

Tupelo Public School District



Kindergarten Handbook

The Tupelo Public School District serves the community by engaging each student in an excellent education that develops skills and citizenship needed for success in a global society.

Dr. Rob Picou, Superintendent

Mrs. Kim Britton, Deputy Superintendent

Dr. Brock English, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Amy Ferguson, Director of Elementary Curriculum

Welcome to Kindergarten at Tupelo Public School District!

Deputy Superintendent.....Mrs. Kim Britton
kbbritton@tupeloschools.com

Director of Elementary Curriculum.....Dr. Amy Ferguson
acferguson@tupeloschools.com

Carver Elementary (K-1).....910 North Gloster St.
Tupelo, MS 38804
662-841-8870

Joyner Elementary (K-2).....1201 Joyner Ave.
Tupelo, MS 38804
662-841-8900

Parkway Elementary (K-2).....628 Rutherford Rd.
Tupelo, MS 38801
662-844-6303

Thomas Street Elementary (K-2).....520 South Thomas St.
Tupelo, MS 38801
662-841-8960



Kindergarten Philosophy and Goals

The early childhood years are a critical time in the development for every child. The learning that takes place during the first eight years of life serves as the foundation for all later academic, social, emotional, physical and motor development. All children are capable of learning and meeting developmental milestones.

All children attending a high-quality kindergarten program will:

- Improve their self-concept
- Increase their intellectual growth
- Enlarge their understanding of the world, people, experiences, ideas
- Increase competencies and skills in oral language, literacy, writing, listening, and thinking
- Increase their competencies and skills in mathematical reasoning and scientific exploration
- Increase their skills involved in physical coordination and gross and fine motor skills
- Increase their competence in dealing with emotions, feelings, and social situations
- Increase their self-direction and independence
- Develop cooperative, trusting relationships
- Develop their natural curiosity and creative potential
- Develop a love of learning

Curriculum

Tupelo Public School District follows the Kindergarten Mississippi College-and Career Readiness Standards. To align our curriculum with these standards, our program utilizes the following:

- Research-and evidence based programs
- Thematic units
- Learning Centers
- Large and small group activities
- Individual instructional activities

Learning Centers

Learning centers provide children with hands-on opportunities to practice learning and thematic unit concepts. Learning relies heavily on experiential, hands-on activities. Each kindergarten classroom has the following:

- Three primary centers (book/library center, math/math manipulative center, and creative art center) and one teacher-led small group
- Additional integrated learning centers may be added to accommodate the number of children enrolled and child interest
- Centers support current learning topics so that all children are engaged meaningfully

Assessments

Required Standardized Assessment

All kindergarten students are administered the state-approved kindergarten readiness assessment (Mississippi Kindergarten Readiness Assessment) in the fall and spring. The purpose of this assessment is to gauge their performance on early literacy and numeracy skills. Additionally, the primary purpose of the Mississippi Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, is to improve the quality of classroom instruction and other services provided to students from birth to 3rd grade.

Beginning of the Year Target Score: 530

End of the Year Target Score: 681

Individualized Assessments

A continuous evaluation through the use of a variety of techniques, procedures, and tools shall be used to determine individual student's social, emotional, and academic enrichment needs. The evaluation shall be based on the learning outcomes in the required curriculum standards.

Teacher Credentials

General Education Kindergarten Classrooms Required Certification for Kindergarten Teachers		
Hold a Pre-K/K (153) License		
OR		
Hold a K-3 (116) License or Hold a K-4 (152) License		
OR		
Hold a K-6 (120) License		
OR		
Other Pathways	AND	Completion of an approved Licensure pathway degree program to obtain 116 (K-3), 120 (K-6), 152 (K-4), or 153 (Pre-K/K) endorsement AND Any additional requirements needed for licensure

****Kindergarten teachers seeking an initial elementary education license must make a passing score on the Pearson Foundations of Reading Assessment in accordance with Mississippi Code Annotated 37-3-2.**

Requirements for Assistant Teachers
Hold an Associate's Degree or higher
OR
Two Years or 48 College Credit Hours
OR
High School Diploma/GED AND Verification of WorkKeys Scores



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72 South Green Street
Tupelo, Mississippi 38804
662.841.8850

Visit us on the web:

www.tupeloschools.com



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