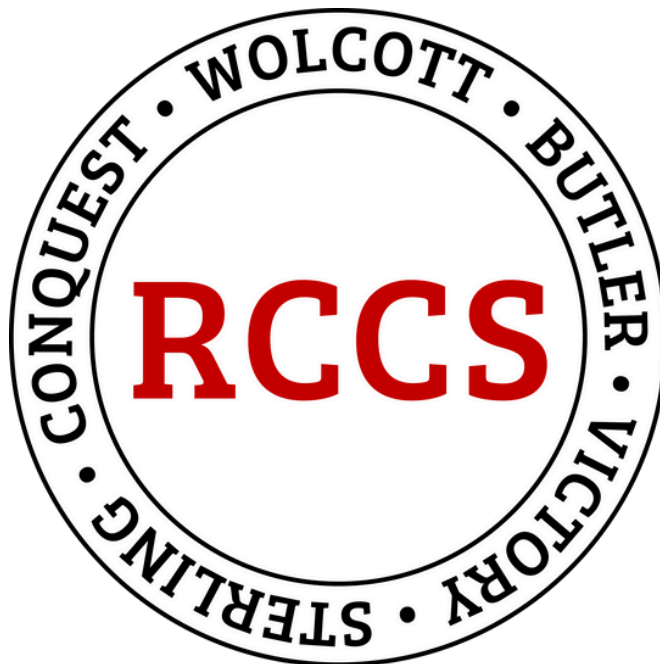


# Welcome to UPK

**RCCSD FAMILY GUIDE**

**2024-2025**



The New York State Education Department sets expectations, or standards, for what *every* student will know and be able to do in school. This guide is designed to help you understand these standards and partner with teachers to support your child's learning at home. If you have questions about this information or your child needs extra help, please talk to your child's teacher.



# Important Concepts

## **To learn English Language Arts and Literacy at every grade, your child will:**

- Think, write, speak, and listen to understand and to support writing.
- Read often and widely from a range of global and diverse texts.
- Read and write for multiple purposes, including for learning and for pleasure.
- Persevere through challenging, complex texts and writing tasks.
- Enrich personal language, background knowledge, and vocabulary through reading and communicating with others.
- Monitor comprehension and apply reading strategies flexibly.
- Make connections (to self, other texts, ideas, cultures, eras, etc.).
- Strengthen writing by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach.

## **To learn social studies at every grade, your child will:**

- Develop fundamental civic knowledge including the structure and functioning of the government, law, and democracy at all levels of government.
- Analyze the impact of individual and collective histories in shaping contemporary issues.
- View and analyze history and current issues from multiple perspectives.
- Demonstrate respect for the rights of others in discussion and classroom debates, and how to respectfully disagree with other viewpoints using evidence.
- Analyze and evaluate news, media, social media, and other sources of information for accuracy, bias, reliability, and credibility.

## **To learn mathematics at every grade, your child will:**

- Make sense of problems and persevere in solving them.
- Reason abstractly and quantitatively.
- Construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others.
- Model with mathematics.
- Use appropriate tools strategically.
- Attend to precision.
- Look for and make use of patterns and structures.
- Look for and express regularity in repeated reasoning.

## **To learn science at every grade, your child will:**

- Ask questions and define problems.
- Develop and use models.
- Plan and carry out investigations.
- Analyze and interpret data.
- Use mathematics and computational thinking.
- Construct explanations and design solutions.
- Engage in argument from evidence.
- Obtain, evaluate, and communicate information.

# Meet Our Team



## Mrs. Bianco-Whitcomb

Meet Mrs. Bianco-Whitcomb, UPK's Special Education teacher who has dedicated seven years of service to the district's early childhood program. Her approach is centered on creating meaningful relationships with children, families, and the community, which serves as the foundation for the successful implementation of academic and social-emotional skills.



## Mrs. Wallace

Mrs. Wallace has been at Cuyler for the past 2 years, working in Kindergarten and First Grade. She has a passion for early childhood education and creating strong relationships with her students and families. She believes in providing a welcoming learning environment that is engaging and fun for students. Mrs. Wallace looks forward to working with you and your child.



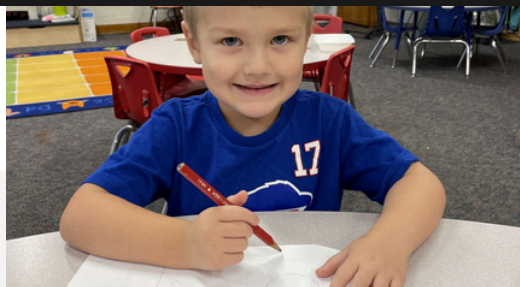
## Mrs. Paige

Mrs. Paige has dedicated a decade to the district, working exclusively in UPK. Her approach is unique in that she values the importance of making learning fun and fostering positive experiences for the children. At the same time, she instills in them the foundational skills they need to thrive in future years.



## Ms. Uruburu

Ms. Uruburu has been a part of the UPK program since it's inception, over two decades ago. She has a passion for early childhood education, looking at the whole child and designing activities that fit each child's unique developmental journey. Ms. Uruburu strives to create a nurturing, enjoyable, interactive learning environment. These values allow her to establish the foundation for both academic and social-emotional success.



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE



NYS PREKINDERGARTEN EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS



## NEW LEARNINGS & FOCUS AREAS:

- Work and talk with many different people, both adults and other children, during classroom activities and play time.
- Listen to a variety of genres (stories, non-fiction text, nursery rhymes, poems, songs) read aloud. With help from adults, talk about the characters and events of the stories.
- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, oral expression to show what happens in a story or respond to personal experiences.
- Begins to recognize and name uppercase/lowercase letters and produce the primary sound of some consonants.
- Begins to recognize and match rhyming words along with identifying individual syllables within spoken words.
- Understands the basic features of print: front cover/back cover, left to right, top to bottom, page by page

### QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- Can you use the pictures to “read” this book to me (tell me what happens in this story)?
- Would you rather have \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_? Tell me why.
- Do you see any letters you know?

## BY THE END OF THE YEAR, STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Talk and play well with other children in groups.
- Speak in complete sentences, including asking questions.
- With help from adults, ask and answer questions about words and information in a book read aloud.
- Handle a book appropriately: hold it right side up, turn the pages one at a time, track the print as an adult reads.
- Recognize their written name and some common labels. For example, understand the word “crayons” when its written on a box of crayons.
- Name some capital/lowercase letters, especially those in their name
- Recognize and say rhyming words (like cat/bat/sat) with help from adults.

### TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER:

- Books and authors to look for at the library.
- Experiences that can help build your child’s vocabulary.





# MATHEMATICS

NYS PREKINDERGARTEN EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS



## NEW LEARNINGS & FOCUS AREAS:

- Count from 0-20 and understand how numbers can represent groups of objects. For example, show that a plate has six cookies by counting the cookies aloud, making sure to count each cookie only once.
- Use counting to find out whether one group has more or fewer objects than another group. For example, find out whether one bowl has more oranges than another bowl by counting the oranges in each bowl.
- Use language to describe and compare objects based on length, width, or height. For example, explain that one book is taller or thicker than another.
- Sort objects by a variety of characteristics (color, shape, size)

## BY THE END OF THE YEAR, STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Recognize and name numerals 0-10.
- Use a numeral from 0 to 10 to show how many objects are in a group.
- Count with 1:1 correspondence.
- Explore addition and subtraction by using objects and fingers. For example, take one ball away from four balls to find out that  $4-1=3$
- Sort everyday objects based on their characteristics. For example, put large toys in one basket and small toys in another.
- Use language to describe objects' positions and relationships. For example, tell what is beside a desk or above the door.
- Identify first and last related to order and position.
- Recognize and name squares, circles, triangles, and rectangles.
- Duplicate and extend patterns.
- Use matching and counting strategies.

## QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- How many green beans are on your plate? Do I have more than you?
- How many points will we have if we get one more?
- What shape is that made of?
- Which is heavier: the stove or the plate?



## TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- How high (how many numbers) your child can count
- Games that can help your child practice math at home





# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NYS PREKINDERGARTEN EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS



## NEW LEARNINGS & FOCUS AREAS:

- Experience and observe the world around us.
- Observe and think about the daily weather.
- Understand that both humans and animals use their senses and body parts to help them meet their basic needs.
- Explore how sounds can change, how shadows are made, how liquids are different from solids, and how things move.
- Explore and understand how we use technology to help us in our daily life.

## BY THE END OF THE YEAR, STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Describe how weather changes from day to day, season to season. Explain how weather affects living things.
- Explain how plants and animals get their needs met (getting food and water) and how they depend on each other.
- Build and compare structures using a variety of materials (wooden blocks legos) Talk about why a structure stays standing or falls down.
- Use their understanding of technology to increase their learning.

### QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- How tall do you think we can make this block tower before it falls?
- What should we wear for today's weather?
- What are some plants we could grow in our garden? What do they need grow?



### TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- Appropriate apps/technology for the age & developmental level
- Places in the community that can help your child learn science.
- How science relates to everyday situations in your child's life.





# SOCIAL STUDIES

NYS PREKINDERGARTEN EARLY LEARNING STANDARDS



## NEW LEARNINGS & FOCUS AREAS:

- Develops a basic awareness of self as an individual/within a group/within a community.
- Understands roles, rights, and responsibilities within a community.
- Develops an understanding of how people and things change over time.

### QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- How What kinds of work do people do?
- What makes you special?



## BY THE END OF THE YEAR, STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Use words like *first*, *next*, *last* to explain how events happen.
- Use prepositional words (off, on, inside, above, below) to describe where people, animals, things are
- Describe some roles adults have within the community and how they are important (postal worker, police officer, firefighter, etc.)
- Describe themselves in relation to physical features (hair, eyes, age) as well as where they live

### TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:

- Places to visit within the community







# SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

## NYS SEL BENCHMARKS



### NEW LEARNINGS & FOCUS AREAS:

- Understands and follows routines and rules.
- Adapts to changes in routine with minimal support
- Develops positive relationships with adults and peers.
- Demonstrates problem-solving skills in social situations,
- Regulates responses to needs, feelings, and events

### QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK YOUR CHILD:

- Why do we need rules?
- How are you feeling about....?
- What can we do when we are feeling angry/frustrated/disappointed?

### BY THE END OF THE YEAR, STUDENTS SHOULD BE ABLE TO:

- Engage easily in routine activities (circle time, snack, story time)
- Display an understanding of the purpose of rules
- Interact appropriately with adults and peers in a variety of situations (play-based, conversation, instruction)
- Attempt multiple strategies to resolve conflict (trade, take turns, problem solve) and accepts compromise with assistance
- Expresses feelings, needs, opinions in an appropriate manner.
- Uses multiple strategies to cope with change (deep breaths, seeking assistance from adult, engage in alternate activity)

### TOPICS YOU CAN DISCUSS WITH YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER:



- Tips for smoother transitions or changes in routine
- Books to support handling big emotions
- Setting up play dates with peers

# M.W. Cuyler Elementary School

6624 South Street  
PO Box 190  
Red Creek, NY 13143  
(315) 754-2100

Dennis C. Taylor, Principal

