

Concord Public Schools



Curriculum Overview Kindergarten

CPS Mission

To educate all students as lifelong learners, caring citizens, and responsible contributors in our increasingly diverse global society.

CPS Vision

Students of Concord actively seek varied pathways through which they achieve their potential and find joy in learning. They will possess a strong sense of self and embrace their responsibilities as members of our ever-changing local and global communities.

CPS Values

- Belonging • Excellence • Engagement
- Inclusion • Innovation

English Language Arts

The kindergarten literacy curriculum focuses on early foundational skills that lay the groundwork for future development in reading, writing, listening and speaking. The following key elements are taught explicitly in reading instruction:

- Phonemic and phonological awareness (**Heggerty**)
- Phonics (**Fundations**)
- Fluency
- Vocabulary
- Comprehension

Students participate in literacy blocks that include a focus lesson, small group time, and independent practice allowing for differentiated instruction. Students are immersed in literacy throughout their day through interactive read aloud, shared reading, shared writing, poetry, and songs.

Kindergarten Content Standards

Reading

- Identify one to one letter/sound correspondence and apply kindergarten phonics skills
- Recognize high frequency words
- Retell familiar texts with key details

Writing

- Use a combination of drawing, dictating, and writing to compose written pieces

Speaking & Listening

- Ask and answer questions to seek help, get information, or deepen understanding
- Clearly express thoughts, feelings, and ideas

Language Conventions

- Print upper- and lowercase letters
- Recognize and name end punctuation
- Spell simple words phonetically, using sound-symbol correspondence

Math

Through the Everyday Math 4 curriculum, students engage in a daily math block with emphasis on the use of concrete, real-life examples of key mathematical concepts, use of hands on manipulatives, collaborative games, and exposure and practice with multiple problem-solving strategies. Everyday Math is a spiral curriculum; essential content is revisited repeatedly over months and across grades. Content is differentiated to meet student needs to provide a balanced combination of procedure and understanding.

K - 5 Mathematical Practice Standards: Makes sense of problems and perseveres in solving them; constructs viable arguments and critiques the reasoning of others; models with mathematics; attends to precision

Kindergarten Content Standards

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 Ten

- 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 (squares, circles, triangles, rectangles, hexagons, cubes, cones, cylinders, and spheres)
- Analyze, compare, create, and compose shapes

Social Studies

Community (e.g. the classroom, the school, the family) is the theme of Concord's kindergarten social studies curriculum. Students develop an understanding that a community is a place where people live, learn/work, play and solve problems together and the concepts of rules, responsibility, fairness, and leadership are introduced. Community helpers and their roles are introduced. Also, students learn about needs versus wants (economics), maps and globes, national symbols and observances, and traditions celebrated by their communities and those in other communities.

Science

The elementary science program is designed with inquiry-based experiences that promote the development of science and engineering practices including making observations, asking questions, developing and using models, and engaging in arguments from evidence. Science content is focused on:

Life Science: Needs of Living Things

Earth Science: Trees and Weather

Physical Science: Materials and Motion

Technology/Engineering: Visits to the district STEAM Lab are collaborative, problem-solving experiences that teach the steps of the Engineering Design Process.

Choice/Play

The integration of play throughout the school day inspires curiosity and creativity and supports the development of cooperation and other social skills. Through structured and unstructured play, kindergarten students are learning about themselves, their classmates, and their world.

Specialist Subjects

Art

Students work with a variety of art materials to explore drawing, painting, collage and sculpture. All art lessons are sufficiently open ended to encourage individual problem solving at the appropriate developmental level. While the design of the art lessons directs students toward a specific concept or lesson objective, one of the unique aspects of the art curriculum is that there is never a "right answer". Instead, problem solving belongs to each individual student. At all levels, the lessons aim to encourage students to consider the questions: *What is my idea? How can I use what I know about this material to communicate my idea? What visual strategies do I know and what are some new ones I can discover? What can I learn from my classmates during this process?*

Library

Students will begin to learn basic library procedures to find and check out books. They work to develop an awareness of the difference between fiction and nonfiction, who authors and illustrators are and what they do, and how to properly care for books.

Music

The Music program is based on building a foundation of musical skill development including pitch matching, steady beat, and the concepts of: loud/soft, high/low, fast/slow, long/short. Goals in this child centered-environment are accomplished through active participation and exploration in singing, listening, playing classroom rhythmic instruments, moving and playing musical games.

Physical Education

The physical education program focuses on enhancing movement abilities and spatial awareness. Students are also introduced to fundamental skills including rolling, throwing, kicking, and striking, facilitating the development of coordination, self-assurance, and self-perception. Social and emotional growth is nurtured through instruction in concepts like cooperation, problem-solving, teamwork, fair play, and appreciation for diversity. The overarching objective is to foster in students a positive outlook on and enjoyment of lifelong physical activity.

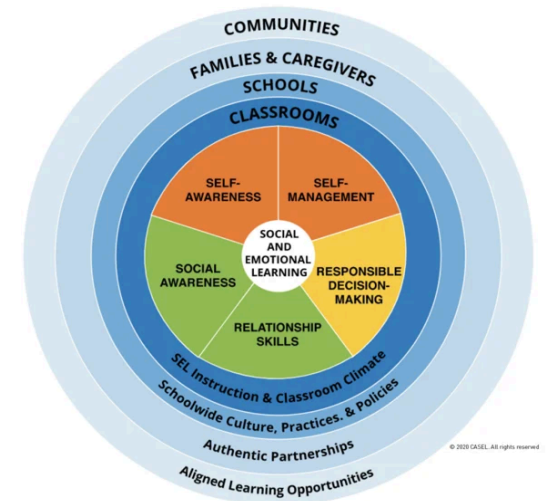
Spanish

Students receive Spanish instruction with lessons centered on these essential questions: *Who Am I? What's important in my world?* Students learn the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures through direct instruction, stories, songs, videos, games, and varied activities. The topics covered in Kindergarten include greetings, classroom routines, colors, opposites, numbers from one to ten, and animals.

Social Emotional Learning

SEL is an integral part of education and human development. It sets the foundation for learning as students learn the concepts and skills that allow them to be self-reliant, work collaboratively, and be positive, respectful members of their school/classroom communities. Through the Responsive Classroom approach, Concord students learn and practice these SEL competencies:

- Self-Management
- Self-Awareness
- Responsible Decision Making
- Social Awareness
- Relationship Skills



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