



# Kindergarten Curriculum Overview



## **Literacy**

The mission of the District 30 English Language Arts program is to challenge our students through effective instruction in the skills required to live and work in a 21st century global community. Early literacy instruction of foundational skills addresses phonological awareness, print awareness, phonics and word recognition, fluency, vocabulary and oral language comprehension, and text comprehension. Our K–2 classrooms follow a structured phonics scope and sequence that is diagnostic and responsive. Beginning in kindergarten, there is a cumulative progression of foundational skills taught through explicit direct instruction. As students move into the next grade level, these skills progressively become more complex. With texts and tasks that become increasingly sophisticated through the grades, students develop confidence and proficiency in oral and written language, comprehension, and critical thinking skills. District 30 recognizes the importance of differentiating instruction to maximize achievement for all students. Language skills are essential to furthering learning, communication, career development, and the human spirit.

The kindergarten balanced literacy curriculum includes:

- Explicit reading comprehension strategy instruction (with an emphasis on “monitoring for meaning”, “schema”, and “determining importance”)
- Reading and writing in narrative, information, and opinion genres; writing for readers in narrative, “how-to-writing” to teach others, persuasive writing to make a change
- Word Work (phonemic awareness, phonics, spelling, and vocabulary)
- Grammar
- Independent reading and writing
- Paired reading
- Conferences



## **Social Studies**

Social Studies is the integrated study of the social sciences to promote informed citizenship. Our curriculum is designed to tell the story of who we are as citizens of the United States and of a larger global society. As educators of 21<sup>st</sup> century learners, our job is to prepare students to be able to critically participate as active citizens with the ability to intelligently and compassionately participate in our democracy in this millennium (NCSS, Media Literacy, 2009).

Our curriculum thoughtfully integrates the disciplines of history, geography, economics, and government to help young people develop the ability to make informed and reasoned decisions for the public good as citizens of a culturally diverse, democratic society in an increasingly interdependent world. Units of study are grounded in the inquiry process, in which students acquire key concepts and skills through questioning, analysis, and critical thinking.

The kindergarten social studies curriculum includes the following units:

- All About Me
- Thanksgiving/Friendship
- Family and Tradition
- My Neighborhood and Surroundings

The District 30 curriculum is being developed in alignment with Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards and C3 Standards and has been informed by current research and best practice in the field.



## **Mathematics**

The District 30 mathematics curriculum emphasizes deep mathematical understanding and reasoning with problem solving at the center of math learning. Concepts are taught utilizing a concrete, pictorial, abstract learning progression through daily lessons, hands on activities, real-world problems, and differentiated math workshop experiences.

Mathematical thinking and fluency is embedded throughout the curriculum. Students become mathematicians engaging in a mathematical practices such as making sense of problems, persevering in solving problems, modeling mathematics, and utilizing appropriate math tools. These mathematical practices are distinct from specific content students learn because the practices are characteristics of broader behavior, rather than mastery of a single concept or idea.

The mathematical practices, skills and concepts connect and build across the grade levels. In grades K-5 students utilize Bridges and Number Corner by The Math Learning as the primary resource.

Kindergarten Mathematicians:

- Count by 1's
- Count by 10's
- Count to tell the number in a set of objects
- Identify Numbers
- Write Numbers
- Identify numbers before and after
- Compare numbers
- Understand place value
- Fluently add and subtract
- Represent and solve addition and subtraction problems
- Name and describe two-dimensional shapes
- Name and describe three-dimensional shapes
- Explain mathematical thinking



## **Science**

The District 30 elementary science curriculum engages students as scientists. Students investigate questions relevant to their lives by conducting investigations; collecting and analyzing data; developing and using models to explain phenomena, and engaging in argument from evidence. Students build understanding of core ideas in science as well as understanding and use of scientific practices in earth science, life science, physical science, and engineering design.

The kindergarten science curriculum includes the following units:

- Weather: The weather unit gradually introduces students to concepts in weather while developing basic observational and experimental skills. By exploring concepts such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, and temperature students build their understanding about the weather. Students will use and share observations of local weather conditions to describe patterns over time.
- Pushes and Pulls: In this unit students will explore and identify forces as pushes and pulls. They will identify the effects of different strengths or different directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of an object. Students will use the design process to design, build, test, and reflect on a model that can move a heavy object up a ramp using pushes and/or pulls.
- Exploring Plant and Animals: Students explore the structures, needs, and life cycles of plants and animals. They plant seeds and watch them grow, and they set up habitats for zebrafish and milkweed bugs to observe over time. Finally, they explore human impact on the environment, particularly related to trash and recycling.

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