

First conceptualized May 2022, Cornelius Early Scholars (CES) was incorporated September 2022, and obtained its 501(c)3 approval May 2023. CES first day of classes was Sept 5, 2023.

Director Margaret Nance with 12 years of preschool experience was identified and hired, along with 3 instructors with a combined 51 years of preschool experience.

Our first year enrollment was ten 3yr olds, along with six 4yr olds who “graduated” May 2024. Our graduate’s progress will be followed in Kindergarten. We impacted 18 families in total.

Classes were 4 days a week for 4 hours. The highly acclaimed Abeka Christian school curriculum implemented along with extracurricular subjects such as Chapel, Music, and Creative Movement. Art and Science are being planned for next year.

Over 2100 lunches were provided to our students in collaboration with Angels and Sparrows and Neighborhood Care Center, the later also giving monthly food donations to the families. Bridge of Hearts supplied birthday parties, hygiene and snacks. Exchange Club of North Mecklenburg provided snacks for the students and other services.

Our first parent/ guardian meeting introduced the families to the services of Ada Jenkins Center, Angels and Sparrows, Neighborhood Care Center, and Pharos Parenting.

Our 3 year olds transition from having separation anxiety to social, well behaved, and confident children. Our 4 year olds had a **96% improvement in their Kindergarten Readiness** between October 2023 and April 2024.

All students qualified for 100% scholarships. Gracious private individuals and foundations provided our funding; there was no public funding. Non-financial support was gifted by several local organizations.

There will be separate Pre-K and TK classes Fall 2024 for maximum enrollment of 28 students.