

KINDERGARTEN

Reading and Language Arts

In Kindergarten, literacy skills are incorporated into all aspects of the curriculum. The language arts program follows a balanced literacy approach that focuses on five critical areas of instruction: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Students in Kindergarten vary widely in their literacy skills, and teachers differentiate their instruction and work with children individually and in small groups to ensure that each child learns literacy skills and concepts at their instructional level. Kindergarten students learn handwriting using Zaner-Bloser materials. As they cement their knowledge of the sound that each letter makes, they also learn proper letter formation. Students learn foundational skills for reading, writing, and spelling through the Wilson Foundations program. Students in Kindergarten also participate in a writing workshop using the units of study developed by the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project. Students begin the year with journal writing, and they are encouraged to draw, label their pictures, and work toward writing sentences. As their skills progress, students complete different kinds of written pieces, such as personal narratives and how-to books.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Develop decoding and reading comprehension skills through participating in read-alouds, shared reading, guided reading, and independent reading of books on their instructional level
- Learn to correctly form upper and lower case letters and write sentences

Math

Mathematical concepts are woven into all curricular areas in Kindergarten. The Scott-Foresman Addison Wesley mathematics curriculum serves as the foundation of the program, and teachers augment and enrich the program with additional materials, based on the needs of the students. Whether students are doing calendar activities in morning meeting, counting the days in school, or discussing temperature as part of their science unit on weather, students begin to develop number sense and understand the role of math in everyday life. The Kindergarten program teaches students key math concepts through hands-on activities with manipulatives. Student progress is assessed over the course of the year through ongoing classroom observation and unit tests.

Beginning in Kindergarten, students are assessed to determine their appropriate placement in math. Students may be placed in the next grade level based on their performance.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL LEARN SKILLS SUCH AS:

- Identifying and writing numbers and counting to one hundred and beyond with one-to-one correspondence
- Understanding the concepts of equal, more, and less, and creating and solving equations using addition and subtraction
- Recognizing coins of different values and combining coins to create varying amounts

Science

During a typical science class, Kindergarten students explore scientific concepts through exploration and hands-

on investigations. The children start the year by studying weather, and they track the daily temperature and weather conditions in real time through a weather station located outside the classroom. Over the course of the year, the children take turns being the school meteorologist for the week, which involves reading the daily weather report over the PA System and giving the weather report at the all-school assembly on Fridays. The science curriculum is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), and it includes the following units of study in life science, physical science, and earth science: Weather, Germs and Health, Forces and Interactions, and Living Things. Learning happens through a multi-sensory approach that involves conducting experiments, doing projects, reading books and articles, watching videos, and learning from guest speakers and field trips.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Develop respect for the natural world and their environment
- Participate in hands-on science labs that involve asking questions, forming a hypothesis, testing the hypothesis by conducting experiments, analyzing and discussing results, and drawing conclusions

Social Studies

The Kindergarten social studies curriculum aims to expand each child's view of the world and his or her position in it. The students learn about the elements that make a community, and they complete a unit on community helpers. The students also learn about holidays and festivals around the world. Over the course of the year, each child participates in a "Me Day" during which they



share information about themselves and their family. The Kindergarten class also uses the weekly news magazine *Time for Kids* as a vehicle for practicing non-fiction reading skills and exposing children to current events in a developmentally appropriate way.

DURING THE YEAR, STUDENTS WILL:

- Develop an understanding of how to be a positive member of the classroom community and the school community
- Learn about the similarities and differences among people and cultures and how to show respect for all people

World Language (Spanish)

World language study in Kindergarten builds upon the basic Spanish language foundation the students have developed in previous years, and classes meet two days per week. The four skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing are integrated into the program, and the students participate in interactive learning through games, songs, and collaborative activities.

