

Welcome to DSPES Kindergarten!



Welcome, Future Hawks!

This packet includes important information about the 2021-2022 school year for you and your incoming kindergarten student.

- Supply List
- Curriculum Highlights
- Readiness Skills

Watch for more information to come out over the summer and leading up to the first day of school. We look forward to working together to promote your child's physical and social-emotional well being, and fostering your child's love for learning.

Mrs. Hornaday and Mrs. Johnson
Kindergarten Teachers

A Note from Principal Solano

Welcome to Desert Springs Preparatory!

We are honored that you have chosen our school for this big milestone in your child's life. Kindergarten sets the stage for a life-long love and excitement for learning. At DSP we provide differentiated instruction that challenges each child to be an innovative thinker, expert communicator and kind, responsible citizen.

We believe a positive partnership between parents and school is essential for student success. We look forward to working with you to provide the best education experience possible.

Raquel Solano, Principal

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Enrollment Timeline 2021-2022

- Students living within DSPES boundaries can enroll on site after January 21, 2021 for the 2021-2022 school year.

Open Enrollment:

- The Early Bird Round, which is for families residing within, as well as outside district boundaries begins in **September and concludes in December**. All early bird applications received will be processed and parents/guardians notified via email prior to winter break.
- The Final Round, which is for out-of-district families **ONLY, begins in December and concludes on Jan. 21st**. Applications received during this time frame will be processed and accepted/denied based on remaining space availability at the requested school. Please note that there may be additional closures by Dec. 4th. Applicants will be notified via email in February.
- After Jan. 21st, please contact the school of your choice to inquire about space availability for enrollment.

School Hours 2021-2022

Playground Supervision	8:20 am - 8:45 am
Class Begins	8:45 am
Dismissal	3:10 pm - Kindergarten, 3:15pm - 1st- 6th
Early Release	12:30 pm

Kindergarten Daily Schedule

8:45-9:00	Announcements and morning work
9:00-9:30	Circle Time-songs, morning message, calendar, Spalding phonograms, sight words
9:30-9:40	Snack and Bathroom
9:40-10:40	Daily 5
10:45-11:00	Recess and Bathroom
11:00-11:20	Spalding Handwriting and Spelling
11:20-12:05	Lunch and Recess
12:05-12:20	Core Knowledge Stories
12:20	Bathrooms
12:30-1:10	Specials (Art, Music, PE)
1:10-1:40	Writer's Workshop
1:40-2:20	Math
2:20-3:00	Core Knowledge Social Studies and Science
3:00-3:10	Developmental Centers
3:10-3:15	Pack up and Dismissal

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2021-2022 Kindergarten Supply List

All kindergarten classroom supplies are shared amongst students (except scissors). Please label ONLY scissors and personal items such as water bottles, lunch boxes and jackets, etc. with your child's name.

- 1 4oz bottle of glue
- 12 glue sticks
- 3 boxes of tissues
- 2 bottles of liquid soap
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer
- 4 boxes of 24 count CRAYOLA crayons - no glitter crayons, please
- 2 boxes of #12 pencils - sharpened
- 2 containers of disinfectant wipes
- 1 package of classic CRAYOLA markers
- 1 box of EXPO Dry Erase Markers
- 1 pair adult white tube socks (to use as erasers on white boards)
- 1 pair of FISKARS scissors (labeled with child's name)
- 3 large plastic rectangular pencil boxes (labeled with child's name)
- 2 reams of white copy paper
- 2 Wide Ruled Composition books
- 1 Water Color paint
- 1 package Wet One's Hand Wipes or Diaper wipes
- 1 set of headphones (no earbuds and labeled)

At the beginning of the year, parents also donate to a kindergarten classroom fund. These funds will support a variety of kindergarten activities such as Thanksgiving lunch, Around the World, Valentine's Day and More. More information will be sent home separately and these funds will be collected at the beginning of the year.

Field trip experiences are separate and will be collected at the time of the event.

Thank you for all your support of our program!

**Note: If any of the above mentioned items for your student provides a true financial hardship, please contact your teacher.*

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2021-2022 Kindergarten Curriculum

At Desert Springs Preparatory we strive to meet both the social-emotional needs of the young child, while also encouraging each child to reach his/her academic potential through age-appropriate activities. See below for more information on academic areas. In addition, students also experience free play on the playground to develop motor skills, daily music and rhythm activities, and sharing opportunities. Our Desert Springs Kindergarten program also provides Physical Education, Art, and Music as a Special Area from highly qualified teachers.

Core Knowledge: Core Knowledge is an approach that specifies knowledge and skills that all children should share to guarantee equal access to future success. Building strong foundations of broadly shared knowledge in the early years lays groundwork for language development and opens doors to effective participation and mutual understanding in the wider society. In Kindergarten these Core Knowledge topics include maps, globes, all seven continents, farms, Presidents, US Symbols and more. These are in addition to the Arizona State Science and Social Studies standards.

Language Arts: We use a current, research-based, and rigorous English Language Arts program, McGraw-Hill Wonders. In addition we teach phonics using Spalding Phonics. This program sequentially teaches speaking, listening, reading and writing standards in a comprehensive format. We also use supplemental materials to build a strong sense of phonemic awareness and handwriting. Our reading block is taught through direct and small group instruction allowing for differentiation and cooperative learning.

Math: We use the McGraw-Hill, My Math curriculum, as well as the PVUSD Guaranteed and Viable Math Sequence to develop students who reason abstractly, talk through and explain their mathematical thinking, see patterns and connections in numbers, persevere in solving problems and more. Our math model is taught through direct instruction and a small group/cooperative learning model using manipulatives and other hands on tools.

Homework: A homework packet will go home with your child each Friday in his/her folder that reinforces skills already taught in class. This also reinforces an evening routine that students will practice throughout their schooling. Students are also required to read a minimum of 15 minutes per night and complete a reading log.

Social Studies and Science: Students are taught the Arizona State Standards in Social Studies and Science that include plants, animal cycles, community helpers and more. In science, we teach scientific reasoning and inquiry through Foss Kits (Full Option Science Systems). This program also provides a hands-on approach and fosters a sense of wonder and critical thinking.

Special Activities: Our students participate in many fun celebrations throughout the year including: Fall Celebration, Thanksgiving Feast, Winter Celebration, 100th Day of School, Valentine's Day, and more. We attend field trips that may include the Phoenix Zoo and the farm.

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Kindergarten Readiness Skills

We believe that a strong home and school partnership is vital for success. Remember that each day can be a learning experience for your child. Go on walks, shopping trips, and daily excursions and talk about these experiences with your student. The most important thing you can do with your child is READ! You can help your child get ready for their kindergarten experience by working on the skills listed below.

Social-Emotional Development:

- Encourage your child to persist in tasks when encountering a problem by giving him tasks slightly above his current ability level. When your child cannot find a solution on his own, encourage him to calmly ask for help.
- Play board games to practice taking turns.
- Set up several play dates with friends of various ages.
- Allow your child to stay with other trusted adults for a few hours at a time prior to kindergarten (especially if he/she has rarely been in the care of someone other than mom and dad).
- Tell your child you expect them to clean up after play.

Language Development:

- Verbally give your child specific one-step and two-step directions and encourage him/her to follow through.
- Read to your child for a combined total of at least 20 minutes each day.
- While reading, point out how to hold a book (right-side up with the spine on the left) and the orientation in which we read the words and look at the pictures (left to right).
- After reading, ask your child what happened in the beginning, middle, and end of the story. Give your child plenty of opportunities to draw (without coloring books). Ask your child to draw the things he/she sees around them.
- Teach your child the uppercase and lowercase letters and, most importantly, the sounds each letter makes through play and games.

Cognitive Development:

- Have your child help you sort items according to color, size, and shape (laundry, blocks, silverware, toys, and other household items work well).
- Teach your child to make various patterns (red, blue, red, blue). Garage sale dot stickers or craft pom-poms are great for this purpose.
- Practice counting aloud to 20 while driving in the car.
- Teach your child numerals 1-10.
- Count objects in your home. Have your child point to each object as he/she counts.
- Go on a shape hunt. Point out circles, triangles, squares, and rectangles to your child while you are taking or walk or grocery shopping.
- Talk about positional and directional concepts like up/down, over/under, in/out, behind/in front of, top/bottom, beside/between, off/on, stop/go.