

## **Kindergarten Reading Curriculum Overview**

Benchmark Advance is the comprehensive Reading/Language Arts program that Gower West uses for Kindergarten through fourth grade. This program is built to meet the demands of the English Language Arts/Literacy standards with rigorous, integrated reading, writing, speaking, and listening instruction.

Skills to be developed throughout the course:

- Different genres of texts
- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics
- Vocabulary
- Read and write high frequency words
- Read emergent texts with fluency and comprehension

Units of Study:

- Government and Citizenship
- Characters
- Life Science
- Point of View
- Technology and Society
- Theme
- History and Culture
- Earth Science
- Economics
- Physical Science

The Learning Standards for this course are the ELA Standards.

- [ELA](#)

## **Kindergarten Math Curriculum Overview**

The big ideas in kindergarten math include: representing and comparing whole numbers, initially with sets of objects; understanding and applying addition and subtraction; and describing shapes and space. More time in kindergarten is devoted to numbers than to other topics. We use the Illustrative Mathematics series.

Skills to be developed throughout the course: (bulleted list of several skills that students will work on throughout the course)

- Students recognize numbers and quantities in their world.
- Students answer “how many” questions, count out, and compare groups within 10. Students write a number to represent how many.

- Students identify, describe, analyze, compare, and compose two-dimensional shapes.
- Students relate counting to addition and solve addition and subtraction story problems within 10.
- Students compose and decompose numbers within 10.
- Students answer “how many” questions and count out groups within 20. They understand that numbers 11 to 19 are composed of ten ones and one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, or nine ones. They write numbers within 20.
- Students identify, describe, analyze, compare and compose two- and three-dimensional shapes. Counting, addition, and subtraction are revisited in the geometric contexts.
- Students consolidate and solidify their understanding of various concepts and skills on major work of the grade. They also continue to work toward fluency goals of the grade.

Units of Study:

- Math in Our World
- Numbers 1-10
- Flat Shapes All Around Us
- Understanding Addition and Subtraction
- Composing and Decomposing Numbers to 10
- Numbers 0-20
- Solid Shapes All Around Us
- Putting it All Together

The Learning Standards for this course are the Illinois Math Standards.

- [Link to appropriate standards](#)

### **Kindergarten Social Studies Curriculum Overview**

Kindergarten Social Studies Curriculum introduces students to four units of study: civics, geography, economics and financial literacy, and history. Students will learn about the roles of individuals and leaders in our communities. They will compare life from the past to today. Kindergarteners will explore U.S. holidays and the people who make these holidays special. Through our Junior Achievement program, students are provided with an introduction to personal economics and the choices consumers make to meet their needs and wants. It also introduces students to the role of money in society while providing them with practical information about earning, saving, and sharing money.

Skills to be developed throughout the course:

- Inquiry skills

- Evaluating Sources and Using Evidence
- Communicating Conclusion and Taking Informed Action
- Map and graph skills
- Use of primary and secondary sources

Units of Study:

Kindergarten: My Social World

- Civics:
  - Roles of individuals and leaders and their responsibility to meet the needs of different people and communities
- Geography:
  - How weather, climate, and other environmental factors affect people's lives and cultural identities in our region
  - How people and goods move from place to place
  - Identify characteristics of print and digital maps, graphs, and other cultural representations of familiar places
- Economics and Financial Literacy
  - Choices are made because of scarcity
  - Needs and wants
  - Spending, saving, and sharing money
- History
  - Compare life of today to the past
  - U.S. holidays/major holidays of diverse groups and the bravery of those people who make these holidays special

The Learning Standards for this course are the Illinois Social Science Standards.

- [Link to appropriate standards](#)

### **Kindergarten Science Curriculum Overview**

Mystery Science is an innovative, standards-aligned, hands-on curriculum that teaches children how to think like scientists. Phenomena-driven instruction helps kids to better understand and communicate about the world around them through writing, discussion, and exploration. The performance expectations in kindergarten help students formulate answers to questions such as: "What happens if you push or pull an object harder? Where do animals live and why do they live there? What is the weather like today and how is it different from yesterday?" The crosscutting concepts of patterns; cause and effect; systems and system models; interdependence of science, engineering, and technology; and influence of engineering, technology, and science on society and the natural world are called out as organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas.

Skills to be developed throughout the course:

- develop understanding of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive and the relationship between their needs and where they live.
- develop understanding of patterns and variations in local weather and the purpose of weather forecasting to prepare for, and respond to, severe weather.
- apply an understanding of the effects of different strengths or different directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of an object to analyze a design solution.
- demonstrate grade-appropriate proficiency in asking questions, developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, designing solutions, engaging in argument from evidence, and obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

Units of Study:

- Plant and Animal Secrets
- Wild Weather
- Circle of Seasons
- Sunny Skies
- Force Olympics

The Learning Standards for this course are the Illinois Social Science Standards.

- [NGSS Kindergarten](#)