



Kindergarten Curriculum Guide

PRIORITY STANDARDS: District 92 guarantees that each student will know and be able to demonstrate proficiency by the end of the school year. Students who have not mastered the priority standards will be supported in progressing toward mastery. Teachers differentiate instruction for those who have mastered priority standards.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

District 92 utilized a structured literacy approach to literacy instruction based on the Science of Reading. The science of reading is an evidence-based approach to teaching reading that draws on research from various fields, including psychology, linguistics, cognitive science, and education. It responds to the need for effective reading instruction and is informed by a growing body of scientific research on how the brain learns to read. Key principles of the science of reading include:

Phonemic Awareness: The ability to identify and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words is crucial for reading. Phonemic awareness involves tasks such as blending, segmenting, and manipulating sounds.

Phonics: Phonics instruction teaches the relationship between sounds and the letters or letter combinations that represent them. It helps students decode words by recognizing and applying letter-sound correspondences.

Fluency: Fluent reading involves reading with accuracy, speed, and expression. Fluency is developed through practice and the application of phonics skills.

Vocabulary Development: Building a strong vocabulary is essential for comprehension. The science of reading emphasizes explicit vocabulary instruction and exposure to a rich and diverse range of words.

Reading Comprehension Strategies: Effective readers use various strategies to understand and interpret text. These strategies include making predictions, summarizing, asking questions, and connecting prior knowledge and new information.

Text Structure and Syntax: Understanding the structure of sentences and the organization of texts enhances reading comprehension. Instruction in syntax and text structure helps students navigate and comprehend written material.

Morphology: Morphology involves the study of meaningful units of language, such as prefixes, suffixes, and root words. Understanding morphological elements contributes to vocabulary development and decoding skills.



Comprehension Monitoring and Metacognition: Skilled readers actively monitor their understanding of text and use metacognitive strategies to fix comprehension problems. The science of reading encourages the development of these metacognitive skills.

The science of reading advocates for systematic, explicit, and sequential instruction based on understanding how language and reading develop in the brain. It highlights the importance of early and effective intervention for struggling readers and promotes evidence-based practices in literacy instruction. Teachers who follow the science of reading approach aim to provide students with a solid foundation in the essential skills needed for proficient reading and comprehension.

MATH

In kindergarten, the primary goal of mathematics education is to build a strong foundation for mathematical thinking and understanding. The focus is on introducing fundamental concepts and skills that lay the groundwork for more advanced mathematical learning in later grades. The emphasis is on making mathematics engaging, hands-on, and relevant to their daily experiences. The objective is not just to teach isolated math skills but to foster a love for learning and curiosity about the mathematical world around them. The goals of mathematics in kindergarten typically include:

- **Number Sense:** Kindergarten students develop a sense of numbers and their relationships. This includes understanding counting, recognizing and writing numerals, and grasping the concept of one-to-one correspondence (matching each object to a number).
- **Counting and Cardinality:** Kindergarteners learn to count to at least 20, understand the relationship between numbers and quantities, and work with basic counting principles. They also learn about concepts like more, less, and equal.
- **Operations and Algebraic Thinking:** While the operations are basic, kindergarten students may start exploring simple addition and subtraction concepts, including understanding addition as putting together and subtraction as taking apart.
- **Geometry:** Basic geometry concepts are introduced, including the identification and description of shapes (e.g., circles, squares, triangles) and an understanding of basic spatial relationships.
- **Measurement and Data:** Kindergarten students begin to explore the concept of measurement using non-standard units (e.g., comparing the length of objects). They also collect and organize data in simple ways.
- **Patterns:** Students are introduced to patterns, recognizing and creating simple repeating patterns using colors, shapes, or other attributes.
- **Problem Solving:** Kindergarteners engage in simple problem-solving activities that apply mathematical concepts to real-world situations. This may include solving basic mathematical problems related to everyday experiences.



- **Mathematical Communication:** Kindergarten students are encouraged to communicate their mathematical thinking verbally, visually, and through simple written expressions. This includes explaining their reasoning and understanding.

Aligned with the Illinois Learning Standards, Kindergarten students will explore the following units of study:

- Unit 1: Numbers to Five & Ten
- Unit 2: Numbers to Ten
- Unit 3: Double, Add & Subtract
- Unit 4: Paths to Adding, Subtracting, & Measuring
- Unit 5: Two-Dimensional Geometry
- Unit 6: Three-Dimensional Shapes and Numbers Beyond Ten

SPECIALS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education (PE) curriculum for grades K-8 promotes physical activity, motor skill development, and overall health and well-being. The curriculum evolves as students progress through the grades, incorporating age-appropriate activities and focusing on developing fundamental movement skills.

MUSIC

In music class, the focus for kindergartners is on introducing foundational musical concepts in a fun and engaging manner. The goal is to foster a love for music, develop basic musical skills, and provide opportunities for creative expression. Kindergarten music class focuses on creating a positive and inclusive environment where children can explore, express themselves, and develop a foundation for further musical learning.

ART

The elementary art curriculum in District 92 is designed to provide students with a well-rounded art education that fosters creativity, self-expression, and an appreciation for various art forms. The curriculum evolves as students progress through the elementary grades, introducing them to various artistic techniques, media, and concepts.

LIBRARY/MEDIA

The focus on library and media skills is foundational. It aims to instill a love for reading, introduce basic information literacy, and develop essential skills for navigating and using media. These foundational library and media skills lay the groundwork for a lifelong love of reading, information



literacy, and responsible media use. The focus is on creating a positive and engaging environment that fosters curiosity and a sense of exploration.