Learning Across the Year

• Kindergarten •

Great Falls Public Schools is committed to…

Vision: All kids engaged in learning today…for life tomorrow

Mission: We successfully educate students to navigate their future.

This document provides a broad overview of what your child will be learning in each of the content areas. For a more detailed look at the complete curriculum for kindergarten, go to: www.gfps.k12.mt.us

Reading

In Kindergarten, students understand and apply concepts of print, phonological and phonemic awareness. They expand their oral language skills and continue to build their vocabulary.
Students participate in reading by listening to or viewing informational and literary text. They are encouraged to talk about their reading by retelling and stating opinions about a variety of books. Kindergarten units include Nursery Rhyme & Fables, The 5 Senses, Stories, Plants, Farms, Native Americans, Kings & Queens, Seasons & Weather, Columbus & the Pilgrims, Colonial Towns and Townspeople, Taking Care of the Earth, and Presidents & American Symbols.

Writing

Kindergarten students use both pictures and print to communicate ideas. Students learn to form letters and show an increasing understanding of letters, and how they connect to sounds. They draft simple sentences, and engage in a variety of shared and independent writing. All writing instruction is connected to reading instruction.

Handwriting

Kindergarten students develop proper pencil grip and posture. They begin to work on the basic strokes for letter formation. Students begin writing basic print.

Language

Students in Kindergarten begin to understand basic features of print. They start to understand sounds, syllables and words. When writing, students begin to understand capitalization and punctuation and are encouraged to use correct grammar.

Speaking and Listening

In Kindergarten, students learn to take part in class discussions by listening to others and taking turns when speaking. They are encouraged to ask questions and communicate clearly to express thoughts, feelings and ideas.

Math

The focus in Kindergarten is on counting. Kindergarteners practice counting objects in sets, and they think about how numbers are ordered by using a number line. Students put together and take apart simple numbers, which will allow them to begin adding and subtracting numbers less than 10. Students are encouraged to solve word problems by drawing or acting them out. Kindergartners name simple two- and three- dimensional figures and find these shapes around them. Students sort and match shapes as they begin to learn classification skills.

Science

Children learn to observe, ask questions, classify and take notes while conducting experiments in exploring the following units: Living Things, Our Changing World, Weather and the Sun, and Make Things Move

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Social Studies
Kindergarteners explore four domains of social studies; history, geography, civics & government and economics. They develop an understanding of the world around them, as well as gain social skills through shared reading experiences discussion, and practice.

Music
Kindergarteners listen, respond to and present music with guidance. They learn basic music symbols, terms, and signs and begin to recognize patterns and rhythms in music.

Physical Education/Health Enhancement
Students learn body and space awareness, manipulative and fine motor skills, endurance and flexibility in PE. Other topics covered include nutrition, safety and fitness.

Technology
Students will explore and use a variety of digital tools to create group projects and to communicate ideas.

Art
Kindergarteners are encouraged to develop individual creativity through visual means. Students learn to use art materials, create works of art, respond to and analyze works of art and understand art influences.

Counseling
Students acquire personal skills to support and improve their education by learning how to follow directions, learn from mistakes, make friends, take turns, follow safety rules, etc.

Library
Students learn effective and efficient ways to access information. They are encouraged to access and read information and literature for learning and enjoyment. The library curriculum also supports the reading "concepts of print" by teaching students how to hold and take care of a book correctly, identify pages, authors and illustrators.

How to Help Your Child Learn at Home

Try to develop a routine where your child sits in a quiet place for 15 to 30 minutes daily to complete homework or reading. Sitting with your child will allow you the opportunity to see what he/she is learning. You will be the first to know if your child needs help with specific topics.

- Read with your child every day. Talk to your child about the reading. Ask your child to explain his or her favorite parts of the story. Have him/her retell the story in his/her own words.
- Ask your child about books. Who is the author? Where is the front cover, back cover and title page? What can you tell about the book based on these features? Why did the author write this book?
- Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day at school. Encourage them to elaborate to encourage the use of vocabulary. Don't settle for one word answers. Ask specific questions or use the phrase "Tell me more."
- Ask questions that require counting as many as 20 things. "How many shoes are in your closet? How do you know?" Ask questions that require some comparing. "Who has more peas on their plate? How do you know?"
- Talk to your child while in the car, while cooking, or when completing every day tasks. Encourage your child to listen by modeling good listening yourself. Ask questions to encourage multiple exchanges and listening behaviors.