>
<th>Secondary Phone:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mother’s Email: ____________________________</td>
<td>Address:</td>
<td>City</td>
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<tr>
<th>Father’s Name: ____________________________</th>
<th>Primary Phone:</th>
<th>Secondary Phone:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Father’s Email: ____________________________</td>
<td>Address: (If different from above)</td>
<td>City</td>
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SIGNATURE AND PAYMENT

_______________________________________________      ________________
Parent Signature                                  Date

Make check payable to Elachee Nature Science Center. Or, you may pay in person by credit card (Discover, MasterCard, VISA, American Express) at the offices of Elachee Nature Science Center. Submit completed Enrollment Application and non-refundable $75 application fee payment to the Elachee Nature Academy Director of Schools by mail or in person at the address below.