



THE STERLING HALL SCHOOL
Where boys belong.

OUR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM



Kindergarten is the beginning of an exciting learning journey for children and their families. We welcome our youngest learners into a safe, supportive and stimulating environment within Sterling Hall's Kindergarten classrooms.

Our two-year program is where boys gain the foundational skills to be successful learners. This is a time of discovery, growth and wonder; our goal is to foster your son's independence, self-help skills, confidence and love of learning!

Through play-based exploration and inquiry, Sterling Hall's robust curriculum ensures students are well prepared for entry into Grade 1. Boys engage in pursuits that are hands-on, using a balance of child and adult-initiated activities that are developmentally meaningful, while simultaneously supporting opportunities for differentiated learning to ensure academic development and personal success.

Comprehensive Literacy Approach

From Kindergarten to Grade 8, boys work to develop critical literacy skills through balanced approach to instruction. This includes a variety of instructional approaches and methods. Boys participate in tasks that are guided or modelled by a teacher, shared with a group, or completed independently. They develop competencies in reading, writing, oral speech, listening, viewing and presenting. Directed mini-lessons are interwoven with student-driven inquiry opportunities.

In Kindergarten, boys build a strong foundation of literacy skills to prepare them for learning in the later years. They have a dedicated block of language time each day for deep learning. This time is spent in centres that focus on developing a specific language skill. These include fine motor development, phonetic awareness, sight word recognition and early reading skills.

Boys are regularly divided into smaller groups to allow for both peer teaching opportunities and individualized work with a teacher. The groups are fluid and interchangeable for different purposes and learning. Boys quickly become familiar with the structure, expectations and

daily routine, and this familiarity promotes independence. In addition to our structured language time, boys also engage in whole class read-alouds, shared writing, oral dictations, dramatic play and various rhyming and phonics games to promote a love of reading and writing.

Guided Reading & Writing

As a component of our comprehensive literacy approach, Kindergarten boys work in both independent and guided reading and writing groups, all of which are designed to hone in on each boy’s specific strengths and needs.

Our low student-to-teacher ratio enables teachers to support each boy’s literacy development and love for reading. Beginning readers may be working on letter recognition, directionality of print, sequencing, story re-enactment and looking at picture cues. More advanced readers may be engaged in vocabulary building, sight word work, decoding, comprehension questions and building fluency. Boys work on journal writing, poetry, cards, informational writing, lists, cartoons and book making. Overall, this program allows boys to work at their own pace while also challenging them to reach their potential.



Comprehensive Mathematics Approach

The Kindergarten curriculum is designed to connect math to a wide variety of learners with the objective of developing an in-depth understanding of foundational math skills and number sense. Our mathematics program balances teaching and learning of skills, concepts, strategies and thinking. This approach includes collaborative exploration, mental arithmetic, problem solving and independent practice.

Singapore Math

In Kindergarten, boys are introduced to the internationally-acclaimed Singapore Math method, a three-step learning model that has been used successfully at SHS for many years. The steps include concrete representation of a math concept, followed by visual representation, and then by a more abstract representation (questioning and solving written equations).

This method has been used with great success in our Primary and Junior math curriculum.

As part of their math learning, boys work developmentally through concepts to build an understanding in all five strands of mathematics: number sense, patterning/ algebra, measurement, data management/ probability and geometry. Activities include game-based learning, open-ended exploration, problem solving and independent work.

Boys work in small groups to allow teachers to create differentiated instruction for a variety of learners and shared learning experiences. We want our boys to discover that math is everywhere! Boys engage in weekly Look-and-Talks to teach math concepts and skills through illustrations and stories. These illustrations inspire boys to create and share their own math stories during class discussions.



Social Studies & Exploratory Centres

Our social studies curriculum offers opportunities for inquisitive, hands-on and collaborative learning through curiosity, imagination and discovery. Student interests drive topics of study, while teachers are present to guide and facilitate discussions. We further enrich each boy's learning through the materials and inquiry process at exploratory centres which include engineering, building, drama, writing and art.

Mentorship & Citizenship Involvement

As a K-8 school, SHS is able to offer many opportunities for collaboration and mentoring between all ages and grades. It is not uncommon to see older boys working with Kindergarten students during Learning Buddies, or various grades presenting together at assemblies. Within the school, there is a strong culture of caring and support that is promoted through our mentorship program. This program is integrated throughout the day as boys learn through stories, modelled behaviour and service learning projects. With a strong focus on character development, boys develop confidence, resilience, kindness and respect. In addition, our boys have many occasions to acquire public speaking skills by presenting at assemblies, hosting their own Remembrance Day service and participating in winter and spring concerts.

Specialist Subjects

Kindergarten students work with a variety of specialist teachers for more in-depth learning into specific subjects. Each cycle, the students participate in music, art, drama, French, learning commons and technology, in addition to having health & physical education every day. In both fall and spring terms, Kindergarten participates in K-1 Sports: an introduction to a variety of fitness activities. Throughout the winter term, boys are offered skating lessons once a week, and in the spring, receive weekly chess lessons from a chess master in order to develop spatial thinking, analytical skills and reasoning.

