

Palos Community Consolidated School District 118

Palos Park, IL

KINDERGARTEN

READING/LANGUAGE ARTS

The reading/language arts program is designed to balance instruction in reading skills and strategies. This program is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards. Teachers will provide differentiated instruction through a broad variety of genres to read. Students will develop readiness through guided reading, vocabulary instruction, grammar, and writing. Students will use Foundations Phonics, Fountas and Pinnell's Classroom resources, and a variety of supplemental resources throughout the school year.

READING

Kindergarten students will be exposed to a broad range of fiction and non-fiction literature.

Strategies and skills incorporated in the kindergarten reading program include:

- Develop concepts of print
- Develop phonemic awareness
- Recognize letters and sounds
- Recognize and generate rhyming words
- Identify and distinguish letter-sounds (initial, middle and final)
- Recognize high-frequency and familiar words
- Apply letter/sound knowledge to decode phonetically regular words accurately
- Ask and answer questions
- Recount/retell stories
- Recognize story structure (beginning, middle and end)
- Sequence events
- Identify characters, events, and setting
- Preview and predict

WRITING

Kindergarten students will be taught proper conventions of early writing skills.

Students will:

- Use illustration to convey a message
- Use beginning, middle and ending sounds
- Write about text
- Write for a variety of purposes (poetry, autobiographical, informative, or explanatory)
- Use conventional spelling when appropriate
- Use grammar, punctuation, capitalization and sentence structure as developmentally appropriate

HANDWRITING

Kindergarten students will practice the correct formation of numbers and letters throughout the year.

SPEAKING AND LISTENING

Students will develop a range of broadly useful oral communication and interpersonal skills. Students will learn to work together, express and listen carefully to ideas, integrate information from oral, visual and media sources to assist with communicating their ideas.

- Follow directions
- Focus on and interact with the speaker
- Actively participate in discussions
- Distinguish between asking and telling

INFORMATION FLUENCY SKILLS/TECHNOLOGY

Technology skills taught to students in the classroom and media center are integrated throughout the curriculum to support and enhance learning.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics skills, strategies and concepts are taught through a variety of resources including textbooks, manipulatives, and digital tools for an interactive experience. The students will focus on four critical areas: extending understanding of base-ten notation, building fluency with addition and subtraction, using standard units of measure, and describing and analyzing shapes. Pearson's *enVision Math 2.0* is our core mathematics program that is aligned to the Illinois Learning Standards.

Kindergarten students will be taught the following:

- Counting and Cardinality
 - ✓ Know number names and the count sequence
 - ✓ Count to tell the number of objects
 - ✓ Compare numbers
- Operations and Algebraic Thinking
 - ✓ Understand addition as putting together and adding to, and understand subtraction as taking apart and taking from
- Number and Operations in Base 10
 - ✓ Work with numbers 11-19 to gain foundations for place value
- Measurement and Data
 - ✓ Describe and compare measurable attributes
 - ✓ Classify objects and count the number of objects in each category
- Geometry
 - ✓ Identify and describe shapes
 - ✓ Analyze, compare, create, and compose shapes

Mathematical Practices

1. Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them
2. Reason abstractly and quantitatively
3. Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others
4. Model with mathematics
5. Use appropriate tools strategically
6. Attend to precision
7. Look for and make use of structure
8. Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning

SCIENCE

Science is a content area consisting of a variety of topics. Inquiry into topics is pursued using “hands on” activities and various forms of informational text. The teaching and learning emphasis goes beyond coverage of facts to understanding concepts related to topics being studied.

Grade levels K-4 will be using Mystery Science, which aligns fully to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Kindergarten students will develop an understanding of concepts through the following disciplines:

Physical Science

Life Science

Earth & Space Science

FINE ARTS

Activities integrated into the kindergarten curriculum provide students with exposure to skills and concepts in art and music.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The primary purpose of social studies is to help young people develop an understanding of self, family and community.

In kindergarten students will develop an understanding of concepts through the following topics:

Self/Environment

Family Structures

Community & Civic Involvement

Cultures and Traditions

Important People

PALOS DISTRICT 118

Kindergarten

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The physical education program is planned around the growth and development of the individual child. It provides a wide range of age-appropriate activities consistent with the requirements of our state goals. In kindergarten students will:

- Acquire movement skills
- Identify various body parts
- Develop directionality skills (in front, behind, beside, etc.)
- Develop basic gross motor skills
- Explore creative movement activities
- Use a variety of manipulatives
- Learn to cooperate in a small group
- Understand benefits of physical activity
- Learn and apply health and wellness concepts

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing the whole child is essential in creating a foundation for each student to be able to reach his/her full potential. All Kindergarten classrooms will be using the Responsive Classroom Program to create an environment where students feel safe and are free to learn. The social emotional curriculum includes grade appropriate activities for the following core elements:

- Identify and manage one's emotions and behavior
- Recognize personal qualities and external supports
- Demonstrate skills related to achieving personal and academic goals
- Recognize feelings and perspective of others
- Recognize individual and group similarities and differences
- Use communication and social skills to interact effectively with others
- Demonstrate an ability to prevent, manage, and resolve interpersonal conflicts
- Consider ethical, safety, and societal factors in making decisions
- Apply decision-making skills to deal responsibly with daily academic and social situations
- Contribute to the well-being of one's school and community

Supporting Your Child's Learning at Home

Suggestions from the kindergarten teams at Palos East and Palos West:

- Read to your child every day asking thought-provoking questions as you read. (For example, ask your child to predict what will happen next.)
- Make sure your child often observes you reading.
- Listen and talk to your child about everyday activities.
- Turn everyday experiences into learning. (Count all the cars while driving. Have your child point out the color yellow every time he/she sees it at the grocery store).
- Work with your child to recognize the upper and lowercase letters of the alphabet both in and out of order.
- Help your child recognize numbers 1-30 both in and out of order.
- Work with your child to recognize and finish simple patterns such as red bead, blue bead, red bead, blue bead.
- Help your child look at books from left to right.
- Work with your child to recognize the difference between a word and a letter. (Count the numbers of words/letters on the page of a book.)
- Help your child understand a story by having him/her retell the story in his/her own words.
- Check SeeSaw with your child daily.

Dear Parent/Guardian:

August 2024

To support your involvement in your child's education, we have compiled this comprehensive outline of what your child will be taught at this grade level. You can positively impact your child's academic success by becoming familiar with this curriculum and by monitoring your child's progress throughout the year. Ultimately, our joint goal is to produce self-directed students who also establish personal learning goals and regularly monitor their own progress.

District 118 teachers and administrators have developed grade level skills and expectations based on the Illinois Learning Standards, national standards, and updated research. Our community's standards and grade level expectations are often higher than those suggested by our Illinois State Board of Education. Such expectations are incorporated within and continue to produce excellence in our students as indicated on state testing. We are, of course, always seeking to continually improve.

If you have specific questions regarding curriculum or school programs, please call your child's teacher or principal. Additionally, a wealth of information can be found regarding District 118 academics and programs at www.palos118.org.

We are confident that your child will have a successful school year!

Kind Regards,

Dr. Anthony Scarsella
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Ron Cozza
Assistant Superintendent
for Curriculum

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